

# Around the Pocket

SOUTH POCKET HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION | NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Web: [www.southpockethomeowners.org](http://www.southpockethomeowners.org)

## ANNUAL SPHA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The South Pocket Homeowners Association (SPHA) annual membership drive begins in January and we encourage you to join or renew your membership and show your support for your neighborhood association. We need YOUR membership! Let's look at the benefits your active neighborhood association, through volunteers and membership dues, brings to you.

**Events.** SPHA sponsors several fun events that benefit all residents beginning with the Easter Egg Hunt at Marriott Park. SPHA volunteers do the leg work (so you don't have to) for the annual Garage Sale in May. Always the first Tuesday in August, National Night Out celebrates our partnership with law enforcement and offers the latest neighborhood watch information. Rounding out the year, the SPHA Holiday Party is a purely social opportunity to enjoy the holidays with your neighbors.

**Communication.** Members benefit from a variety of SPHA information tools to keep you informed of community news and public safety matters. Want to know about crime statistics or who bought the house down the street? "Around the Pocket," SPHA's newsletter is for you! Members love the annual Membership Roster which has neighborhood information by block and by last name. SPHA email alerts are highly valued by members for keeping them up to date on breaking news in our community.

**Advocacy.** Maintaining a neighborhood over time takes work, and it is your SPHA volunteers who do that work. Our neighborhood watch program alerts you to crime trends and provides the latest information directly from the Sacramento Police Department to you. Similarly, keeping the neighborhood looking good requires SPHA reminding residents of our mutual obligations under the Covenants, Codes & Restrictions. SPHA advocates for our community with the City of Sacramento concerning Marriott Park, city codes and development issues, and with State of California Caltrans concerning the proposed sound wall along I-5.

Fun events, communication, and advocacy for our community. If you value these benefits SPHA brings to you, then please be sure to complete your 2017 membership form, included with this newsletter, and send it in. Your neighborhood association is 100% volunteer-based; therefore, all the benefits we bring to residents depend solely on your annual membership dues. Thank you for your membership and best wishes for 2017!

## FAMILY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CLASS COMING SOON

Have you ever worried about what you would do in a disaster?

The Board has arranged for a free 1-hour class on Disaster Preparedness taught by a renowned expert in the field. The intent of the class is to raise your awareness of our risks here in the area and positive steps you can take to be prepared.

**When:** 7-8pm, Tuesday, March 7

**Where:** Robbie Waters Library Community Room

Space and seating is limited! Please keep an eye on your email in-box for the notification and sign-up. Contact Rick Beymer for more information: 916.642.5716



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

**SACRAMENTO-ALERT – An important component of emergency preparedness is timely warnings.**

The Sacramento Police Department in partnership with all public safety agencies within Placer, Yolo and Sacramento counties manage a regional Emergency Notification System. This state-of-the-art system has been designed to notify community members within each of these counties of public safety emergencies and alerts. The Sacramento-Alert Emergency Notification System is capable of delivering notifications via telephone, text message and email.

Since wireless services, such as cell phones, are not automatically registered, community members are able to self-register their cell phone, text message and email addresses for up to five separate locations within the three counties. Note: The system automatically registers residents as long as they have traditional landline services, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP/Digital Telephone Services).

To register please go to [www.sacramento-alert.org](http://www.sacramento-alert.org)

Since natural and man-made disasters are a fact of life, we strongly urge you to sign up for these alerts for you and your family's sake.

**Sac PD Email Notifications** - The Sacramento Police Department offers an e-mail notification system called 'e-Notify' to provide up-to-date information on topics or events of interest. By using e-Notify you can find out when important things happen in the City. Simply sign up to be notified on topics of interest listed below.

- **Sacramento Police Press Releases:** This allows you to receive an e-mail every time new press releases are posted to the Police Press Release Page.
- **Sacramento Crime Activity:** Get updates on criminal activity in Sacramento.
- **Helicopter Activity:** Get updates on Sacramento Police Department helicopter activity.
- **Surveillance System Registration:** Let us know if you have active surveillance cameras/equipment. This confidential registry will be used as an investigative tool if criminal activity occurs near your home or business. Log in below to update this information.

Your e-mail address will be kept confidential and it will not be sold, disclosed to others, or used for unsolicited mass mailings.

To sign up go to the website and click on the "Sign Up Now" button in the middle of the page:

<http://www.sacpd.org/stayinformed/enotify/index.aspx>

**Neighborhood POD.** With the addition of the Sacramento Police Department's Police Observation Device (POD) at the corner of Pocket Road and Greenhaven Drive, we have a new crime prevention tool.

It's equipped with 2 cameras that provide the Police with 4 different views of the intersection. It is not equipped with a

license plate reader as that would have over quadrupled the cost. However the digital cameras have sufficient resolution that they can be used to zoom in on a plate seen on the recorded video footage during daylight hours.

From now on, if you have a crime occur and file a report, then please be sure and include in your report that you request the POD video footage be reviewed for the hours when it likely might have captured useful information.

For example, say your home was burglarized between the hours of 2-4PM on a Saturday. Ask in your police report that the POD video be reviewed for those hours and the time just prior and after that time window; say 1 – 5PM. This will be especially useful if you or your observant neighbors can provide a suspect vehicle description (type, color, distinguishing features, occupants, etc.)

*-Rick Beymer, Neighborhood Watch*



### OUR NEIGHBORHOOD STAR!!!

Adam Wadhvani, a young member of the South Pocket community, will be a top 40 contestant on the FOX cooking show, MasterChef Junior, in February!

For those of you who have not met Adam yet, he has lived in the community since 2009, with his mother and

father, Emel and Dan, his older brother, Noah, and his dog Nickel. Adam is a graduate of Didion Elementary School and currently an 8th grader at Sutter Middle School.

Although Adam cooked with his Mom a bit growing up, he got serious about cooking at age 10 when his family left Sacramento for six months to live in Denmark. During this time, removed from his friends and regular activities, Adam had lots of time on his hands, access to YouTube cooking videos, and a grocery store within walking distance, so he started experimenting with ingredients and cooking styles.

After returning to Sacramento, Adam saved up his money from dog-sitting and from birthday and holiday gifts to buy himself a good knife set, a cast-iron pan, a Kitchen Aid mixer, and other cooking equipment and started honing his skills. Along the way, he became interested in "molecular gastronomy" as well and added a fantastical, scientific set of foods to his repertoire of American, French, Middle Eastern, and Indian cooking.

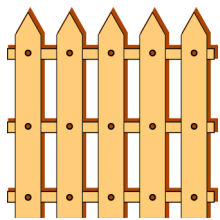
Adam also enjoys photography and videography. You can find examples of his photographed dishes at his Facebook and Instagram pages under "Junior Chef Adam."

Let's cheer on Adam in February! The top 40 contestants will compete for 20 spots over two episodes. The show airs beginning Thursday, February 9, at 8pm on FOX, but Adam's cooking challenge for the top 20 is expected to air in the second episode on **Thursday, February 16, at 8pm.**

### CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS!



Submit your photos for the front cover for our 2017 Member Roster to Jann Taber at [jann@janntaber.realtor](mailto:jann@janntaber.realtor)



## WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

**Lyndsie Harris & Scott Cornez**, purchased their new home at **1179 Grand River Drive** in September. Both Lyndsie and Scott grew up in the Pocket. Having been away for a few years for college and professional pursuits, they have now returned. You may meet them in the park walking their “Mowgly” or “Oski,” their family dogs. Other activities they enjoy in their off hours are playing soccer and hiking. At work, Scott is a biotech engineer and Lyndsie is in sales for Anheuser Busch. **WELCOME Lyndsie & Scott.**

**Felisa & Eduardo Rubalcava**, new owners of **7715 Los Ranchos Way**, purchased their new home in September. They have not yet moved in but have been actively engaged in updating and remodeling. Their current home is in the city of La Mirada in the Los Angeles area, but more recently have been residing just down the street with Michelle, their daughter and her family while they update their River Oaks Ranch home. As with so many, their motivation to move is to be nearer their daughter’s family and grandchildren. Eduardo is retired after a career as a chemical engineer. His job took them to several countries to live and work. Now, as time permits, they both love volleyball and playing cards. Eduardo enjoys bicycling; Felisa is a walker. **WELCOME Felisa & Eduardo.**

**Bree & Jeff Kaspari**, new owners of **7700 South Oak Way**, closed escrow 1/13 and are literally just moving in and starting to get settled. While they have lived in the Elk Grove & Clarksburg area for some time, they are quite familiar with the neighborhood due, in part, to their eldest son having attended Bergamo School and all frequented Marriott Park and the river levee trail. They look forward to building even more memories here with their younger twin sons. Bree is a nurse advice nurse and Jeff has worked with the Sacramento Blood Bank (Blood Source). With three sons at home, activities revolve largely around them, but when time permits Bree would like to get back into running marathons; Jeff enjoys fishing and vintage cars. **WELCOME Bree, Jeff, Jack, Evan and Jay.**

## FULL HOUSE FOR THIS YEAR’S HOLIDAY PARTY



Improving the party experience and finding a new venue to hold the 2016 SPHA holiday party was a top priority of the Annual Holiday Party Committee, and by all accounts, the efforts were a success. Fearing that the move of the event out of the more immediate neighborhood would discourage attendance,

extra care was taken to make sure the party was well promoted. The net result was the highest demand for reservations ever, a nicer venue, good food and great service provided by the Morton Golf catering team. Despite the rain but due to close and ample parking, 100 members attended, enjoyed the full menu of butler-pass appetizers and a full buffet including several desserts.

The focus was placed on meeting, greeting and visiting with neighbors with background music, recognition of newest homeowner in attendance and neighbor whose birthplace was

the farthest away from Sacramento. Door prizes were beautifully displayed at the entrance for all to see and placed tickets in bags for whichever prizes each guest would like to have if they were so lucky. Prizes were awarded by a ticket drawing. Neighbor Alan Duran once again emceed the event.

Thank you to the following neighbors and local businesses who generously provided door prizes. Neighbors are encouraged to patronize the local businesses.

## THANK YOU to These Very Generous Neighbors for Donating Door Prizes (Listed in No Particular Order)

- Leonor Alvarez (El Morro) - Italian Feast Basket
- Mike Hall (Cedarbrook) – Four Color 2017 Photo Calendar of Amsterdam
- Rich Fowler (River Ranch) – Bicycle Tune Up
- Christie Garcia (Roman Oak) – Graphic Design Services for Invitation or Card
- Jeanette & Gus Casillas (El Rito) – “Gardener’s Delight” of Gardening Bend & Tools ; Wine Basket
- Gary & Karen Fortney (Smoke River) – Blue Margarita Gift Set; Strawberry Cream Gift Set; Todd Taylor Zinfandel; Bangle and Earrings
- Joy & Bill Prevost (Grand River) – See’s Candy Gift Cards, 3 different gifts; Champagne & Jordana’s Mother of Pearl Caviar Set
- Fausto Avendano (Fox Oak) – Two books authored by Fausto: “Santa Maria” and “Paola and Raymond”
- Sue Faist (Roman Oak) – Two Gifts of Homemade Goodies; Handmade Santa Stocking
- Donna Nieto (Cedarbrook) – Christmas Centerpiece

## Local Business Door Prize Donors

- Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course – Round of Golf for 4
- Starbuck’s, Pocket Road – Hot Cocoa Cup, Two Separate Gifts
- Mixed Bag Designs – Duffle Bag, Kit, Case

## THANK YOU to the Christmas Party Committee

Our energetic party committee included neighbors Karina Flinn, Della Cabrera, Leonor Alvarez, Kathi Chrisopoulos, Rita Blomster, Joy & Bill Prevost. Special thanks to Emcee Alan Duran and Sabrina Pape for handling the RSVP’s and managing the guest list database. Sue Faist and Sabra Sanchez co-chaired the event. Great job Committee!

To see photos: <http://www.southpockethomeowners.org>

## 2017 EVENTS

**Family Disaster Preparedness Class**—Tuesday March 7 | Robbie Waters Library | 7pm

**Easter Egg Hunt** – Saturday April 15th | Marriott Park | 11am

**Annual Yard Sale** – Saturday May 20 | 7am -Noon

**General Membership Meeting** – May 24th | Marriott Park | 7pm (Elections)

**Jazz in the Park** – July 29 | Marriott Park | Time TBD

**National Night Out** – August 1 | Marriott Park | 6pm

**General Membership Meeting** – August 23 | Marriott Park | 6pm

**Holiday Party** – December | Date and details to follow

## POCKET ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD SIGN

Many residents noticed that the Welcome to the Pocket-Greenhaven Neighborhood sign in the Pocket Road median between I-5 and Greenhaven Drive was demolished in a traffic accident the weekend of May 15, 2016. The sign was part of a series of "gateway" welcoming signs which included the pedestrian overpass at Riverside Blvd and Seymour Park (near Havenside Drive) and the welcome to the City of Sacramento message on the silver water tower in our neighborhood. Sponsored by former City Councilmember Robbie Waters, the signs, especially the Pocket Road and Riverside Boulevard signs, served the purpose to remind drivers exiting the I-5 freeway at high speeds that they are entering a neighborhood with children, pedestrians and pets and need to drive appropriately for a neighborhood.

SPHA has maintained monthly contact with City Councilmember Rick Jennings' office, to get a status update for a replacement sign. Initially, the council office said the Department of Public Works looked for the plans for the original sign but could not locate them, so it sounds as if they are moving forward with a new design. In recent months, the council office said that they are working out the funding for the replacement sign. SPHA will continue to follow this issue and provide updates.

## A REMINDER AND A PLEA!

Sacramento City Code Section 9.44.220 covers the requirements that all dogs must be on a leash, not be allowed on private property, and owners must pick up after their pets. Fines start at \$100! Please be courteous to your neighbors and leash and pick up after your dog.

## HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

Our neighbors once more did a great job to decorate their homes for the holidays. Here are the stand-out winners of the 2016 SPHA Holiday Lighting Contest. Congratulations to the winners!

- 7660 Del Oak Way (Best use of lights)
- 7643 Roman Oak Way (Best overall - should be the highest wattage winner!!)
- 7558 River Ranch Way (Most creative)

1181 Grand River Drive	7647 Roman Oak Way	7639 Roman Oak Way
1200 Cedarbrook Way	1208 Cedarbrook Way	1209 Cedarbrook Way
1316 Manzano Way	7722 Los Rancho Way	7679 El Douro Drive

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## HOW TO APPROACH DOWNSIZING YOUR HOME A REAL LIFE TALE

At some age or stage in life, most homeowners begin to think about downsizing, or as some call it rightsizing, their home to give themselves more time to enjoy life rather than spend that time maintaining a home of which they may only utilize half of the space for daily living. For the DIY household, you will find the process described below interesting and hopefully insightful. **Thank you Jan & Doug Meyer for sharing your experience.** Here are their thoughts:

- 1) Downsizing requires a new mindset.
- 2) Develop an image of where you want to live...new/ resale home, near children, active adult community. Get the image clearly in mind so that you can think of that when the process wears on you.
- 3) Evaluate the true cost of a new home and the net value of your home. Make sure the money makes sense.
- 4) Be prepared for the possibility of 2 moves. You may need to sell your home first and move in order to make the new purchase possible. Contingent offers are challenging.
- 5) As soon as you decide to downsize, start thinning your possessions. If you haven't touched it in 10 years, you probably don't need it.
- 6) Since you will probably need to declutter to stage your home for sale, start immediately. Don't store things that probably won't go to the new house. Losing your stuff in stages is a lot easier. Donate, sell at a furniture consignment store, give it away or discard.
- 7) When moving time comes, continue to divest yourself of possessions. See #6 above.
- 8) When you get to the new home, continue the thinning process. Probably not everything will fit into the image you had for the new home or there won't be room. Thinning possession in 3 stages helps eliminate the pressure of having to make all the decisions at one time.
- 9) Remember, the whole purpose is to make a change in your life.

**About Jan and Doug:** They were the original owners of a beautiful 3000 sq. ft. (4/3 w/pool) Dutra Bend home where they reared two sons. Over the years, they made many enhancements and improvements. Now they live in a lovely 2 bed/2bath home in Lincoln Hills and still paring down possessions. They started their downsizing in late August, listed their home in September, sold it and moved in October.



**Sabra Sanchez**  
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