



South Pocket Homeowners' Association
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS
Fall 2026



**Survey says:
Watchers
tells us what
they think.
Page 2**

Around the Pocket

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www.southpockethomeowners.org

Valley Oaks reach 3-year milestone at Marriott Park

**SPHA Tree Project enters a
new phase as young oaks
require less summer watering**

By Pat Clark

Director at Large

Our SPHA Tree Project in Marriott Park has officially passed the 3-year mark! This means the young Valley Oak trees are out of the tender first three years and becoming fairly established. Most importantly, they are starting to adapt to the dry summers common to Valley Oaks.

It was the January 2023 "New Year's" storm with 70-mph hurricane force winds that damaged or destroyed many trees in the park and prompted SPHA to prepare a plan for



Photo by Gary Funk

February 2023

replacements, in coordination with the City of Sacramento Parks Department and City Arborists.

Now that we have passed the critical three-year mark with supplemental water from our fantastic and energetic SPHA volunteers during the summers, next year will see the trees more independent with significantly

Continued on Page 4

National Night Out brings the neighborhood together

National Night Out 2026 brought neighbors together on a warm summer evening for good food and plenty of fun. Pizza, watermelon and sno-cones kept everyone cool and visiting well past dusk.

Special guests included Sacramento Fire Engine 13 and representatives from the Sacramento Police Department, District Attorney's Office and Councilmember Rick Jennings' office, giving neighbors a chance to meet local public safety and community

representatives.

Neighborhood Watch Captain Marta Brankline gathered more responses to her neighborhood survey and met residents interested in joining Neighborhood Watch.

A big thank-you to Paulo Ferreira, Ray Burch and our teen volunteers, Gabriel and Emilia Pacheco, Roxy Avery, Liam Hiroshima Chen, and Kira and Reina Morikawa, for helping make the evening a success!

—Sue Ruiz, SPHA President





Graphic by ChatGPT

* a members only event

Survey says ... Neighborhood Watch sets its sights on resident concerns

As the new Neighborhood Watch group leader, Marta Brankline wants to hear from area residents about their top concerns.



Marta Brankline

She recently surveyed neighbors to help identify priorities and guide the group's efforts. The results are shown in the graphic on the next page.

Neighborhood Watch is open to all South Pocket residents. SPHA membership is not required.

Shout out to John Kane for taking the time to provide thorough observations and helpful suggestions, especially the Emergency Preparedness Document, which is available on the SPHA website: It is a 23-page document which you can download to your computer or phone with important information and checklists.

There were many more comments and concerns beyond the above, which will be discussed at the next Neighborhood Watch meeting to be held on November 5, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

Continued on Page 3

Marriott Park's Stage deserves an encore

By Sue Ruiz
SPHA President

For many of us in the neighborhood, Marriott Park it is more than a place to walk, play, or gather. It is part of our neighborhood's story. At the heart of the park is a raised platform that we suspect was meant to be a stage for community events and celebrations over the years. It has engraved tiles that many neighbors likely sponsored, but unfortunately, time has taken its toll. Many of the original tiles on the stage are broken, cracked, or badly worn, leaving this neighborhood landmark in need of some care **Help us bring the stage back to life!**

SPHA is excited to begin planning a project to restore and renew the "Memorial Stage." Our goal is to replace the damaged tiles with newly engraved tiles, giving the stage a fresh appearance while preserving its role as a meaningful part of Marriott Park.

As part of the project, current neighbors will have the opportunity to sponsor a tile and have it personally engraved. A tile could commemorate a family, honor someone special, celebrate a milestone, recognize a long-time connection to our neighborhood, or simply say something meaningful.

Imagine walking through Marriott Park years from now and seeing the names and messages of the people who helped make our neighborhood



Photo by Gary Funk

Time has taken a toll.

what it is today.

This project will allow us to repair something worn and neglected while creating a new collection of memories for future generations of our residents.

More information about tile sponsorships, engraving options, costs, and how to participate will be coming soon.

We hope you're excited to become part of this special neighborhood project. Together, we can give the Marriott Park Memorial Stage a new chapter and leave a little piece of history behind.

Swim membership wanted

The Rocci family on Smoke River Way is looking to purchase a Park Terrace Swim and Tennis Club membership. If you're ready to sell yours, contact Jane at (503) 309-2053 or email her at jane.cat07@gmail.com.



Neighbors gathered at Marriott Park in July for an evening of cool jazz. From left: Larry Clark, drums; Sean Britt, guitar; Alex Reyes, saxophone; Andrew Mell, bass.

Photo by Gary Funk

Emergency preparedness	58.33%
Senior safety	43.75%
Environmental design	41.67%

Top three topics our neighbors want to know more about.

Survey points to neighbor priorities

Continued from Page 2

Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

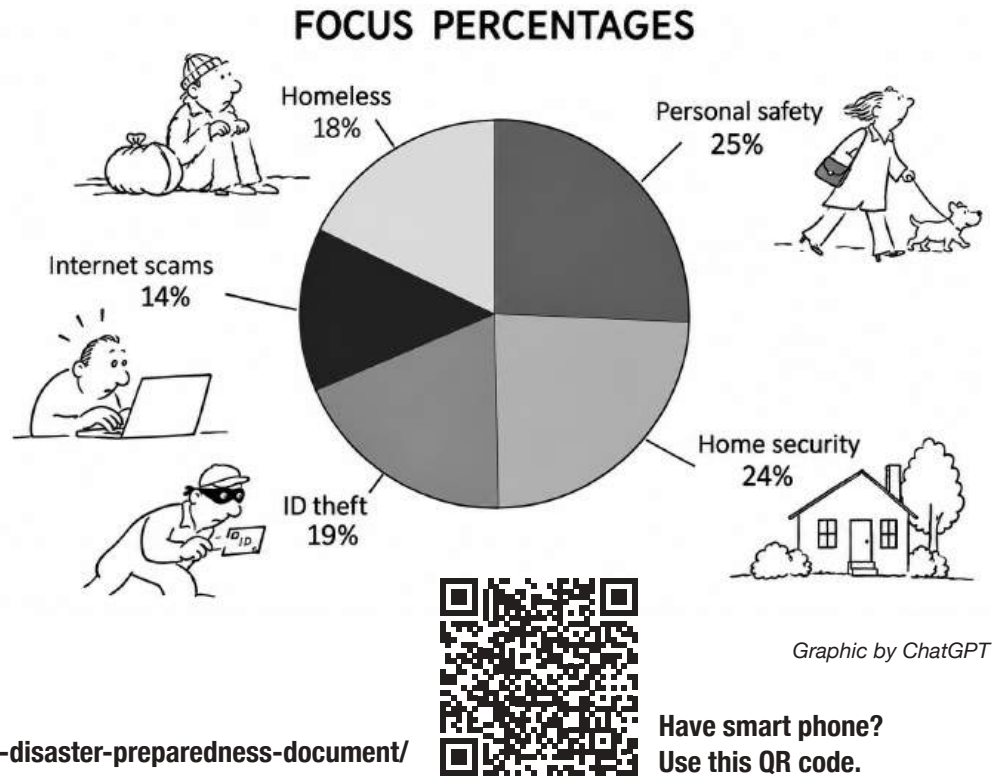
We will discuss all the results and comments submitted with the Survey and plan next steps.

Location: 7659 El Rito Way (unless we are more than 20, then we will meet in the park, I will confirm)

RSVP to txt: 916 270 7416 or email to costumes4dance@gmail.com.

Emergency preparedness info:

<https://southpockethomeowners.org/family-disaster-preparedness-document/>



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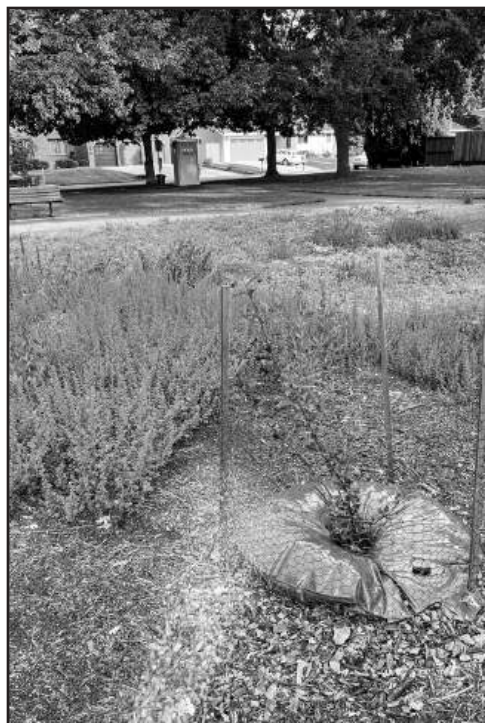
Volunteers help young oaks thrive

Continued from Page 1

less regular supplemental water. We will need to water at heat waves (100 degrees or over for three days), per arborist guidance. The trees along Roman Oak/Grand River will lose their water bags in favor of spot watering.

The trees at River Ranch/El Douro will still get some regular watering for the youngest, and spot watering at heat waves for the older ones. The oldest and tallest trees on that corner have lost their orange fencing following a late August inspection by the city arborist. That's another milestone.

We are accomplishing a unique project in the city and we have helped to mitigate the damage from that destructive 2023 storm. Truly, this project would not have been possible without our neighbors volunteering



Then: September 2023

their time to water. We will still need a little help next summer.

If your neighbor worked on the tree project, please take a moment



Photos by Gary Funk

Now: September 2026

to thank them now. We are so fortunate to live in a neighborhood that cares about the trees and volunteers to help!

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- Lisa Martin, seller

CaBRE #01820635

COMING SOON



1135 Darnel (Lower Land Park)

SOLD



7306 Rush River (Greenhaven)

COMING SOON



South Pocket

Make Room for What Matters Most in Your Home...

Taking inventory of what you own helps one prepare for a move, send children off to college, merge households, enter retirement or help a friend or relative downsize, can make the transition easier. So, the process begins with knowing what to **keep, donate, trash or digitize**.

Ask Yourself:

- Do I use this regularly?
- Does this serve a purpose in my upcoming plans?
- Would I buy this again today?
- Could someone else benefit from this more than I do?

Separate Items into 4 categories:

- 1. Keep and Prioritize** - Quality over quantity
 - a. Everyday essentials
 - b. Prized family heirlooms, mementos
 - c. Important legal, financial, and personal records
 - d. Furniture that fits your future space
 - e. Objects that support hobbies, work or activities
- 2. Donate** – If something has been stored away for years without being touched, it's probably time to let it go.
- 3. Digitize** -Electronic copies provide easy access while safeguarding treasured memories from damage, loss or deterioration over time.
 - a. Family photos and albums
 - b. Home videos and DVDs
 - c. Children's artwork and school projects
 - d. Paper documents and records
 - e. Greeting cards, letters and memorabilia
 - f. Receipt collections and handwritten notes
- 4. Trash** – You know what to do here. For large items or quantities, contact the City of Sacramento www.cityofsacramento.gov/public-works/recycling-solid-waste/collection_calendar. Learn and schedule a curbside pickup.



REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOT

South Land Park/Greenhaven
August '26 Vs. August '25

New Listings – Up 19.61%
(no change in the times compared:
August 26 Vs. Aug. 25)

SOLD – Up 6.82%

Ave. Days on Market – Down 16.36%

Preparing to Sell Your Home?

Begin by doing even more merging and purging as outlined above. You'll have less to move, all the while making your house more presentable to prospective buyers.

1. Declutter (see above)–Put even more of your personal items that you are keeping out of sight so that prospective buyers will spend more time looking at your home rather than your belongings.
2. Pack away roughly half of your belongings before showings begin.
3. Remove excess furniture to make the rooms look and feel larger.



Your South Pocket Neighbor
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