



South Land Park
Neighborhood Association



DEL RIO TRAIL

**2019
SPRING
NEWSLETTER**

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SOUTH LAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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2019 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By **Brian Ebbert**

South Land Park Neighborhood Association President



Hello neighbors!

Inside this newsletter you will find a wealth of useful information about your community. I hope you enjoy reading it.

I am happy to report that SLPNA is **healthy and vibrant**, and is now strongly positioned to grow even more. This will mark my third and final annual message as SLPNA President, due to the officer term limits we adopted in our bylaw revisions. As such, I want to re-cap our collective achievements and the remaining challenges as I prepare to pass the torch to the next President who will be elected at our April 2019 Board meeting. It has been an honor serving SLPNA and our community.

Neighborhood News: A Re-cap

First, here is a partial list of **SLPNA achievements in 2018**: SLPNA facilitated installation of 43rd Avenue speed humps; participated in the new Freeport Blvd traffic safety committee; helped launch the new SF Supermarket; worked with entrepreneurs seeking to open up California's first dog park café in our neighborhood, Mutts and Mugs; held a successful food truck fundraiser; assisted the City in securing \$6 million for the Del Rio Trail; hosted the largest National Night Out event in the City; reviewed and commented on local cannabis applications; testified at various governmental hearings on local projects; supported the new Raley's store on Freeport Blvd and the remodel of the Florin Bel Air center; assisted in bringing back mailboxes to Land Park post office; facilitated numerous code enforcement and law enforcement actions to address neighbor concerns; supported several local businesses; sponsored a neighborhood cleanup day; supported Arco's development plans for the blighted parcel at Blair and Freeport; held forums on elections, cannabis, and the trail project; facilitated discussions concerning Alice Birney School's new closed campus policy; held vigils for domestic violence victims; were featured on numerous local television news broadcasts and in news media articles; and SLPNA was awarded \$500 grants from Councilmembers Schenirer and Hansen for specified projects based on our past successes and future goals.



Next, I want to **thank you all**.

We would be powerless without the support of our dues-paying members, the board members and the volunteers of the South Land Park Neighborhood Association. It is your selflessness that provided me with the inspiration to continue moving forward year after year. If you are not a member of SLPNA, or need to **renew your membership**, it is only **\$10 per year or \$25 for 3 years**.

You may pay at www.slpna.org or mail your check to PO Box 22903, Sacramento, CA 95822.

Three Years of Progress

Lastly, I wanted to share how far we have come in the three years I have served as President. When I was elected President, I immediately laid out some very clear goals: recruit new board members; modernize our bylaws; increase our social media presence; increase revenues; redesign the web site; enable online donations and dues payments; host social events and fundraisers; increase our voice at City Hall; tackle more community projects; mobilize support for the rail to trail project; increase SLPNA visibility; reach out to schools, including establishing scholarships and a student board position. With my third term ending, I can happily report that ALL of these goals have been met, with the exception of student scholarships as the only item remaining on the “to do” list.

Our strong board has helped turn the association around over the past few years. When I first joined the association, it seemed to be on life support. This was no fault of previous administrations, but rather a reflection of a neighborhood in transition. The four remaining board members (their dedication kept the organization alive), we had an outdated, clunky web site, a limited social media presence, and we held one sparsely attended community event each year. Since then, SLPNA has been transformed into an active and respected stakeholder at City Hall and at other governmental levels. We turned our National Night Out into one of the biggest in the City. We greatly expanded our revenues, enabling us to be more active. We are financially secure (but still need your donations!), our 15-member board is always at or near capacity, with our board members working year round on projects. Importantly, our bylaws have been modernized and are in compliance with state law. Our web site was re-designed and we are updating again. Our Twitter and Facebook accounts get a lot of attention from greater Sacramento and beyond. In short, we are stronger and healthier than ever. I am proud to have left the organization in better shape than I inherited it. I could not have done it alone, it was with the support of highly motivated and talented board members and community volunteers.



Consider Making a Tax-deductible Donation

SLPNA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and we rely 100% on donations and membership dues. We have no employees and we are 100% volunteer-based.

Please consider making a tax deductible donation.

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Looking ahead to 2019 & 2020

South Land Park will have a lot of activity 2019 and 2020, notably: Arco AM/PM construction at Freeport Blvd & Blair Avenue; Raley's flagship store and shops on Freeport Blvd; GEM Car Wash renovation; cannabis business openings near Executive Airport; Mutts and Mugs dog park café construction. And one of the most important projects that will greatly impact our community: the construction of the Del Rio Trail. The Final Environmental Impact Report has been issued and we fully expect some outside special interests to try to block the trail so that they can develop the neighborhood corridor for another purpose. When the outside group tries to block the community trail, SLPNA and surrounding communities **will be asking you all to mobilize** like never before. Read more about the Del Rio Trail on page 6.

Thank you to our Board of Directors

SLPNA Board members are volunteers with busy lives and hectic schedules just like you. This Board is a fun and diverse group of people that have chosen to dedicate their limited free time to helping our community. I would like to express **special thanks to SLPNA Vice President Joe Flores** for his day-to-day work on community issues and on our social media platforms. I would also like to single out **Chuck Hughes** (Del Rio Trail Committee Chair) and board member **Scott Burns** (attorney, parliamentarian and jack of all trades), both of whom provide expert legal and technical expertise as the trail project inches forward. Each of our 2018-19 board members did an amazing job. Thank You to our board: **Nita Barve - Secretary, Jeff Brown - Treasurer, Phoebe Austin, Brian Backhaus, Randall Henry, Tony Jackson, Maggy Krell, Diane Matthews, Chip O'Neill, Dave O'Toole, Sarah Sciandri, and Sharla Smith.** Collectively, we have helped to protect and improve our community, which is our primary mission.



If you are interested in serving on our Board, or to volunteer for a specific cause or event, please send an email to slpna@slpna.org. ■





OUR NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL

By **Chuck Hughes**

Del Rio Trail Committee Chair

The Del Rio Trail Project hit several milestones in 2018, including public review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the awarding of \$6 million in grant funding for construction. Regional Transit (RT) owns most of the Project corridor. The year began with the City approaching RT about the Project. In February 2018 the City and RT made a development agreement that essentially resulted in the City receiving the land for free as long as it was developed into a bicycle/pedestrian trail. SLPNA attended the RT Board meeting that discussed the agreement and spoke in favor of the Project.



For the second year, UC Davis Landscape Architect students used the Del Rio Trail as an example for class projects designing an urban green space. The City of Sacramento Project engineer, and several Trail volunteers from SLPNA, attended the class presentations. SLPNA arranged for some of the student's work to be hung at Barrio Café, which graciously provided wall space. With some extraordinary work from SLPNA volunteer **Robin Netzer**, the student posters were hung there in May. In August, Robin also hung the posters at Espresso Metro near City College. Many thanks to Robin for her work on this; it would not have happened without her. The students' projects are not the design for the Del Rio Trail, but they illustrate the opportunity for the entire corridor to become a trail and greenbelt that is a neighborhood asset. The City released its Notice of Preparation of the Draft EIR in early June. SLPNA organized a meeting that included City staff working on the project, the consulting engineer, Sacramento PD, and Councilmember Jay Schenirer. The meeting was mostly a question and answer session. Comment cards were provided for people to submit thoughts to the City prior to the preparation of the Draft EIR. SLPNA submitted a comment letter emphasizing 1) designing the trail as a neighborhood greenbelt for the benefit of pedestrians and bicyclists, 2) privacy issues, and 3) opposing efforts by the California State Railroad Museum Foundation to design the project around the return of trains.

At last years National Night Out in August at Alice Birney School, a city engineer and manager from Dokken, the consulting engineer, attended with a large map containing the Del Rio Trail Project Design. It's always nice to be able to speak to neighbors one-on-one and hear their thoughts, and most neighbors are excited to see the trail design near their house. U.S. Congresswoman Doris Matsui stopped by and got her first look at the trail design. A few months later, Matsui wrote a letter supporting the Del Rio Trail and opposing the re-activation of the rail line and bicycle/pedestrian design compromises for trains. California Assemblymember Kevin McCarty also wrote a letter supporting the trail and opposing the return of trains. The Project has also received letters of support from other neighborhood associations, including Pocket, Land Park, Golf Course Terrace, and Cabrillo Park.

(more)

The City included support letters from the neighborhood associations and elected officials in its application package for a funding grant from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). SACOG has a competitive grant program that funds bicycle/pedestrian projects. In November, SACOG staff recommended \$6 million dollars in construction funding for the Project. The entire Del Rio Trail Project is currently estimated at about \$9 million. That includes about 4.5 miles of bike/pedestrian trail, several other intersection improvements, and widening the existing railroad bridge over I-5 to accommodate a bike trail. SLPNA representatives spoke in support of the Project at the SACOG Transportation Committee meeting. SACOG voted to approve the funding on December 6th!

The City held an open house meeting for the Draft EIR that same night of December 6, 2018. It was well attended, and City staff and consulting engineers were on hand to talk to the public along with lots of illustrations and diagrams of the Project. The flurry of Project activity on this day resulted in television crews covering the Project and there were segments on the news on three local television stations.

The public comment period on the Draft EIR closed on January 3rd, 2019. The City issued the Final EIR, to be voted on at the March 26, 2019 meeting. At that time, Council will hear the staff reports on the Project and listen to public comments. Then there will be a vote on whether or not to approve the Project and adopt the Final EIR. Although SLPNA is disappointed that the planners dropped the separated walking trail from the project, we are still encouraging the City Council to adopt the Final EIR namely:

- The benefit as a new amenity to our neighborhood, its connections to local schools and parks, 2 shopping centers, and as a commute corridor to downtown.
- The opportunity to extend the connected trail network of the greater Sacramento area.
- The safety and aesthetic improvements along several existing streets that cross the corridor.
- The design preserves most of the existing trees and the corridor's history of railroad use.

We will update you all and project next steps.

Thank You for all your support.

You can also visit SLPNA's website www.SLPNA.org and click on "Del Rio Trail". ■



BUSINESS PROFILE: MUTTS AND MUGGS

OUR STORY

By **Alejandro and Lauren Farias**
Owners

We love visiting dog parks with our dogs. Most parks are beautiful, the people are great, and the variety of dogs and social interaction has been a good experience. But after years of visiting, we kept encountering the same problem over and over again. We realized the entire experience lacked activities that we value in our everyday lives. We imagined sipping a cold glass of beer or white wine on a warm summer day while watching our dogs run. We dreamed of having a hot coffee or comforting glass of red wine while we cozied up on a bench meeting other dog lovers or catching up on the latest news on our phones. We had the constant guilty feeling of leaving our dogs at home for hours during the work week while we went out to eat. We've experienced cutting short late evening dog park outings due to lack of safe lighting and basic bathroom needs.

So we decided to do something about it and develop California's first dog centric park pub. In addition to providing delicious food and drinks, our park will offer conveniences such as the freedom to sip on a beverage in the off-leash area, access to restrooms, and extended *yappy* hour. We'll offer movie nights, outdoor games (e.g. Corn Hole and Jenga), and monthly themed photography events. The off-leash park will feature a small and all dog section, a doggy rinse off area, fans to keep customers cool, heaters to keep everyone warm, and lighting for early morning and late night park visits. And from a safety perspective, during busy times we'll have dog rangers on-site monitoring for any ruff housing and helping to keep the space sanitary.

(more)



In summer of 2018 we signed a lease at the Sky Ranch facility, located just across from the Bing Ma-loney golf course entrance at 6622 Freeport Blvd. The parcel is an estimated 28,000 square feet of undeveloped land. We searched hundreds of locations across California and the Sky Ranch facility was in our final list of 3 choices. Given Sacramento is Alejandro's hometown, and of course it is the capital of California, and that the community has embraced our concept, we believe Sacramento is the perfect launching ground to develop the first dog centric park pub in the Southwestern United States.

After several discussions with community members and city personnel, we submitted our design concept renderings in August 2018 and in October our site plans were approved by the Planning Department paving the way for Sacramento to have the coolest hangout for dogs and their best friends. Through the end of 2018 we hosted five pre-launch meet up events and have met incredible people and amazing dogs of all shapes and sizes, and have more pre-launch activities planned in 2019. We have several upcoming project milestones that includes receiving our ABC license, submitting our Building Permits and Environmental Health plans. By Spring we hope to have all permit approvals and begin construction. We are excited about what the future holds for Sacramento, for dogs, and for their best friends. ■



BUSINESS PROFILE: MATTRESS DIRECT LOCATED IN SOUTH HILLS SHOPPING CENTER

By Kevin and Rebecca Handal
Owners



Mattress Direct Sacramento LLC began in February 2015; when we felt that a local customer oriented mattress store was missing in the South Land Park area and decided to create our own store to meet the needs of the community. As long-time residents of the Greenhaven/Pocket/South Land Park area we are proud to serve all of our neighbors and friends without all the hassle of big box mattress stores. Kevin says, "We owe a lot of our success to our great community, friends and neighbors who want to see us succeed, we are proud to offer them the best prices along with the best service possible."

Mattress Direct Sacramento LLC works with many local organizations to provide discounted beds for members of the community who are in need. Mattress Direct Sacramento is completely family run and operated with members of the family often helping out on busy days. Sometimes, you might even see the company's furry friend Tanner running around making sure that everything is running smoothly. It may be a small company, but we have big hearts!

We love having our own business based close to home and look forward to continue serving our community for a long time to come. Along with Name Brand mattresses, Organic Latex, Smart beds and Adjustable beds we sell furniture, bedding, pillows and even massage chairs.

If you would like more information or to stop into the store to say hello. We are located at 5982 South Land Park Drive.

Please email: mattressdirectsac@gmail.com or call (916-) 661-2400



PARKS UPDATE IN SOUTH LAND PARK

By **Joe Flores**
SLPNA Vice President



We are fortunate to be living in the South Land Park area where there are public park spaces and facilities that are just walking distance or a bike ride away to enjoy with our families: Belle Cooledge Park, Reichmuth Park, Argonaut Park, Charlie-Jensen Park, Belle Cooledge Dog Park and the Belle Cooledge Community Center. In addition to my duties for the neighborhood association, and I am also the District Five appointed City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commissioner. As commissioner, it is my duty to advocate for and work alongside city park's staff for the health, maintenance and public safety of district wide sites and facilities. For example, back in

February 2018, in a joint effort with neighboring Pocket Greenhaven Community Association and the then incoming District 7 Parks and Recreation Commissioner, the South Land Park Neighborhood Association hosted a beatification clean up event, where neighbors removed trash on Riverside Boulevard from 43rd Avenue to Seamas Avenue, including alongside the levee and trail.

In October 2018, the South Land Park Neighborhood Association, along with Capitol City Flyers Disk Golf Club, cohosted the Reichmuth Park Disk Golf Appreciation Day to highlight the City of Sacramento multi-use Parks and its amenities. The appreciation day also sought to highlight what a successful example of an 'Adopt-a-Park' by a community group looks like. Additionally, appreciation day celebrated our very own Reichmuth Park as a Northern California destination disk golf park for its challenging course and beautiful walk through its Nature Area.



In 2018, I was voted to become the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission and earned a second term in 2019, where I work alongside the Department's Executive Team and the other ten commissioners to set agenda and policy goals for the year, with this year's focus on better community engagement and communication on the department initiatives and master plan documents. Later this year, the City of Sacramento Park's Department will open a Triple-R Adult Day Program at the former Jazzercise site in the South Hills Shopping Center for our older men and women to gather where they stay active, dance, enjoy each other's company while in a safe place. SLPNA will announce a ribbon cutting at a later date.

At this time next year, the playground equipment will have been replaced at Belle Cooledge Park and I look forward to hosting a park beautification day to coincide with the new equipment installation. Also at Belle Cooledge Park next year, in collaboration with Councilmember Jay Schenirer's Office and the Sacramento Library, the Parks Department will construct a mini outdoor concrete stage and seating area where library staff can host outdoor reading and performance events. If you want to volunteer to adopt any of our area park site, please do not hesitate to contact me at

Joe@SLPNA.org.



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DISTRICT FIVE

By **Jay Schenirer**

Councilmember, District 5



While we are a few months into the New Year, I still want to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2019!

First, I want to thank you for your support as I enter my third term as a Sacramento City Councilmember. I am proud to represent you on the Council. Supporting the needs and desires of the diverse group of neighborhoods I represent is not always an easy task. From Oak Park to Z'Berg Park and Golf Course Terrace to North City Farms, each neighborhood has a unique set of challenges. Many have strong neighborhood organizations, some have nascent organizations, and some are not organized at all.

South Land Park is a diverse set of smaller neighborhoods – from Florin Road to Sutterville. My goal is always to support the priorities and initiatives of each neighborhood – when there is a strong and engaged neighborhood organization, my job is much easier. South Land Park is exactly such a neighborhood, and I certainly want to commend and say thank you to all the community members who devote many evenings and weekends working to improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods in which they live – whether as an official board member, a concerned resident, or a volunteer.

I especially want to thank the Leadership of the South Land Park Neighborhood Association for their work on supporting the Del Rio Trail. This is a terrific example of a neighborhood taking ownership of an issue of import to them and following through to what I know will be a successful conclusion.

This year alone, we have made significant progress and look forward to even more in 2019:

- We received about \$6 million from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) grant, and the City is working to identify internal funds that will add over \$3 million, allowing construction of the Trail from Sutterville south to the end of the proposed trail at the Bill Conlin Sports Complex.
- City staff are proposing removing the walking path between the rails from the project.
- There is a shortfall in funding the north section at Sutterville, but we hope to identify additional dollars through future funding from SACOG this year.
- Council will hopefully move forward with the EIR this March, and we should be able to complete the planning and begin actual construction in approximately 24 months.

I very much look forward to standing with you soon to cut a ribbon and open what will certainly be one of the nicest and most useful bike/pedestrian trails in our community.

We have many more issues important to South Land Park and the City as a whole, including our budget, Measure U expenditures, addressing homelessness, and supporting our young people.

I look forward to working with SLPNA in meeting the City's challenges and creating the very best Sacramento we can.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org or 916-808-7005.

SEVEN INCONVENIENT TRUTHS ABOUT SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED BUDGET DEFICIT

By **Lisa Murawski**, Board of Education Member, Area 1
and **Darrel Woo**, Vice President, Board of Education, Area 6



Our school district is in fiscal peril, and our kids' education hangs in the balance. Here's what you need to know.

1. California underfunds public education, and districts across the state are struggling even in a strong economy.
2. Even so, Sac City is not maximizing available dollars. For instance, the district is paying Health Net exorbitant rates for health benefits!
3. The \$35 million+ budget deficit is large and ongoing. It urgently needs to be closed or our district will be taken over by the state.
4. State receivership would be a disaster for our kids and community—an expensive, toxic downward spiral.
5. We can no longer afford the district's current cost structure.
6. The district is also under serving our kids in myriad ways—and we desperately need to better.
7. We cannot just balance the budget for one year, kicking the can down the road. Our students deserve a long-term solution that invests in their success.

Neighbors, the good news is this problem is solvable. We can close the deficit, move the district forward, and serve our kids well if we all work together quickly and collaboratively to find solutions. As painful and difficult as these conversations are, they are necessary to save our schools and we are running out of time.

You should also know our new superintendent, Jorge Aguilar, is a visionary leader. Despite our challenges, we're finally improving graduation rates and college eligibility. He's transforming our district's culture and he can lead us to be the high-performing district our community deserves. But he needs – we need—your help. Please pay attention to the facts and stay engaged. The future of our city schools depends on our collective ability to grapple with this difficult reality and do what's best for our kids.

Lisa Murawski (lisa-murawski@scusd.edu) represents Sacramento City Unified School District Trustee Area 1, which includes SLP north of 35th Ave, and is an SCUSD parent.

Darrel Woo (darrel-woo@scusd.edu) represents Trustee Area 6, which includes SLP south of 35th Ave.

SUPERVISOR PRIORITIES

By **Patrick Kennedy**

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 2



I want to start by thanking the South Land Park Community and all of District 2 for their faith in me to serve a second term on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. It is a great privilege to serve the district I have called home for most of my life. I thought this would be good time to reflect on just four of my top priorities in my time as Supervisor: Mental Health, Homelessness, flood protection, and improving our Regional Transit system.

Behavioral Health

When I campaigned and brought up the issue of mental health, I had no idea it would resonate with as many people as it did. It is an issue that touches everyone in some way. Due to the recession, mental health services in the county had been decimated. Upon my election, I immediately began working with county staff and care providers to build more capacity and develop new and innovative programs. We are now delivering mental health services in a timelier and more appropriate manner, meaning more people are receiving the care they need for their specific circumstance. There is no one size fits all solution to mental illness and our new programs acknowledge this. For example:

- Residential care for drug and alcohol dependency, previously only available to those with private insurance, is growing through an federal – county agreement;
- Mobile teams of clinicians matched with law enforcement;
- Additional acute care and residential care beds;
- Respite care facilities for short term assistance to get through crisis;
- More services for our youth; and,
- Two new crisis care centers in the north and south of the county.

New Homelessness Initiatives

It is no secret that homelessness is the greatest humanitarian crisis facing our county and even our state. While we have a long way to go, since adopting our countywide plan in October of 2017, we have made significant strides (in addition to programs and services previously available):

- 180 families have been sheltered and 205 families have been placed into stable housing;
- 140 individuals placed in transitional housing, plus an additional 40 veterans;
- 153 individuals have been placed in permanent supportive housing, receiving intensive supportive services t scattered sites, with 86 exiting to stable housing;
- 213 of the county's most difficult individuals to serve who have experienced long term homelessness have been enrolled in programs, and 147 of this population have been housed; and,
- More homeless youth, under the age of 25, have received housing and services.

(more)

Flood Protection

As Chair of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), I worked with the community and congressional leaders to adopt assessment districts and secure federal funding (thank you Rep. Matsui) that will fund levy and other improvements to move our community closer to 500 year flood protection and lower, or eliminate, flood insurance rates.

Regional Transit

After years of decline, SacRT is turning the corner and proving to be clean, safe and convenient. During this, my second year as Chair of the SacRT board, I will continue this trend:

- New routes will provide more and timelier service;
- Busses and light rail cars are cleaner;
- Security is up throughout the system;
- Fare recovery is up while the cost of riding is down, including for students who saw their fares cut in half;
- On-demand micro transit is serving previously neglected areas; and,
- Citrus Heights, Folsom and Elk Grove have joined SacRT, making it truly regional.

Of course these are just a few examples of what we as a community have recently accomplished. And, while we still have a long way to go, every journey begins with the first step. In Sacramento County we will continue to focus on the needs of our residents and the road ahead.

If you have any questions about this or any other issue you can contact my office by calling 916-874-5481 or reach my by email at SupervisorKennedy@saccounty.net. ■

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SACRAMENTO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

By **Bina Lefkovitz**, Trustee, Area 2



I was honored to be appointed to the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) Board of Trustees in August 2017 and to be elected to the position in June 2018. I am a long time youth advocate and am passionate about increasing opportunities for our most “at promise” youth. My day time career includes building partnerships between municipal governments and schools to engage students as active community members and interest them in pursuing public sector careers.

The policy issues I advocate for relate to ensuring our students have access to civic education, increasing access to school based mental health supports and reducing the opportunity gap that exists for our most vulnerable youth, so these students have equal access to career and college experiences and the skills needed to help them be successful adults.

I have been working with the League of Women Voters to ensure that students are registered to vote and understand how to read the ballot. I am part of a network of leaders advocating to the County for more mental health services in schools. I am also working to ensure SCOE's 300 court and community school students (students on probation, expelled or with severe emotional disturbances) have access to work and life skills and opportunities to explore career and college options.

Please contact me if my advocacy issues align with your interests or if you have questions about SCOE.

blefkovitz@gmail.com

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FREEPORT BOULEVARD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

By **David O'Toole**
SLPNA Board Member



Neighbors may never forget the tragic hit-and-run vehicle accident on Freeport Boulevard at Oregon Drive in January 2018, that killed an elderly grandmother and severely injured her six-year old grandson. This mid-afternoon crime shocked the community and left many wondering, “what can be done to prevent this from happening again?”

Several neighbors turned out to public meetings hosted by Council Members Schenirer and Hansen in early 2018, expressing sadness and frustration with the dearth of safe crossings, excessive speeds, fewer walkable streets, limited traffic enforcement, and street infrastructure. The Freeport Boulevard Transportation Safety Committee (FBTSC) was formed. The FBTSC is comprised of members of the public and board members from the South Land Park, Hollywood Park, and Land Park neighborhood associations.

Since its inception in April 2018, the FBTSC has completed a committee charter (found here www.SLPNA.org/fbtsc.html); advocated directly with City of Sacramento council offices, police, and transportation offices. We have facilitated signage and streetlight enhancements at unsafe crossings, making your neighborhood safer and more pedestrian friendly, among other accomplishments.

The FBTSC is now seeking your input to focus the committee on the Freeport Boulevard transportation issues that matter most to you. An online survey will be open all through March and you may find the survey linked on SLPNA home page or linked on the SLPNA Facebook page. Your input and perspective will drive the work of the committee, so please take the time to share your perspective.

Looking ahead, the FBTSC hosts recurring Freeport safety events, including quarterly Freeport Boulevard street clean ups. Also, be on the lookout for an upcoming “walk audit” for neighbors who walk Freeport with a transportation expert and share their thoughts on Freeport walkability.

The FBTSC welcomes all neighbors to participate and attend a meeting. The FBTSC meets on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 at Saint Robert’s School in Hollywood Park. Please join us. Questions or comments are always welcome by emailing Freeport.Trafficsafety@gmail.com.

BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY

By **Christy Aguirre**

Belle Cooleledge Library, Branch Supervisor



Here are some fun and exciting activities awaiting you and your family this Spring and Summer at Belle Cooleledge Library. Stop on by and enjoy the fun.

Programs For Families

Read to a Dog- Looking for a fun way to boost your child's reading skills while making new friends? Kids are invited to read aloud to a trained therapy dog and their adult volunteer. First and fourth Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.

Baby Storytime - For children up to about 18 months old; each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Join us for nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m.

Toddler Storytime — Toddlers ages one to three and their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays. After the storytime, we will have a stay and play group. Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Preschool Storytime— Preschoolers ages three and older and their caregivers are invited to join us for fun songs, stories, fingerplays and a play activity. Thursdays at 11 a.m.



Sing Along with Mister Cooper — Join neighborhood favorite Mister Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for families. Saturdays from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Pop-up Book Sale — Featuring books for all ages. Support your local library and pick up some great reads! The sale is held at the entrance to the library and the Friends Bookstore will be open during regular hours. First Tuesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Programs for Teens

Prom Drive - Bring your gently-used formal wear, including dresses, suits, shoes, and accessories to the library locations listed below during open hours. All sizes needed. Suits and button up shirts especially encouraged. Please donate clean items in good condition.

(more)

Programs For Adults

Free Yoga Class - Yoga Moves Us is offering free indoor Yin Yoga classes. Yin yoga opens up the connective tissue of the body by letting gravity take over rather than force. Postures are typically close to the ground and held for at least 3-5 minutes with very deep breaths to find stillness. The practice is slower and quieter than Vinyasa Yoga and focuses on relaxing into flexibility rather than moving into strength or balance. Bring a mat, a water bottle, and a friend! Tuesday evenings starting January 8 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Knitting Club – Enjoy a relaxing morning of knitting with fellow yarn enthusiasts. This is not an instructional class, but assistance is available. Bring your own supplies and a project to work on. Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Genealogical Research - The Genealogical Association of Sacramento (GAS) works to encourage the research, publication, and preservation of genealogical and historical material; to instruct and lend assistance to the public in modern methods of research. Third Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday Sleuths Book Club - Join us on the second Saturday of each month as we discuss popular and classic mysteries. Second Saturdays from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Friends Board Meeting - The Friends of the Belle Cooledge Library welcome the public to their bi-monthly board meetings. Join this active group of local neighbors in Land Park who support the programs and work of the library.

SUMMER READING 2019 @ Belle Cooledge Library

Library summer reading programs have a major impact on student reading levels, ability and enjoyment! Summer reading will run from June 1 – August 15, 2019 and is for all ages! Simply sign up online, read five books, and come back to the library. Just for reading those five books, kids and teens will earn a free prize book, adults will receive a free book bag, and everyone will be entered in our grand prize drawing.



2019 Ice Cream Social

At Belle Cooledge library, the fun starts in the park with the annual Ice Cream Social on **Friday, May 17th from 6 – 8 PM**. Sponsored by the Belle Cooledge Friends of the Library, this year's family concert features Caribbean Music with Asheba (please bring own blankets/lawn chairs to sit on grass).



Everyone will be able to sign up early for Summer Reading, and there will be **free Vic's Ice Cream!** For the second year, we are proud to partner with the Office of Councilmember Jay Schenirer, District 5, for an outdoor movie beginning at sundown. ■

OPINION PIECE: AN HONEST CONVERSATION

By **Jim Cooper**
Assemblymember, District 9



Last month, a California Appellate judge ruled that a man originally sentenced to 35 years to life in state prison is now eligible for early release under Proposition 57, the California Parole for Non-Violent Criminals and Juvenile Court Trial Requirements Initiative.

The felon was convicted of stabbing his girlfriend with a butcher knife, forcibly molesting his 11-year-old niece and gang raping a 17-year-old pregnant teenager.

It pains me to describe these offenses but it's imperative that I do – because there is something grossly wrong with current law pertaining to these offenses. Under Proposition 57, the courts have ruled that violent sexual offenders and even a felon that stabbed his girlfriend is considered a non-violent criminal.

This ruling marks the second time in the past year that a court has ruled that pedophiles and rapists will be considered for early release from prison (proponents promised voters this would never happen) under the highly misrepresented Proposition 57.

While Proposition 57 promised to keep violent offenders in prison, the list of crimes considered as non-violent are unimaginable. The list includes pimping a child, beating a spouse and raping an unconscious or disabled person.

Victims' rights groups and legal experts all warned the initiative was too risky and would likely lead to the early release of some of society's worst criminals. The electorate was misled and they will ultimately be the ones to pay the price if we don't start an honest conversation about the realities of the impacts of Proposition 57.

This conversation is long overdue. It's time for legislative leaders, criminal justice reform groups and public safety experts to come together to address this issue.

For more information on this or any other state related issue or how SLPNA can help, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 916-670-7888.

SLPNA STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
FOR IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT

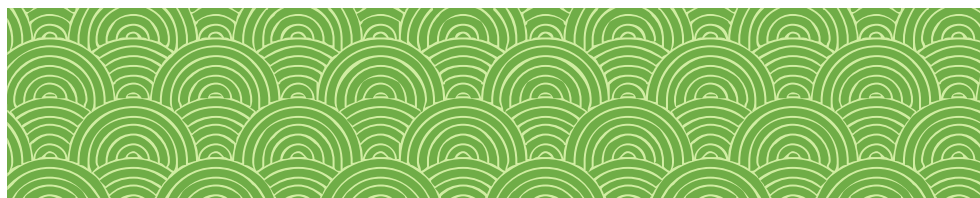
QUALIFICATIONS:

**SOUTH LAND PARK RESIDENT
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
COLLABORATIVE, COMMUNICATIVE,
COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY**

EARN:

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS
FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**APPLICATIONS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT
WWW.SLPNA.ORG**



SLPNA STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

Hello South Land Park Neighborhood students,
The SLPNA Board is committed to collaborating with students in our neighborhood.

Be the student voice on the SLPNA Board, earn community service hours, represent your friends, receive a letter of recommendation and as a senior, apply for a future SLPNA scholarship.

The SLPNA Board is accepting applications for Student Board Members now for appointment.
The requirements are the following:

- Academic good standing
- Knowledge of high school student issues and perspective
- Willingness to communicate honestly with parent, teacher and administrative PTSA Board members
- Collaborative, team player, innovative
- Pride in SLP and a determined desire to serve our community

Download and complete the application from our website at www.SLPNA.org. (Soon to be posted).
Please call or text any questions to SLPNA Board Member Miss Phoebe (Austin) at 916-628-3479 or email to Phoebe.phoebeaustin@gmail.com.

1. Grade
2. Academy or focus of study
3. Extra-curricular activities (sports, clubs, volunteer work)
4. An issue of concern to you in SLP
5. An issue you would like to address in SLP
6. Agree to commit 4 hours per month to the SLPNA Student Board position
7. Your favorite drink and snack at monthly meetings

STUDENT VOICES MATTER in SOUTH LAND PARK





MEMBERSHIP / DONATIONS FORM

Join your neighborhood association. Please print out this form, fill it in, and mail it along with your check to the address above. Checks should be made out to South Land Park Neighborhood Association or SLPNA. Your contact information will NOT be shared with any other organization.

Please print clearly.

Dues per person (Check One): ☐ \$10 for 1 year ☐ \$25 for 3 years

Additional Donation (amount): _____

Please indicate your membership status (Check One): ☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____
(please print clearly)

☐ Yes, I would like to receive SLPNA's quarterly Newsletter via email along with occasional updates about community events, crime, and meetings (SLPNA recommended).

Phone: _____

Please tell us what neighborhood issues you are interested in: _____

If others at your address wish to join the Association, please include the appropriate dues with your membership check, and add their name(s) below: _____

SOUTH LAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

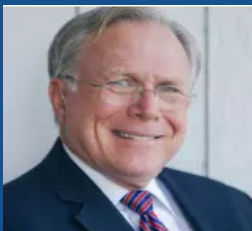
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South Land Park

Neighborhood Association



Member of
Presidents Council

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