



The Web Site of The Sacramento Bee

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Bob Shallit; Midtown Sacramento brownstones luring lookers, buyers

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Published 12:00 am PDT Saturday, April 19, 2008

Lots of people are kicking the tires at midtown's newest housing complex.

"More than 100 people a week are stopping by," says **Mollie Nelson**, chief marketer for Sutter Brownstones, a 28-home complex on the 2600 block of N Street.

But how about sales?

"Fantastic, especially in this market," she says. Six have been sold – with city manager **Ray Kerridge** and **Lionakis Beaumont** architect **Bruce Starkweather** among the buyers – since the brick-covered row houses became available three weeks ago.

The homes – in four models, ranging from \$370,000 to \$590,000 – have some cool elements: high-end appliances, slate and hardwood floors, matte granite counters and massive upstairs windows.

Also some quirky touches, like colorful Heath ceramic backsplashes and bathrooms that have raised vessel sinks along with faucets and industrial "cage" lights that emerge directly from oversized mirrors.

"There's a bit of a retro look," says Nelson, who works for **Loftworks**, the project developer. "It's modern and contemporary – but '50s, too."

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Career move: After nearly 27 years of lobbying for the cable biz, **Dennis Mangers** is calling it quits.

But this is no retirement.

"I'm exploring an exciting new option," says the 67-year-old former assemblyman and longtime head of the **California Cable and Telecommunications Association**.

The option? He's not saying – just yet.

He's remaining in Sacramento, though, and committed to staying active as a backer of cultural organizations, a mentor to politicians and leader of the **Capital Unity Council**.

He'll also probably continue to be a soft touch for **Sharon Gerber**, the uber-event organizer who has turned to Mangers over and over to be a celebrity performer at her fundraisers.

His most recent star turn: impersonating Elvis Presley at an event for the **Mercy Perinatal Recovery Network**. "It was embarrassing, at 67, to wear a skin-tight Elvis suit and sing 'Blue Suede Shoes,'" Mangers says.

Truth is, he stole the show.

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Teaching tolerance: Speaking of Mangers, one of his pet projects is inching closer toward reality.

We're talking about the Capital Unity Center, to be built at the northeast corner of 16th and N streets.

A former school district warehouse that sat at the corner recently was demolished. The land has been leveled.

Construction on the three-story center will begin later this year if backers can raise another \$10 million for the \$30 million project.

Mangers, who is chairman of the Capital Unity Council, describes the center as a place where Sacramentans and visitors can have "transformative experiences" to appreciate diversity.

"It will give them a set of tools they can use when they see bullying, harassment and discrimination," he says.

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Carbo load: It started as a gimmick. Put something on the menu that nobody would really order.

"But," says **Chris Lombardi**, chef and part owner at midtown's **Hangar 17**, "we're selling a lot of them."

He's referring to the "Heart Stopper Burger," the headliner on the new menu rolled out this month.

It has two half-pound beef patties, three slices of cheese, two pieces of bacon, a "pile" of pastrami, two fried eggs and herb mayo. Served with fries.

How many calories are in this monster?

"I couldn't even guess," says Lombardi who runs the place with his brother, James, and their partner **Joe Madrid**.

So far, about 20 customers have ordered the \$15.95 burgers, Chris says. Maybe 17 of them have cleaned their plates.

As you'd guess, most of those asking for the heart stopper have been strapping young men.

But one "normal-sized" young woman ordered and nearly finished one, Chris says. And last weekend a 60-something guy came in with his two grandchildren.

Says Lombardi: "He pounded the whole thing right down."

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