



- ELMHURST NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS -

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ELMHURST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION • SACRAMENTO, CA • FOUNDED IN 1908

President's Corner

By Michael J. Gaspar

Neighbors,

This edition of our newsletter carries an extra bit of urgency and we are delighted to get it to you. On 7 April, we have the opportunity to fill the recently vacated city council seat for our District. At a time where many of us desire that our food, entertainment, and shopping be local we easily forget the truly local essence of city governance.

It is at the municipal level where we find the answers to our most immediate concerns. It is at the municipal level where we have the strongest voice. However you choose to participate in this special election, please remember how very important it is. We are grateful to both Bruce Pomer and Eric Guerra for coming to speak at our last association meeting. **On the back page, you will find additional comments from both gentlemen.** Having met both Bruce and Eric let me say how fortunate we are to have such fine choices.

Spring brings with it many great opportunities to enjoy our beautiful neighborhood and we look forward to sharing those with you. Call, text, email or stop by my front door and tell me how you would like to get involved. Whether you can devote 80 hours a week to our neighborhood or just 30 minutes a month, we would love to get your passion and ideas. We have particular need for a representative for our Parents Group and for an Events Coordinator. We have volunteers coming forward to help build our online presence and are looking for more as we ramp up.

My best wishes to you and your family. I look forward to seeing you!

Michael J. Gaspar
(414) 524-9296
5317 V Street

Spring 2015

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Friday, March 27

Food Truck Mania
5 – 8 p.m., Tahoe Park

Saturday, March 28

Elmhurst Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck
9 – 11 a.m., Coloma Community Center

Tuesday, April 7

**Special Election, District 6
City Councilmember**

Wednesday, May 6

ENA Board Meeting
6:30 p.m., Coloma Community Center

Saturday, June 6 (tentative)

Elmhurst Summer Picnic
1 – 4 p.m., Coloma Community Center

Saturday, June 6

Pops in the Park begins
Continues on June 13, June 20, & June 27
See eastsacpopsinthepark.com for details

Hop on Over to the Elmhurst Easter Egg Hunt on March 28

The Elmhurst Parents Group is having its 10th annual Spring Potluck and Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Coloma Center on T Street. Mark your calendars so you don't miss this annual Elmhurst tradition. Please bring a potluck item to share and an Easter basket for the egg hunt. This event is always lots of fun and is a great way to meet other families in the neighborhood. As always, the event will be held rain or shine!



Other than the Sprint Potluck/Egg Hunt, the Elmhurst Parents Group does not have any events planned at this time. If you have suggestions for parent group activities or would like to get involved, please let us know. If the parents group is going to continue, it is necessary for new parents to volunteer and participate. So consider joining us; it is a really great way to connect with the neighborhood, meet other families, and make friends. Like us today on Facebook or look us up at www.groups.yahoo.com.



DISTRICT 6 NEWS

The District 6 City Council office continues to be staffed by the District Director, Maria Alvarez, with a new Executive Assistant, Darsey Varnedoe, Jr. If you have any issues or suggestions you'd like to discuss, please do not hesitate to call us.

April 7th Special Election

Please do not forget to vote on April 7th, 2015! There will be a Special Election to fill the vacant District 6 Council seat. Election information is available at <http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/clerk>.

Food Truck Mania!

Food Truck Mania is starting up again for the year! The events will be held on the 4th Friday of each month at Tahoe Park, the first event will be held on **Friday, March 27**, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (9 p.m. in the summer months). As usual, Food Truck Mania is sponsored by our office, Supervisor Phil Serna's office, and the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association. New to the events this year is the Front Street Animal Shelter, which will be coordinating the wine and beer garden, with all proceeds going to the shelter. So come and enjoy delicious food, live music and support our district.

City's Fiscal Year 2015/16 Budget Process

The following is the tentative schedule for budget-related workshops and council meetings, culminating in the adoption of the fiscal year 2015/16 operating and capital improvement project budgets on June 9.

- Tuesday, March 17, 2 p.m., Budget and Audit Committee
- Tuesday, March 17, 6 p.m., City Council
- Tuesday, April 7, 2 p.m., Budget and Audit Committee
- Friday, April 24, FY2015/16 Budget Released
- Tuesday, May 5, 2 p.m., Budget and Audit Committee
- Tuesday, May 12, 6 p.m., City Council
- Tuesday, May 19, 2 p.m., City Council
- Tuesday, June 2, 2 p.m., Budget and Audit Committee
- Tuesday, June 9, 6 p.m., City Council

Note: Budget & Audit Committee Meetings are scheduled for one hour; Council Workshops are scheduled for two hours.

More information can be found by following <http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/City-Manager/Media-Releases/Fiscal-Year-2015-16-budget-process>

As always, please contact our office with any issues or concerns at **(916) 808-7006** or via email at malvarez@cityofsacramento.org or dvarnedoe@cityofsacramento.org.

IMPORTANT: New Watering Schedule

Please take note of the current watering rules, which are now in effect for all Sacramento residents:

- **Addresses ending with an ODD number (1, 3, 5, 7, or 9) may water on Tuesday AND Saturday**
- **Addresses ending with an EVEN number (0,2, 4, 6, or 8) may water on Wednesday AND Sunday**

NOTE: Watering must be done **before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m.**

More information about ways to save water can be found at www.SpareSacWater.org.

Council Committee Reviews Weaker Tree Ordinance

by Bonnie Hansen

The City of Sacramento is in the process of rewriting its tree ordinance, and the changes could have a significant effect on neighborhood quality-of-life. A group of local stakeholders, including neighborhood associations, arborists and tree advocates, spent months providing input to the Urban Forestry Section of the city's public works department for the draft legislation. Many of the stakeholder recommendations were not included in Urban Forestry's draft ordinance.

The draft was the subject of a March 10 hearing at City Council's Law & Legislation Committee. The Sacramento Tree Foundation and the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association, among others, testified against the proposed ordinance. As a result, the committee voted not to send the draft to the full city council, instead directing Urban Forestry to work more closely with the stakeholder groups.

ENA concerns included the removal of language to protect our trees from Dutch elm disease. Others spoke to the reduction of notice-of-removal posting from 30 to 10 days. There was a long and confusing list of other problems with the proposed language, and city council agreed the proposed ordinance was "not ready for prime time."

Councilmember Angelique Ashby, a Natomas resident, commented that Elmhurst's mature tree canopy is the envy of neighborhoods like hers. As pointed out during testimony, these trees can keep our neighborhood as much as 10 degrees cooler than unforested areas, reducing our summertime electricity bills and helping to mitigate greenhouse gasses in the process.

The draft will be rewritten and reviewed at a future Law & Legislation Committee hearing. We hope the revision will include better protections for our historic elms and other mature trees. Please stay informed about the process through our Facebook postings. We will share more information when it's available.

City Services Update

City's Household Junk Pickup program is now accepting appointments for 2015

Residential customers can make two (2) appointments per year, from February through October, for the free pickup of acceptable bulky items, including yard waste. The City will collect up to five (5) cubic yards of material (4'x4'x9') per appointment, which is approximately the amount that will fit into the bed of a pickup truck. Piles placed in the street for collection more than 24 hours before a scheduled appointment, or placed in the street without an appointment, will be considered illegal dumping and may be subject to fines. Accepted household junk items include yard waste, furniture, mattresses, carpets, toys, and up to four uncounted tires. A full list of acceptable items and guidelines for the Household Junk Pickup Program can be found at www.sacreycle.org.

Appliance & E-Waste Collection—Two (2) appointments year-round

Sacramento residents may now also schedule two (2) appointments per year for the collection of appliances and electronic waste. Accepted items include washers, dryers, refrigerators, and up to four (4) e-waste items like TVs, computers, monitors and printers. There is a minimum weight of at least 10 lbs. per pickup.

To request a Household Junk or Appliance & E-waste appointment, please call 311, make an online request at www.sac311.org, or use the Sac 311 app for iPhone or Android.

Now you can pay for city parking with your phone or tablet

Parkmobile is a new service offered by the City to pay for parking using a mobile device such as a smart phone or tablet. We recommend you sign up prior to your first use. Once you register, the app can help you locate the parking meter where you are parked, as well as track your parking session and send you a reminder when the meter is about to expire.

Start by creating an account through the Parkmobile app or at <http://us.parkmobile.com/>.

More information about the program is available at <http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/Parking-Services/Parkmobile>.



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IT'S FARMERS MARKET SEASON!

It's that time of year when farmers markets are starting up for the summer season. Lucky for us, we have one right in our backyard!

- What:** UC Davis Health System Farmers Market
When: Every Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting **April 23**.
Where: Parking Lot 12 (at the corner of 45th and Y Streets on the UC Davis Sacramento campus).
Why: Because it's a great place to buy local produce and other goodies, eat some dinner, listen to music and, best of all, say hello to your neighbors!

More Info:

- (916) 734-5441
- community.relations@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/community_relations
- Facebook page: UC Davis Health System Farmers Market



Elmhurst is blooming! See beautiful photos of your neighbors' gardens (in full color) at the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association's Facebook page.

Thanks goes to Bonnie Hansen for the great shots of the neighborhood flora.

Did you know that we have a Community Garden in Elmhurst?

Well we do, and the Elmhurst-Med Center Community Garden will be starting its second year this spring. The garden, which is located on 49th Street between V Street and 50th Street, is a joint partnership between the City of Sacramento and the UCD Med Center. Half of the plots are designated for UCD employees and half for the general public/Elmhurst residents.

At this time, there is a waiting list for plots; but if you are interested in getting on the list, please contact Bill Maynard at wmaynard@cityofsacramento.org or (916) 808-4943.



Governor's Mansion volunteer gardeners include Elmhurst residents Bo York (standing, left), George Godfrey (standing, second from right), Greg Stevenson (kneeling, left), and Bonnie Hansen (kneeling, right). Photo credit: Britt Moise

Elmhurst Residents Honored with Prestigious Tree Hero Award

Last June, hundreds of guests, including members of the U.S. Congress, the California State Assembly, and Sacramento City Council, along with other community leaders, gathered to honor the Sacramento Tree Foundation's 2014 Tree Heroes. Of 82 nominations, five were selected for this prestigious award. One of them went to the volunteer program at the Governor's Mansion State Historic Park, led by Elmhurst resident Bonnie Hansen and staffed by several Elmhurst residents.

In the words of the award citation: "The grounds of the Governor's Mansion serve as a symbol of the abundance and beauty of California... Tonight we celebrate an enthusiastic group of volunteers who...are working to help keep the Mansion's garden growing...These volunteers helped the garden earn the Best Comeback Award presented by Sacramento Magazine.

The [Tree Hero] Award is presented to an organization whose work sets a worthy example for others to follow, and certainly Bonnie Hansen and all the volunteers who are committed to the growth and health of the Mansion's urban forest are a terrific example."

NEW DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Evergreen Development

Plans are in the works to develop the area in the northeast corner of Stockton Blvd. and T Street. The Evergreen Company, which is the developer, plans to tear down the existing (pink) AT&T building on the corner across from Starbucks and build a new apartment building in its place. According to Evergreen, the building will be similar in style to the LINQ Midtown complex (www.linqmidtown.com) that currently sits at the corner of S Street and Alhambra Blvd (kitty-cornered from the Sacramento Co-Op). It will include some retail shops on the first floor, as well as a pool atop a four-story parking garage abutting Stockton Blvd.



This is the latest rendition of what the new apartment building at Stockton and T Street will look like.

The company also plans to install 21 single-family homes along S Street between 39th and 37th Streets. This slice of land will house 2- to 3-story homes and will be separated from the freeway by a sound wall.

An article about this development was recently published in the Sacramento Business Journal. The article, by staff writer Ben van der Meer, is available at <http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento>.

Continued on page 6

Contacting the Sacramento Police Department

Emergencies: Call **911** from a landline or **(916) 732-0100** from a cell phone

Non-emergency line: **(916) 808-5471**

NOTE: The SPD suggests that you program these numbers into your cell phones. One reason is if you call 911 from your cell phone, you will get the California Highway Patrol (CHP) instead of the SPD.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Utility Worker Scam

Over the past few months, the Sacramento Police Department has received multiple reports of suspects claiming to be utility employees. The impersonators knock on front doors, saying they need access to the backyard of the home in order to service the sewer or water line. The residents accompany the purported utility worker to the backyard while additional suspects enter and burglarize the home through an unlocked front door.

What to do about it:

- **Ask for identification.** Never allow subjects inside your residence or yard without proper identification. All employees of the City, SMUD, and PG&E have ID badges. If you have not made an appointment, and someone comes to your home to request access, turn them away if they do not have official identification.
- **Don't assume someone in a hard hat or reflective vest is official.** Please be aware that a subject who is wearing a hard hat or utility vest **may not** be a City or utility worker. These items can be purchased virtually anywhere. Some suspects have even been known to put circular "bubble" lights on their vehicles to trick neighbors into thinking they are "official."
- **When in doubt, get on the phone.** Call the company they claim to be from, or call the police department immediately to report activity.

Mail and Package Thefts

People stealing delivered packages or mail off of porches has been a problem for a while now. Although it seems to increase during the holidays, these thefts happen all year long. If you have had problems with mailed packages disappearing, you now have another option.

The folks at **Cottage Mart**, located at 2130 V St. (51st and V Streets), can hold any package for you. Simply leave a note for your mail, UPS or FedEx carrier to drop off your package at Cottage Mart instead of leaving it on your porch. You can also choose to ship items directly to the market. They will charge \$1 per day to hold packages (to make sure no one leaves a package there indefinitely).

For details, please visit Cottage Mart or call them at **(916) 739-6310**.

David Lubin Elementary Wins at FIRST LEGO League District Championships

The RoboRaptors Robotics Team from David Lubin Elementary School took home top awards at the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Capital District Championship tournament at Inderkum High School in Natomas on January 24.

Fifty teams from across northern California competed—many from private schools—and the RoboRaptors had an exceptional showing, with a first-place trophy for Innovative Research in the Project Research category and a second-place trophy in the Robot Game Award.

FLL is a global robotics program that ignites enthusiasm for science, technology and engineering in kids ages 9 to 14. FLL brings theory and practice together. Working in an environment that encourages inquiry and hands-on experimentation, team members fulfill roles modeled after real world project teams.



David Lubin Elementary School, which is Elmhurst's neighborhood public school, is dedicated to the belief that each child can be provided opportunities to reach their full academic and social potential. David Lubin strives to provide this excellence in the neighborhood. In addition to the robotics teams, they provide many outstanding programs that enrich the lives of the students, and have dedicated staff and active parents who make the programs possible.

Congratulations, Robo Raptors!

Development Update, continued from page 5

The Greenfair Development

The City of Sacramento has received an application to develop a 6.85-acre parcel on Fairgrounds Drive, which runs between Broadway and 2nd Ave. This area, which is where the California State Fair was once held, backs up to homes on 2nd Ave., which are in the Elmhurst neighborhood. Although the project is currently in its early stages, the developer is proposing to build 44 single-family home lots on four cul-de-sac streets off Fairgrounds Drive.

SMUD announces a plan to rehabilitate its headquarters

At the ENA General Meeting on March 11, representatives from SMUD introduced a new rehabilitation project that will affect the SMUD campus located 6201 S Street. This project is in its early stages, but SMUD hopes to expand the central core of the HQ building, redesign the main parking area, update the landscaping, and install security features around the campus.

SMUD representatives stressed that the changes will not affect traffic in the area, as the number of employees at the site will not increase.

The proposed project is scheduled to occur between April 2015 and September 2017. They plan to have a number of public hearings on the matter, including one on April 23, 2015.

To learn more, please visit www.smud.org and enter "rehabilitation" in the search box. Or contact Beth Tincher, Government Affairs Representative, at beth.tincher@smud.org.

Elmhurst News will provide updates on all of these developments as we get them, but if you'd like more information, we encourage you to contact the City of Sacramento Community Development Department, Planning Division. Call (916) 264-5011 or email them at planning@cityofsacramento.org.

ABBREVIATED MINUTES OF THE ENA GENERAL MEETING HELD MARCH 11, 2015 AT THE COLOMA COMMUNITY CENTER

Board Members Present:

Michael J. Gaspar, President; Gordon Olson, Treasurer; Amreet Sandhu, Secretary; Susan C. Carlson, Newsletter Editor; and members Bonnie Hansen, Tom Cregger, Diana Lamotta, Britt Moise, and George Godfrey

Agenda:

- Introductions, Michael Gaspar
- Neighborhood safety update, Sergeant J. Bailey
- District 6 update, Darsey Varnedoe, Jr.
- City tree ordinance revisions, Bonnie Hansen & Amreet Sandhu
- Candidate for City Council District 6, Bruce Pomer
- Candidate for City Council District 6, Christina Lokke on behalf of Eric Guerra
- SMUD site renovation project, Beth Tincher UC Davis Medical Center update, Deborah Cregger
- Evergreen Development project update, Trey Gundlach

1) Board President Michael Gaspar began the meeting by introducing board members and guests.

2) Sacramento Police Department Sergeant J. Bailey provided updates on safety in the Elmhurst neighborhood. He talked about the importance of locking cars and doors, the (future) use of body cameras, stressed the value of Nextdoor.com, and he clarified the phone numbers to use when calling the SPD (see page 5 for details). Sgt. Bailey can be contacted at jbailey@pd.cityofsacramento.org.

3) City of Sacramento Executive Assistant for Council District 6, Darsey Varnedoe, Jr., provided updates on District 6 issues. He can be contacted for all issues and neighborhood concerns around safety, livability, and city concerns including garbage, recycling, composting, traffic, streetlights, bicycle lanes, and homelessness. Darsey can be reached at (916) 808-7006 or dvarnedoe@cityofsacramento.org.

4) Elmhurst Neighborhood Association Board Members Amreet Sandhu & Bonnie Hansen provided updates on the City of Sacramento's efforts to revise its tree ordinances. A stakeholder group authorized by the City Council has recommended revisions to the existing tree ordinances for the city. A hearing was held on March 10 for the public to comment on the suggested changes, and a number of organizations and neighborhood representatives attended to voice their concern about and strong opposition to the revisions. Representatives from Elmhurst attended the meeting and Amreet Sandhu wrote a letter which was submitted to the City Council and mayor. If you'd like a copy of the letter, please email Amreet at Amreet.Sandhu@gmail.com.

5) Candidate for City Council District 6, Bruce Pomer, addressed ENA with information about himself and his campaign. More information about Bruce Pomer can be found at brucepomer.org.

6) Christina Lokke represented candidate for City Council District 6, Eric Guerra. Christina, who is Eric's wife, addressed ENA with information about Eric and his campaign. More information about Eric can be found at ericguerra.org. Christina can be reached at ChristinaLokke@gmail.com

7) SMUD Government Affairs Representative Beth Tincher provided updates on the SMUD headquarters and site renovation project. Beth can be reached at beth.tincher@smud.org or at (916) 732-5124.

8) Deborah Cregger provided updates on the UC Davis Medical Center. She attended the public meeting held in January, and a transportation representative spoke to the group. A transportation study was finalized last fall, but no info has been released on it. For more information, or to get involved, contact Deborah at dcregger@hotmail.com.

9) Trey Gundlach of the Evergreen Company displayed maps and diagrams of their project at Stockton Blvd. and T St. and answered questions about it. Trey can be contacted at tgundlach@theevergreencompany.com or at (916) 923-9001.

PLEASE NOTE: A full version of the minutes is available on the ENA Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/ElmhurstSacto

For questions, concerns, or feedback on ENA meetings, please contact: elmhurstnews@gmail.com
To reach the ENA Board members themselves, please email: ENA_Board@googlegroups.com

MEET YOUR CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



Bruce Pomer

My wife Anne and I have lived in the Campus Commons/Sierra Oaks neighborhood for 40 years. I helped my wife found the Sierra Oaks

Neighborhood Association. I was an elected trustee to the Los Rios Community College District for 20 years, providing educational opportunities to the students of our region. As a Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commissioner I pushed for park maintenance and better support for our community centers and pool facilities.

Recently I retired as Executive Director of the Health Officers Association, completing a 40 year career in public health – making sure that people lived longer and had better lives by fighting preventable diseases.

I will work to maintain Elmhurst's unique charm, character and quality of life. I understand the key issues affecting the neighborhood – a good relationship with the Med Center, the building of a sound wall, development at the site of the AT&T building, as well as traffic mitigation, crime and the preservation of the neighborhood's beautiful trees.

Sound fiscal management, saving more and borrowing less is the key to maintaining our basic services in good times and in bad. I will be a strong advocate for your interests – **At the city council meeting I was the only candidate to testify against the removal of the Med Center from District 6.**

I'm proud to have the endorsement of former city councilmembers Kevin McCarty, Dave Jones, Darrel Steinberg and Deborah Ortiz who represented the Elmhurst neighborhood. I look forward to representing Elmhurst on the City Council.



Eric Guerra

Putting Our Neighborhood First

My priority is to put our neighborhoods first. That means working to ensure

our neighborhoods get the resources and services we need. We're not getting our fair share of city resources – that has to change.

After knocking on hundreds of doors, I've heard from residents of Elmhurst about traffic issues, increased car break-ins and packages going missing, parking issues from the Med Center, and the need to complete the sound wall on our side of the freeway.

I'm running for City Council to truly make neighborhood services our number one priority. On the City Council I will work to:

- Bring back community police officers to Elmhurst to work with residents
- Make our neighborhoods safe to walk and bike, while reducing speeding
- Establish an **independent redistricting commission** to take the politics out of drawing our city council district lines

I'm ready to start working on these priorities from day one because I have the experience, energy and skill to actually get things done, **as *The Sacramento Bee* noted in endorsing me.**

As President of the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association, I fought to keep local elementary schools, parks, and pools open.

As Chair of the County Planning Commission, and a former Redevelopment Commissioner, I'll work for smart land use decisions that protect the character of our neighborhoods. I'll also focus on investing in Stockton Blvd and Broadway, to make them vibrant economic resources for our community.

I look forward to seeing you on the campaign trail and earning your vote.

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON APRIL 7!