

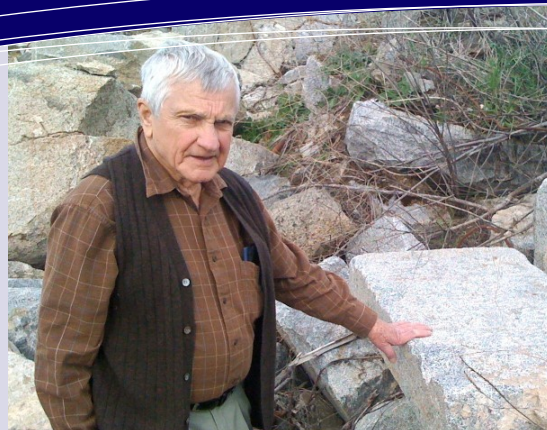
Nesting Eagles Have a Friend in Kathy Kayner

For the past three years, a pair of Bald Eagles have nested in a Grey Pine tree along the American River Parkway. The Eagles have successfully raised two Eaglets in 2017, two Eaglets in 2018 and are raising two more this year.

When it was discovered that the Bald Eagles were raising their family in 2017, California State Parks sought out a volunteer to be out at the nest site to answer questions about these beautiful Birds of Prey and to guide guests to a Designated Area to view them so as not to disturb the nesting Eagles. Kathy Kayner, a Save the American River Association Board member, immediately volunteered and is currently in her third year greeting guests and sharing interesting facts about these Eagles. Kathy is now volunteering for the Bureau of Reclamation who owns the land where the Bald Eagle nest is located.

"I was following a pair of Great Horned Owls for two years along the Lower American River Parkway and developed a special relationship with them and learned so much about the family dynamics. I always had a healthy respect for them and made sure to keep my distance when the Owlets fledged. I learned where their

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Frank F. Cirill

A Recreation Area on the American River Parkway Has Been Named in Honor of Frank F. Cirill

BY STEPHEN GREEN

A section of the American River Parkway has been named in honor of Frank Cirill who spent decades working to protect, enhance and expand the Parkway.

On May 14, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a proposal to designate 57-acres on the Parkway as the Frank F. Cirill Recreation Area. It is located on the south side of the American River below the fish hatchery.

Frank, who died in 2017 at age 94, "did more than any other person to preserve and enhance the Parkway's ecosystems, wildlife habitat, waterway and recreation resources," said Stephen Green, president of Save the American River Association (SARA). "Thanks to his tireless efforts, the American River Parkway is a great natural resource that has become a model for urban parkways nationwide."

Frank's main goal "was to preserve the Parkway for future generations," said his daughter, Lisa Cirill. "That's what drove him to maintain this jewel from any commercial destruction. People take advantage of that Parkway. They don't understand the work that went into it to make it a world renowned public entity."

Charlie Willard served on the SARA Board

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of Directors during part of Frank's tenure as president. He also served with Frank on the Eppie's Great Race organizing committee.

"Frank was a steward of the area's parks, lakes, rivers and their recreational opportunities and kept abreast of possible inappropriate development or misuse of resources," Willard said. "Frank was a master at getting public support by putting together community groups to support valuable causes. He was a leader. He built many coalitions, raised money for important causes, and continually recruited people to join the causes as others tired and dropped out. Relentless, might be a better description of his commitment to his causes and allies."

Frank joined SARA in the 1960s a few years after the Parkway's creation. Over the years, he served in a number of SARA positions including president and president emeritus. From 1973-78, he was a member of the county Recreation and Park Commission. In 2016, he was inducted into the California Park and Recreation Society's Hall of Honor for his work on behalf of the Parkway.

Among Frank's accomplishments were the

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Cirill

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passage of bond issues and fundraising efforts to acquire land for the Parkway and remove a sewage plant, a trailer court and a tavern.

For 21 years, Frank led the battle to prevent the East Bay Municipal Utility District from taking American River water from the Folsom South Canal – a diversion that would have reduced the lower stretch of the river to a trickle. Many local people thought SARA would never prevail. But Frank persisted, raised more than \$700,000 for legal costs, and the diversion never happened.

Frank persuaded a local State Assembly member to drop legislation that would have allowed development of a golf course, 40-acre parking lot and other facilities at Bushy Lake on the river's flood plain next to CalExpo. He

“There are two types of people in the world: people who make things happen and people who wait for things to happen. Don't ever wait.”

FRANK CIRILL

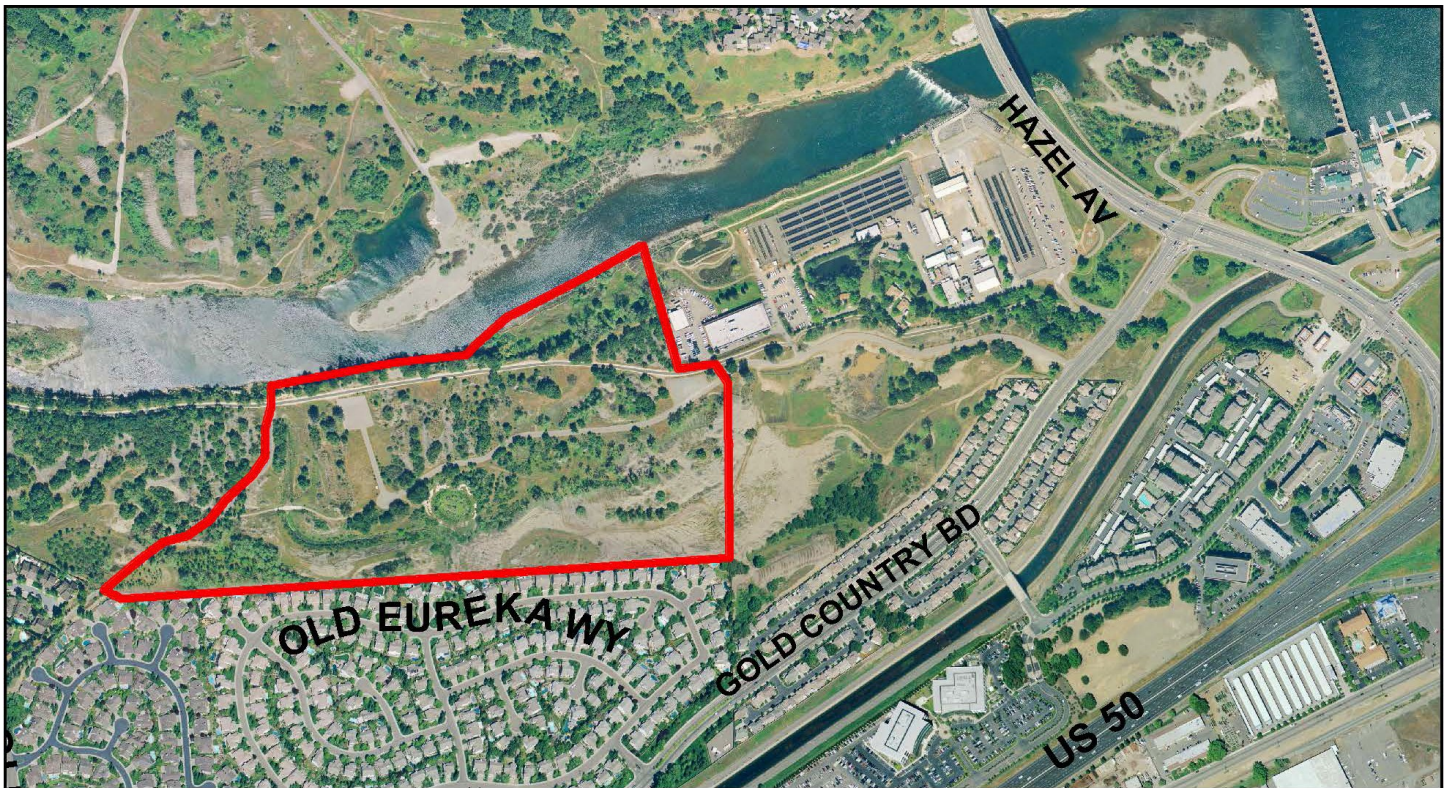
derailed plans for another golf course at Mississippi Bar on Lake Natoma. And he initiated a lawsuit to stop encroachment that would have blocked public access to the Fair Oaks overlook where the best views of the Parkway can be seen. An additional 4.5 acres were eventually acquired at the overlook and

added to the Parkway. That cost nearly \$1 million.

In 1985, Cirill organized the Lake Natoma Community Task Force which sued successfully to stop the creation of a recreational vehicle park and other commercial development on the Lake Natoma shoreline.

Green recalled that Frank would tell his children: “There are two types of people in the world: people who make things happen and people who wait for things to happen. Don't ever wait.”

The Lower American River and the Parkway “would look every different today had it not been for Frank's leadership,” Green added. “Naming a recreation area on the Parkway in his honor is a fitting tribute.” ■



Outline showing the recently named Frank F. Cirill Recreation Area on the American River Parkway

Bald Eagles

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“nursery tree” (where they fledged) and their “pre-school tree” (where they observed and learned how to hunt from their parents) were located. I had many special moments with them so you can imagine my sadness when their nest area was destroyed by the 2016/2017 storms. I could no longer find them. Then the email came in asking if I would be a volunteer at the Bald Eagle nest! It was an offer I could not refuse.”

With each passing year, the amount of guests that come out to see the Eagles increases. The busiest times are Easter, Mother’s Day and Memorial Day. Because of that, Kathy now has additional volunteers to assist her from FOLFAN (Friends of Lake Folsom and Natoma). Kathy provides the training and has the volunteers shadow her as she speaks with the guests about the Eagles. “My goal is for the volunteers to be well versed in the lives of these Eagles so they too can impart interesting facts and stories about them to the guests,” Kathy added.

The Bald Eagles are Kathy’s primary focus which means she is out at the nest site quite a bit. This past Easter, she was out at the site from 9:30am to 5:30pm to greet the many guests that came out to see the Eagles. She and another volunteer bring scopes to the Designated Area so guests can get a close up view of the Eagle family without standing in front of the nest.

“Standing in front of the nest is considered a disturbance to the Eagles per the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d) is a United States federal Statute that protects two species of Eagle. If too many people stand in front of the nest, the parents could become so disturbed, they could fly



Bald Eagle taking off near the Lake Natoma nest site —photo by Kathy Kayner

away and leave their Eaglets, who are defenseless, to die. That is not acceptable. When guests gather at the front of the nest, I and the other volunteers bring them to the Designated area (400’ away from the nest tree) to view the Eagles through our spotting scopes. Everyone is so amazed as to how clearly they can see them and leave so very grateful for the wonderful opportunity to see our National Bird from a safe distance, per Kathy.”

Kathy and Joleen Maiden (both FOLFAN members) helped develop a flyer given to guests which list common questions and answers about Eagles. It should be noted that Ms. Maiden is very knowledgeable about all Birds of Prey with a special emphasis on Bald and Golden Eagles. She is a long term volunteer at the UC Davis Raptor Center as well. Here is what is on the flyer:

What species are they?

There are 60 species of Eagles worldwide. Except for Alaska, the two that we see in

North American are Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles. They are part of a group of predatory birds called Raptors, or Birds of Prey. This group also includes Kites, Hawks, Falcons, Buzzards, Vultures and Owls.

How do Bald Eagles compare to Golden Eagles?

As adults, both are large birds with dark brown bodies. Most people believe they are closely related, but they are not. Bald Eagles belong to a group called “Sea Eagles,” and are more closely related to Kites. Golden Eagles are more closely related to Hawks. Bald Eagles tend to be slightly larger than Golden Eagles.

Why do they call them “Bald” Eagles?

It’s not because they were once thought to have bald heads! The name comes from the Old English word “balde,” which means white and refers to their white feathers.

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www.sarariverwatch.org

Bald Eagles

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Where do they live?

Bald Eagles live in virtually any kind of North American wetland habitat including seacoasts, rivers, large lakes or marshes, and other large bodies of open water with an abundance of fish. A pair of wild Bald Eagles living in our region have successfully raised several juveniles in recent years.

What do they eat?

Fish is their preferred diet. But they also eat waterfowl and small mammals like squirrels, raccoons and rabbits. They are also opportunistic predators, meaning that they may steal food from other animals or scavenge on carrion.

How well do they see?

The “eagle eye” is among the strongest in the animal kingdom, with a visual resolution five times stronger than the human eye.

How long do they live?

The average is 25-28 years for those who live in the wild. Those who live in captivity may live twice that long.

Do they keep the same mate?

Bald Eagles mate for life. But if they lose a mate, they will usually find a new one.

How can you tell the difference between a female and a male?

As with all birds of prey, the females are larger. The size difference reflects their respective duties: the males' smaller, sleeker body enables them to be slightly better hunters, while the females' larger size allows her to sit for longer periods on the nest and to be a deterrent for any predators approaching the nest.

When do juveniles begin to look like adults?

When watching wildlife, including Eagles, one of the greatest challenges is how to get close enough to an animal to have a good view of it without disturbing it. It should be the goal of every wildlife watcher to never approach any wildlife so closely that it reacts to your presence.

A Bald Eagle attains their adult plumage with the complete white head and tail at 4-5 years of age.

Do they reuse the same nest?

Yes, unless something drives them away from that nest. For example, if the tree or nest has fallen, or if people don't give them enough space. They usually nest near the water, often perched in a tall tree.

How many eggs do they lay and when?

Two eggs is the norm (per season), but three eggs is not uncommon. Nesting season varies by region.

When do young eagles fly?

By their second month, they will be wingersizing (flapping wings) and branching in preparation for the all important first flight (or fledge) which will take place by the time they are three months old. After fledging, they return to the nest for a few weeks to follow their parents and learn to hunt for themselves.

Do the young ever return to the nest?

Many juveniles who have left the nest do return to their natal area, but aren't allowed in the nest.

What is their conservation status?

Forty years ago, Bald Eagles were in danger of extinction. Habitat destruction, illegal shooting, and the contamination of its food source, largely as a consequence of DDT, decimated the eagle population. Habitat protection through the Endangered Species Act, the banning of DDT, and conservation actions have helped Bald Eagles make a remarkable recovery.

How do you view them responsibly?

When watching wildlife, including Eagles, one of the greatest challenges is how to get close enough to an animal to have a good view of it without disturbing it. It should be the goal of every wildlife watcher to never approach any wildlife so closely that it reacts to your presence. While it may not seem like a big deal that an animal has noticed your presence and makes an effort to flee, there are potential negative consequences including nest failure. ■



SARA Board Member Kathy Kayner

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SARA appreciates the support of our generous members. Without your support, SARA would not be able to continue our role as *Guardians of the American River and Parkway since 1961*. New and renewing members are listed in *RiverWatch* according to their preference (indicated on the SARA membership/renewal form).

In Memoriam

Save the American River Association has received donations honoring the memory of the following friend:

Mary Weller Raber

Save the American River Association frequently receives donations in memory of lost loved ones, many of whom were users and supporters of the American River Parkway. Some donors give names. Others prefer to remain anonymous. SARA notifies family members when donations are made.

The money is used to further SARA's advocacy work on behalf of the Parkway. Contributions may be made by check or online via SARA's website.

SARA also has a Legacy program. For information on the program, please call the SARA office (916) 936-4555. ■

"No small part of the prosperity of California...depends upon the preservation of her water supply ... We are not building this country of ours for a day. It is to last through the ages."

PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT, AT A 1902 SPEECH IN SACRAMENTO, AFTER CAMPING IN YOSEMITE WITH JOHN MUIR

SARA SCORED ON BIG DAY OF GIVING

Save the American River Association received \$12,177 in donations on Big Day of Giving 2019 held May 2.

That was more than double the amount received last year thanks to an extremely generous matching contribution from Maxine and David Clark.

Thank you to all who donated. These funds will help finance SARA's advocacy on behalf of the American River Parkway and the Lower American River. ■

California Declared War on Squirrels

The year was 1918. American troops were heavily engaged in the World War and had established a front against German forces who had invaded France. And California officials called up “School Soldiers” to kill ground squirrels in the state.

California Horticulture Commissioner George H. Hecks claimed ground squirrels, *Otospermophilus beecheyi*, were devouring \$30 million worth of California crops yearly – food that was badly need to feed troops in Europe.

“We have enemies here at home more destructive, perhaps, than some of the enemies our boys are fighting in the trenches,” Hecks said. The week of April 29-May 4 was proclaimed “Squirrel Week.” And schools were urged to form posses of “School Soldiers” to spend the week poisoning, shooting, drowning, trapping or gassing “the squirrel army.”

Hecks produced 500,000 “Kill the Squirrels” pamphlets with a recipe for strychnine-laced grain and other

methods for killing squirrels. Farmers visited schools and spoke of the urgent need to eradicate the enemy. Rural towns were plastered with posters promoting Squirrel Week. Some showed pictures of squirrels wearing spiked German helmets.

Gov. William D. Stephens made \$40,000 available for the campaign. Students were told to cut off the tails of dead squirrels and school employees were to turn them into their county Horticulture Commissioner. Schools with students who killed the most squirrels were given \$50. Runners-up got \$30 and \$20.

By the end of Squirrel Week on May 4, children statewide had collected 104,509 tails. Many students continued to kill squirrels for months afterwards. One girl in Lassen County was able to turn in 3,780 tails.

Over time, the ground squirrel population recovered. But use of rodenticides to kill ground squirrels continues to be a common practice on many farms. ■

Recycling Centers Must be Rescued

Recycling centers for beverage containers continue to close across California – especially in rural areas – while the state continues to rely on outdated policies and regulations that fail to adequately compensate the centers for their services, according to a recent investigative report by Consumer Watchdog.

In 2013, California had 2,600 recycling centers, according to state records. Today, there are about 1,500. Since 2012, Sacramento County has lost more than 80 recycling centers. Only 50 remain.

“California’s bottle deposit law is broken and both consumers and the environment are paying a big price,” said Jamie Court, president of Consumer Watchdog. “Governor Newsom needs to make a priority of putting the pieces of California’s broken bottle deposit law back together.”

The researchers also found that retailers and beverage distributors are supposed to keep count and pass on the paid deposit for every container they sell. But they consistently under-report how much deposit money they owe the state and keep the difference.

CalRecycle, the state agency that administers the recycling program, has a formula for paying recycling centers for the containers they deliver to scrap dealers. But there is no allowance for centers in high-rent areas such as San Francisco or in rural areas where volumes are lower and the cost of transporting containers to scrap dealers is higher. As a result, many centers couldn’t operate profitably.

The researchers also found the grocery and big-box chains are not taking back bottles and cans which they are required to do by law. But CalRecycle does not enforce the law.

Consumer Watchdog also suggested that Governor Newsom and legislators should consider raising the deposit required on containers. Oregon and Michigan have done that, and the result was a boost in can and bottle recycling.

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SARA Benefits from the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op’s Bag Token Program

For the second year, Save the American River Association has been selected to be a beneficiary of the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op’s “*Make Everyday Earth Day*” Bag Token Program.

SARA was one of only five environmental organizations selected in May through the votes by Co-op shoppers during the weeks leading up to Earth Day.

Shoppers can support SARA by visiting the Co-op, bringing in reusable bags to receive tokens, and depositing the tokens in the collection box near the store’s exit. SARA received five cents for each token placed in the box.

Make Every Day 
EARTH DAY

BOOK REVIEW

MORNINGS ON FAIR OAKS BRIDGE: WATCHING WILDLIFE AT THE LOWER AMERICAN RIVER. WRITING & PHOTOGRAPHY BY JANICE KELLEY. AVAILABLE AT AMAZON.COM, \$35

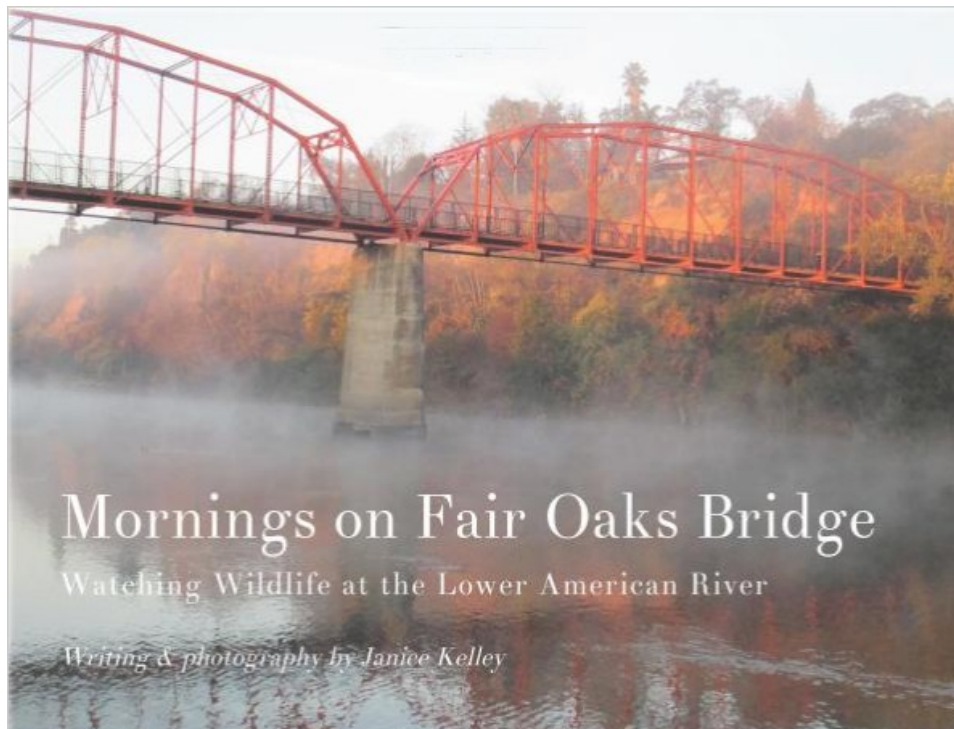
In September 2016, Janice Kelley visited the Fair Oaks Bridge at 6:30 a.m. From then on, she was there most mornings photographing wildlife and vistas, and writing a daily blog on her experiences.

"I discovered each day presented a new series of experiences," Kelley said. "I came to observe, write, photograph and capture in video the scenic beauty, and the essence of daily rituals, antics and changing dynamics of the relationship among wildlife living at the American River alongside Fair Oaks Bridge."

Those photographs and blogs between September 2016 and February 2018 are now preserved in a beautiful book. Seasonal changes are carefully documented along with the natural beauty of the area.

Photos are found on almost every page. None have been enhanced. Special attention is given to the Fair Oaks chickens. Kelley noted that most of her mornings "begin in Fair Oaks Village, listening to chickens greet me with their good morning songs before walking to the bridge."

The Fair Oaks Bridge environs are truly a special place. And this book captures it well. ■



Support County Parks — Buy An Annual Pass

The Pass pays for itself in 10 visits and all funds go directly towards maintaining and operating the 15,000-acre system. For as little as \$50 per year, you can have unlimited access and parking in the parks.

Pass holders receive free daily entry into Regional Parks and annual passes are valid for one year from date of purchase.

Pass Fees Are Based On Use:

Vehicle:	\$50
Vehicle + Trailer or oversized vehicle (over 22 feet):	\$100
Vehicle + Horse trailer:	\$75
Vehicle and small watercraft:	\$80
Parks supporter pass*	\$50

** This pass is for those who want to support Parks but do not drive to Parks facilities*

Where to Purchase Your Parks Pass

- Online through the American River Parkway Foundation Web site <http://arpf.org/visit/>
- At REI stores in Sacramento, Roseville and Folsom
- Patriot Cycles in Fair Oaks
- Effie Yeaw Nature Center at Ancil Hoffman Park
- Regional Park offices and park kiosks
- American River Parkway Foundation office at the William B. Pond Recreation Area ■

Recycling Centers

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Then there's the lingering question of whether to put a deposit on hard liquor and wine bottles and cans. There have been legislative proposals to do that — all of which died in the first committee hearing. Consumer Watchdog's full report can be found at

www.consumerwatchdog.org/reports ■



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River and Parkway Since 1961*

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The following membership categories are suggested: *(Please circle your choice)*

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