



River Park Garden Club

June 2025 Newsletter

“Safety in the Garden”

Sounds ominous. Serious. Well, yes, but if anyone can make it fun to learn about, it will probably be Anna Symkowick-Rose, the presenter at the next general meeting, Thursday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m at Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento.



“Learning needs to be fun,” she insisted. “If you aren’t having fun, you probably aren’t learning much.” And that is something, she said she has learned from her students over the last 27 years. So there will be lessons in Safety in the Garden -- and some fun.

Anna, left, said she has been teaching longer than she has been gardening...currently fourth graders at Caleb-Greenwood Elementary School. She is an RPGC member and a Master Gardener who has spent years studying all aspects of gardening.

“One of the things you need to consider is identifying hazards in your garden. In our area, weather precautions are important, especially with our summer heat. You have to protect yourself from it and that’s another safety factor – gardening clothes.



“I think people need to cover themselves, that is, wear long sleeves, close-toed shoes and gloves. I don’t always wear gloves, but with certain plants, like roses, you need gloves to work safely” Anna said. Staying hydrated is another important safety precaution. She also stresses being aware of the proper use of pesticides and herbicides, as well as other garden chemicals.



“Tools can also make us safer in the garden. There are tons of options now that could be healthier and more ergonomically correct – so safer,” she added. “Such as swapping out a pole saw for climbing a ladder.”

(see **Safety**, next page)

Safety, cont'd

“Climbing trees? Try not to. Also, use proper lifting techniques to be safer,” she mused.

“I think you have to learn that all gardening is experimental. Sometimes the plants win and that may be better for the environment. Is it safe to keep a plant that is beautiful, but potentially a hazard? Think about it.”

Her favorite part of gardening?

“I like to tend things, trim things. For instance, today I was taking out my poppies because they aren't looking good any more.” Enough said.

Guests are always welcome at our free meetings.

Desserts and beverages will be provided, but please bring your own supper, utensils and plates. See you soon.

Neighborhood Beautification

Your garden club's Neighborhood Beautification committee needs help.

The club maintains several public gardens including the Yermol Fountain garden at the entrance to River Park, plus its neighboring parking lot garden along Carlson Drive between H and J streets. There is another of our gardens at the entrance to Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park.

Our garden at the entrance to Glenn Hall Park (right) that Lee and Therese Ruth have planted, watered and otherwise tended for years, needs new caretakers. We are looking for someone who could take on the tasks of this small garden and also help periodically with the other gardens. Being so visible, we don't want any of them to falter from neglect.



Member Paul Townsend has graciously taken over the maintenance of some of the big gardens, along with a few non-members (Howdy Hoover and Joe Van Sickle) who pitch in because they live in the neighborhood.

Please call Paul Townsend at (805-538-4194) to volunteer. Thanks!

Get Ready for River Park's

"Firecracker Parade"

Put on your marching shoes...on the Fourth of July, River Park will stage its annual rousing parade and festival. Our club participates with a colorful float (below) pulled by marching members, plus, we'll have a membership

information table in Glenn Hall Park

where we will

also have a gift for children. And there's always a line to

see Dilly Dally, our club-sponsored talented clown who makes fantastic balloon creatures and flowers (above). Fun for everyone.

To join the parade, meet at 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Carlson and Camelia near the school.



Membership Dues Due!

Attached to this newsletter is an envelope into which you can place your \$10 membership dues for our 2025-2026 season and then BRING IT TO THE JUNE MEETING, Thursday.

Checks should be made out to River Park Garden Club.

Membership dues are used for everything from speaker honorariums, the club newsletter and roster and supplies -- coffee stirrers and drinking cups for general meetings, plus supplies for tending various club-sponsored gardens in Sacramento. These include the Yermol Fountain area at the entrance to River Park. and several other smaller public gardens in the area.

Your dues also assure we will have a place to hold all our meetings and participate in special projects such as River Park's Fourth of July "Firecracker Parade" and festival. Plus, the annual club-sponsored neighborhood garden tour.



2025 Garden Tour Memories

Turns out, people who love garden tours, don't care a whit about a few raindrops! Despite a Sacramento drizzle the day of "Special Garden Spaces," people came anyway to see the 5th Annual River Park Garden Club neighborhood tour.

Dozens of club volunteers gracefully managed a stream of visitors. The owners of the five tour gardens said they enjoyed having visitors in their gardens. The gardens



included two owned by club members, Anna and Chris Symkowick-Rose and Fatima and Joe Thompson. The tour even made a little profit. Visitors said they didn't even know our neighborhood existed and that they enjoyed the tour for its variety of gardens.

Club members who helped with the tour -- from planning ahead and selling ads for the program, as tour-day hosts, photographing, setup and takedown -- included: Gayle Abbott, Kelly Boyd, Brian Brosseau, Charles Burgess (bottom right, in black) Allana Butterworth, Lisa Cirill, Hal Coburn (top, left), Lisa Crowe (far left),



Jane Delfendahl, Nancy Dayak, Debbie Eldridge, Troy Fajerson (top, right), Anne Mazur Fay, (left, in center) Erik Fay (left, at right) Barbara Golka (below, in turquoise), Leena Gurtis, Julia Levinson (center, right, at left with Pam Ferko), Cora Maas (above left, in bunny ears, with Maple Wolf in yellow boots), Judah Maas,

Lucretia Maas (above, hoodie) Ryan Maas, Lynn and Ron McCormack, John and Kaya McGlaughlin, Jeanette Nardinelli, Tamis Reed, Lee and Therese Ruth, Pat Smith, Janice Stern and Paul Townsend (right, in straw hat).

