

December 1, 2010



Cohn's Corner

District 3 Monthly E-News

"Working with you to make Sacramento the most livable City in America"

In This Issue

- City and County of Sacramento Reach Waste Management Agreement
- Local Election Fallout
- Sacramento Police Department Awarded Traffic Safety Grant
- Bill Introduced in Congress to Freeze Size and Weight of Trucks on Highways
- Saturday Midtown Bazaar – New Extended Hours
- Downtown Plaza Ice Rink
- Twelve Days of Midtown
- FREE Holiday Parking Downtown, Old Sac and Midtown
- McKinley Park – Next Work Day January 8th
- Glenn Hall Park Volunteers Needed
- City Yard Waste Services – Fall Means Loose in the Street Pickup
- City Management Academy Application Deadline – December 3rd
- River City Food Bank
- Sacred Heart Annual Holiday Home Tour
- Friends of the River Banks (FORB)

Dear Neighbor,

Welcome to our District 3 E-newsletter with district updates, special events and my perspective on current events. I welcome your feedback and input and would be happy to share your organization's upcoming events or neighborhood association announcements. Please feel free to contact me at scohn@cityofsacramento.org or (916) 808-7003.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohn

Visit my Council website at www.cityofsacramento.org

City and County of Sacramento Reach Waste Management Agreement

This past month, the City Council and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved a landmark three-party agreement between the City, County and BLT Enterprises to stop hauling City garbage through the Sierras to a landfill in Nevada.

Instead, the City will haul most of the waste from neighborhoods north of the American River to the County's North Area Recovery Station on Roseville Road and haul most of the waste from neighborhoods south of the American River to BLT's transfer station. From both these stations, the waste that cannot be recycled will be hauled to the County's Kiefer Landfill off Kiefer Road. The County will start hauling a large amount of its residential waste to BLT's transfer station as well.

The landmark agreements end a long running dispute between the City and County that started over 20 years ago when the City closed its own landfill at what is now Sutter's Landing Park. At that time, the County charged the City very high "tipping" fees for disposing of City waste at Kiefer. In addition, each and every City garbage truck had to make several lengthy, costly, and inefficient runs from City neighborhoods to the Kiefer Landfill each day. In 1996, the City entered into a long-term agreement with BLT to take residential garbage and recycling waste to BLT's new facility located within the City limits on Fruitridge Road. Even though BLT shipped the garbage all the way to Nevada, the tipping fees were still

- SACOG to Host FREE Rural-Urban Connections Strategy Forum – December 10th

NEIGHBORHOOD & BUSINESS ASSOCIATION UPDATES

substantially less than the County's Kiefer landfill. In addition, BLT would recycle much of the garbage before hauling the remaining waste to the landfill.

For the last few years, the City, County and BLT all recognized that there had to be a better way to manage our resources. After lengthy negotiations, the three-way agreement benefits all three parties financially and operationally, but just as important, benefits our environment by reducing up to 1.7 million long-haul truck miles driven to Lockwood, Nevada, where City garbage has been hauled since 1998. The partnership will reduce the number of heavy trucks on the road locally, improve efficiencies in the transfer process, and reduce wear and tear on residential collection trucks. The carbon footprint for hauling the City's waste will be reduced by 85% (not counting the reduction in the County's footprint by reducing its garbage truck hauls). By using existing in-region transfer and disposal facilities, up to \$6 million will remain in the local economy.

The next step in improving both the environmental and economic bottom line for waste management in our City will be for the City to reevaluate how commercial waste (including residential apartments) is managed. The City Council will be reviewing options in 2011 that will both increase recycling, reduce the amount of waste, and potentially reduce customer costs, while improving service to customers. One important issue that I am particularly concerned about is that under the current system, as many as five or more different companies empty large bins out of many of the Central City's alleys. This is wasteful, inefficient and a nuisance to residents and businesses adjacent to the alleys. It is also one of the biggest impediments to making better use of these alleys, particularly in commercial districts, where alleys make up roughly a quarter of the total land mass, yet are used almost exclusively for dumping garbage.

Local Election Fallout

I'll leave to the professional political pundits to dissect the November 2010 Midterm Election results for California and the nation. But, I want to thank City voters for defeating Measure B, the Taxpayers League initiative that would have rolled back City utility rates 9 percent, and required all future increases above the rate of inflation to go to a vote of the people. As Co-Chair of the NO on Measure B Committee, I was certainly hopeful that City voters would see through this risky measure and defeat it. But, I was taken aback by the resounding 68.7 percent margin of defeat. Obviously, the Tea Party did not get in Sacramento's water. At the same time, neither I, the City Council nor City management are interpreting this decisive vote to mean that City residents aren't concerned about their utility rates or services. The Mayor, Councilmember Kevin McCarty and I have all requested the City staff to report back to Council early next year with a plan to perform an outside evaluation of the City's utility operations and recommend ways to increase efficiency and cut costs, while at the same time reinvesting in the city's aging infrastructure. We also have in place a citizens' Rate Advisory Commission (RAC), which oversees the staff proposed utility rates and makes independent recommendations to Council.

Measure C, the City's proposed tax on medical marijuana dispensary sales, passed with an even greater margin, garnering 71.2 percent of the vote. This Measure allows the City to tax marijuana sales at a rate of up to 4 percent. I expect the City Council to adopt a rate much lower than that to start, perhaps in the 2 percent range. This tax, which City staff conservatively estimates will bring in about a half-million dollars in new General Fund revenues, is in addition to the fees paid by dispensaries to obtain an operating permit from the City. In a related matter, on November 9th, the Council adopted new regulations restricting the location and operations of these medical marijuana dispensaries so that they do not adversely affect surrounding businesses or residents.

Meanwhile, Arden Arcade residents overwhelmingly defeated Measure D, the cityhood initiative, by more than 3-to-1. The incorporation advocates tried to use the City of Sacramento as a bogeyman, claiming that if Measure D were defeated, the City would annex Arden Arcade without even giving the residents a chance to vote on it. Clearly this is not the intent of the City, and Mayor Johnson's remarks at a press conference after the election should not be misconstrued to mean the City is now targeting Arden Arcade for annexation. I believe that the broader policy shared by the Mayor, City Council and management is that the City will work with the County to try to consolidate services, such as animal control, traffic control, drainage, building inspections, code enforcement, etc., wherever and whenever such consolidation can provide greater efficiencies, improved service, and/or reduced costs. However, the City will not seek to annex any unincorporated areas of the County without the support of the people who live there.

Finally, I want to congratulate my newly elected Council colleagues Angelique Ashby in District 1 (Natomas/Downtown/Alkali), Jay Schenirer in District 5 (Oak Park/Curtis Park/Hollywood Park) and Darrell Fong in District 7 (Pocket/Greenhaven/Valley Hi), who joined me in starting four-year terms at the end of November. I look forward to working in a collegial manner with these three new Councilmembers, the Mayor and our four other existing Council colleagues to resolve our budget problems, create new jobs and revenues, and get the City back on track to being the most livable City in America.

Sacramento Police Department Awarded Traffic Safety Grant

The Sacramento Police Department was awarded a \$621,000 traffic safety grant by the California Office of

Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on city roadways through added enforcement and education. The DUI Team will use a variety of strategies to target impaired drivers and educate the public about the dangers associated with drinking and driving including: DUI checkpoints, warrant sweeps, surveillance of repeat DUI offenders, DUI saturation patrols, and court sting operations.

Drunk driving remains one of America's deadliest crimes. In 2009, over 10,839 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher. Last year in California, 950 people died in alcohol impaired crashes; a 7.6 percent reduction in deaths from 2008. DUI arrests are also costly to the perpetrators and their families. Keep in mind that in addition to the very expensive court penalties, if you have an accident, you also have to pay for the costs of the Police and Fire emergency response, in addition to ambulance costs.

The DUI Enforcement Team will also be conducting special Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operations. Officers will be enforcing traffic violations made by motorcyclists, and other vehicle drivers, that result in motorcycle collisions, injuries and deaths. Motorcycle fatalities have finally turned and dropped in California, following an 11 year, 175 percent rise in deaths. In 2009, 393 motorcyclist were killed, a 29 percent drop from 2008 statistics. Sadly, California remains one of 3 states that still lead the nation in motorcyclist's deaths.

Bill Introduced in Congress to Freeze Size and Weight of Trucks on Highways

Two separate bills have been introduced to Congress regarding weight limits for trucks on highways. One bill, the Safe Highways and Infrastructure Preservation Act, HR 1618, would freeze the size and weight of trucks on our highways, while the other, the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act, HR 1799, is a counter-measure that would allow bigger and heavier trucks on highways across the nation.

As any motorist knows, with the huge amounts of freight traffic coming out of the Ports of Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Oakland – as well as the international freight traffic coming from Mexico – our highways in California are badly congested and in poor condition. Currently in California, the weight limit is 80,000 pounds (the current federal limit). The last thing we need is heavier and bigger trucks that tear up the pavement and clog up the freeways. But, just this year Florida and Ohio changed their state laws to allow trucks heavier than 80,000 pounds on state and local roads. Also, 16 states now allow triple-trailer trucks that stretch 110 feet. Although California does not allow trucks of that size, there is pressure from the industry to force California to accept these trucks. Here is what you need to know:

- HR 1799 is being pushed by large, powerful corporations that want bigger trucks.
- Law enforcement, local governments, small businesses, environmental groups and labor organizations representing truck drivers oppose these increases.
- Longer, heavier trucks consume more fuel.
- They emit more pollution.
- They create more traffic congestion due to their size and weight and the amount of time it takes for them to move after stopping.

The Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT), a national non-profit, grassroots organization is leading the public campaign against truck size and weight increases. If you would like to get involved, contact them by e-mail at whanson@cabt.org or by phone at 303-377-1603.

Saturday Midtown Bazaar – New Extended Hours

The Midtown Bazaar is now staying open every Saturday until 4:00 p.m. Located at I Street between 16th & 17th Streets, this year-round Saturday bazaar is sure to have something for everyone. Local artists are featured as well wonderful foods and other goods. You can even get your flu shot! An indoor roller rink will also be opened for the winter in the back half of the parking lot. For more information, hours and cost of the rink as well as information on the bazaar, see www.midtownbazaar.com or email info@midtownbazaar.com

Downtown Plaza Ice Rink

The Downtown Plaza Ice Rink at 7th and K is now open daily through January 17, 2011. Ice Rink Admission is \$8 for a 2-hour skating session and \$2 for skate rentals. The ice rink accepts cash only. For more information and hours of operation, visit <http://www.downtownsac.org/DSPAPP/V/promo/holiday-ice-rink.html>

Twelve Days of Midtown

Find your holiday cheer in Midtown! Local merchants and businesses are delivering 12 days of festive fun from December 1st through 12th. Whether it's the Midtown Elf Hunt, SN&R's Karaoke Carol Off, or the Philharmonic's Winter Wine & Jazz, there is something for everyone to ring in the season with joy. For more information, visit <http://www.exploremidtown.org/>

FREE Holiday Parking Downtown, Old Sac and Midtown

To encourage more people to shop in Downtown, Old Sac and Midtown during this Holiday season, the City is once again offering its annual FREE parking program. Street parking is free every week night after 4:30 p.m. and all day on Saturdays and Sundays through Friday, December 24th. Parking is also FREE on Christmas Day. The FREE parking zone extends from Front Street to 29th Street and from I Street to L Streets. Please note that all other parking violations will be enforced such as time limit restrictions, street sweeping and color zones. The City also offers FREE parking for the first 90 minutes at the East End Garage (17TH St between L St and Capitol Ave) and \$1 per hour thereafter, up to a maximum of \$5. The free parking is available during the times the City manages the facility, weeknights from 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. and all day on weekends.

McKinley Park – Next Work Day January 8th

East Sac residents Steve Swindel, Rich Clowdus and Patty Wait have organized a volunteer group for the Friends of McKinley Park to assist with landscape maintenance of McKinley Park. Their November event proved to be another productive effort with several repeat volunteers as well as new volunteers. Join them for the next volunteer workday on Saturday, January 8th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The focus is expected to be on the rose garden. Volunteers are asked to bring a pair of garden gloves. Garden supplies and equipment are provided as well as light snacks, water and coffee. RSVP's are desired although drop-in volunteers are also welcome. For questions, or to RSVP, contact friendsofeastsac@aol.com or call 452-8011.

Glenn Hall Park Volunteers Needed

River Park resident Jeff Harris organized Glenn Hall's first volunteer day in October. Jeff hopes to organize work days four to five times a year as needed for the next few years. If you are interested in getting involved contact Jeff at cadence@surewest.net

City Yard Waste Services – Fall Means Loose in the Street Pickup

The City's Solid Waste Division would like to remind its containerized waste customers that you can now put your lawn clippings and leaves in the street through December 23, 2010. Pickup will occur every other week. Please note that your loose in the street day is not the same as your containerized pickup day. If you are unsure of your collection day you can visit <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/utilities/solid-waste-recycling> or call 3-1-1.

During heavy leaf season piles grow and Solid Waste usually fall behind on collections. Customers can verify when the City will be collecting loose-in-the-street piles by viewing the Leaf Collection Map at <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/utilities>.

City Management Academy Application Deadline – December 3rd

The Neighborhood Services Division will once again coordinate the City Management Academy with a new format for 2011. The academy will bring back alumni members assisting in all aspects of the academy from the applicant selection to facilitation of classes.

The City Management Academy fosters open lines of communication and effective working relationships between Sacramento city staff, residents, and business owners promote an engaged public, proactive resolution of concerns, and a healthy community.

The City Management Academy seeks applicants who are:

- city residents or business owners
- people who work in Sacramento or who conduct work benefitting the Sacramento community are also eligible to apply but higher consideration will be given to city residents and business owners

- at least 16 years of age
- interested in maintaining or improving the City of Sacramento community

To apply to the City Management Academy, download and complete an application at <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/city-management-academy/how-to-apply.cfm#Download> or call 808-6172 for assistance. The 2011 CMA class will begin on Wednesday, January 26, 2011, and conclude Tuesday, April 12, 2011, with a graduation ceremony at the City Council Meeting. Classes will be held each Wednesday at New City Hall from 6:00-9:00pm. Applications must be received by Friday, December 3rd at 5:00pm (no postmarks accepted). Completed applications can be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to:

Neighborhood Services Department
 Attn: City Management Academy
 915 I Street, 3rd Floor
 Sacramento CA 95814
 FAX (916) 808-5959.

River City Food Bank

Thanks to the generosity of Sutter Medical Center, the Episcopalian Diocese, Wells Fargo, and many others, and the hard work and dedication of the River City Food Bank staff and executive board, the River City Food Bank is rebuilding and continuing service after the terrible fire that destroyed their home on 27th and N Streets in October. They have continued to serve down and out residents healthy and nutritious 3-day emergency food supplies every weekday at the Trinity Great Hall on Capitol, but they are opening a new home in Sutter's Community Garage on the northeast corner of 27th and N, right across the street from their former home. RCFB's goal is to help people maintain or regain self-sufficiency when they are going through a rough time. In addition to the food donations, RCFB operates a bilingual Food Stamp Outreach Program. For more information on how you can help this worthy charity, particularly during this winter season of need, please visit www.rivercityfoodbank.org or contact Eileen Thomas, executive director, at ethomas@rivercityfoodbank.org.

Sacred Heart Annual Holiday Home Tour

It's time to get into the Holiday spirit and what better way to do it than by attending the 37th Annual Sacred Heart Parish School Holiday Home Tour, a fundraiser organized by school parents. This year's tour will take place from Friday, December 3rd through Sunday, December 5th.

This year, in addition to five homes festively decorated homes, the library at Sacred Heart's brand new "state-of-the-art" school will also be decorated and showcased. Homes on the tour this year range in style from a quintessential craftsman bungalow to an illustrious colonial revival and showcase renovation while preserving historic detail.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the event. Advance tickets can be purchased on-line or at a neighborhood retailer. For more information on the event or how to purchase tickets, visit <http://shpsholidayhometour.com/> or email shhometour@gmail.com

Friends of the River Banks (FORB)

December 11--Informal gathering. No formal program is planned, but if the weather is nice come down to the river at the usual time (Sat at 9 am) to observe the winter wildlife with Robert and others.

January 1--4th Annual New Year's Day Flash Mob gathering at 9 a.m. Start the new year with a spontaneous morning visit to the river where we never know what we'll see. Hot drinks and oatmeal will help keep us warm as we look for other local wildlife out on a crisp winter morning.

All of our events are held at Sutter's Landing Park (at the very VERY end of 28th Street by the skateboard park). Dress for the weather -- layers are best -- and bring a change of clothing for children, who will certainly find the sand and water and mud irresistible. It's also good to bring binoculars, water, and snacks whenever you go out in nature. Please leave dogs at home, out of consideration for the FORB program and the local wildlife. All ages are welcome. We encourage you to consider carpooling, walking, or bicycling to this event if possible. For more information please contact Laurie at llitman@pacbell.net.

FORB is pleased to be partnering with Friends of Grant Park to encourage people, especially families and children, to enjoy and appreciate wildlife and to spend time with nature. These events are funded by First 5 Sacramento, which uses Prop 10 tobacco tax funds to support the healthy development of children ages 0 to 5. Additional information about the First 5 Sacramento Commission is online at www.First5Sacramento.net or by calling 916-876-5865.

SACOG to Host FREE Rural-Urban Connections Strategy Forum – December 10th

SACOG will host the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy Regional Forum on Friday, December 10th, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m., at the Sacramento Convention Center. The six-county Sacramento region is home to a wide variety of landscapes: from urban downtowns and suburban communities to river fronts and Delta towns, rural farms and ranches, and forests and historic mining towns. The Forum will:

- Highlight the role of agriculture in the region
- Explore agricultural conditions and challenges
- Identify market opportunities for expanding regional agricultural activity, such as demand for locally grown or organic food
- Share innovations from the project that will help shape our region's future economic and environmental health

In 2007, SACOG launched the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) to take a closer look at how we protect and maximize our rural assets as our population grows. In the Sacramento region, rural communities, agricultural lands, open spaces and forested areas contribute enormously to our overall economy, environmental health, and quality of life. Through the RUCS project, SACOG is working with producers and consumers to inform planning that is integral to our region's economic and environmental sustainability.

This event is FREE. To register or obtain more information, visit www.sacog.org/rucs or call (916) 321-9000.

NEIGHBORHOOD & BUSINESS ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Alkali & Mansion Flats Historic Neighborhood Association. Meetings are generally held on the Second Thursday of each month, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club, 1117 G Street. In lieu of a December meeting, the annual Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, December 9th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Globe Mills, 11th & G Streets. For more details contact Sean Wright at 806-8198.

Ben Ali Neighborhood Association - Board Meetings are held the First Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Higher Learning Academy campus (formerly Ben Ali Children's Center). For more information, contact Sondra Betancourt at 837-3339.

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association (BPNA) - For BPNA updates, see www.boulevardparkna.org. For more information, contact Catherine Turrill at 498-0437.

East Sacramento Chamber of Commerce: No lunch meeting in December. Meetings are typically held on the second Wednesday of each month at various locations, 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Cost \$15. For more information on the Chamber, call Lisa Schmidt at 457-2721 or visit <http://www.eastsacchamber.org/>

East Sacramento Improvement Association (ESIA) - Board Meetings are held the First Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the East Sacramento Room in Clunie Community Center.

Hagginwood Community Association: Next meeting – February 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Kinney Police Station, 3550 Marysville Blvd. For more information, contact Jody Adcock, Chair at 922-8700.

McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association (MENA): Board meeting open to the public held the First Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park. Contact: Nancy Cornelius at nancycornelius@sbcglobal.net

Midtown Business Association - Board Meetings open to the public and generally held the Third Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 1400 29th Street. For more information or confirm meeting date, call 442-1500.

Midtown Neighborhood Association - For updates visit <http://www.sacmidtown.org/>

River Park Neighborhood Association: Board meeting held the Third Thursday of each month. Block Captains at 6:30 p.m., RPNA Board at 7:30 p.m. at the Geneva Room in the Fremont Presbyterian Church at Carlson Drive and H Street. See www.riverparksacramento.net.

Area 1 NAG - Next meeting: Monday, January 24th, Pizza at 6:15 p.m.; Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street.

Area 4 Community Partnership Meeting - Next meeting: Date in January - TBA

Note: Archived e-newsletters can be viewed on my website at www.cityofsacramento.org.

You are receiving this message because the City of Sacramento would like to keep you informed. If you wish to stop receiving further updates, please send an email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line to support@govdelivery.com. You can [click here](#) to update your subscriptions, modify your password or e-mail address or stop subscriptions at any time. You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact support@govdelivery.com. All other inquiries can be directed to email-alerts@cityofsacramento.org.

This service is provided to you at no charge by City of Sacramento.

GovDelivery, Inc. sending on behalf of City of Sacramento · 1000 I Street · Suite 120 · Sacramento CA 95814 · 916-264-5011