1913 bungalow, Tudor homes highlight 32nd annual home tour

By Lori Harder

An original 1913 bungalow with rich interior woodwork and a seemingly endless front porch, and Tudor-style homes with gardens in full bloom, will highlight the 32nd annual Home and Garden Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 28.

The Capital A’s Model A Ford Club will tour vintage cars throughout the neighborhood. For those touring via two wheels, bike racks will be provided.

The organizing committee is working to secure musicians and artists to enhance tour-goer experiences in and around the homes. Food trucks, live acoustic music, displays, and tables and chairs will be at the north end of Curtis Park.

The home and garden tour is an important fundraiser for programs sponsored by the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association and the Sierra 2 Center.

Tickets are $25 in advance ($20 for SCNA Center. Curtis Neighborhood Association and the Sierra 2 Center.

Tickets are $25 in advance ($20 for SCNA members), and $30 on tour day ($25 for SCNA members). Your discount is a great reason to join SCNA. Tickets can be purchased at sierra2.org or at the Sierra 2 Center office.

Home Tour organizers are seeking volunteer docents to monitor homes for two-hour shifts, and

Volunteers to help setup or take down tables and chairs at the north end of Curtis Park. Volunteers may buy their home tour ticket for just $10. Contact Lori Harder at 916 801-7189 or lorikoi@sbcglobal.net.

Vigilant neighbors, targeted policing credited for decline in crime

By Erik Fay

Crime in Curtis Park has decreased by as much as 50 percent in some categories over the last six years. Robbery, burglary, larceny and drug crimes are all down significantly from 2012 levels. Vandalism is the only major category that has not declined.

The Sacramento Police Department attributes the crime reduction to two key factors: targeted coverage in our area, and vigilant neighbors allotting the police when they see suspicious activity or crime in progress.

Sgt. Vance Chandler, a police spokesman, underscored the benefits of neighbors reporting criminal activity. He said crime prevention and deterrence have been greatly aided by neighbors being in touch with the Police Department.

Neighbors can report crimes in progress or that have just occurred by calling 911. If you call 911 from your cell phone, the call will go to the California Highway Patrol, which will take your information and contact the Sacramento police dispatch desk. A call from a landline goes directly to the Sacramento police dispatch desk.

When you call, tell the person at the dispatch desk that you are in District 4. If you report a crime in progress, remain as calm as possible when providing details as your information will be more accurate for the dispatcher to relay to officers. You can call the

Speaking French in the café? Oui! Oui!

By Bruce Pierini

Bonjour, avez-vous déjà visité la France?

The first rule of French conversation: You must say Bonjour or the social interaction that follows will be hobbled. The authors of “The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed,” wrote a book stressing this very important social custom, one which we Americans forget at our peril if we want a friendly, cooperative attitude in France.

The answer to “Have you visited France?” lets the several intermediate-level Francophiles around the table at the Cafe Dantorels know whether the newcomer is serious or not about speaking French. The answer often is, “Yes, I’ve visited there a long time ago.” Oui, je l’ai visitée il y a longtemps. This brings up another annoying French habit of not pronouncing half the letters in their words. Longtemps (long time ago)

is pronounced “lontgon” with some kind of nasal mumble at the end, like you’re stifling a sneeze. The “mops” sound at the end is completely mute. It seems a French mystery until you think how thoroughly we hit every letter with English words, right?

We meet most Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m. at Cafe Dantorels. There are only a couple of rules. We agree with the values of liberté, égalite, fraternité. So, 1) do not dominate conversations—everyone has equal time to speak, and, 2) do not interrupt a speaker unless they’ve made a major error in grammar or vocabulary and only after waiting

Vote by Mail ballots coming for June primary

By Craig McCulloch

For the upcoming June 5 primary election, Sacramento County will be a test county for the use of Vote by Mail ballots for all voters. A postcard was mailed to all registered voters in February describing the changes in voting.

The California Voters Choice Act became law in 2016 to make it more convenient for people to vote, increase voter participation in elections, and provide more voting options. All voters will receive a Vote by Mail ballot at the mailing address where they are registered to vote. The ballots will be mailed 29 days prior to the election. Note that election materials are not forwarded. The new law allows voters to mail in their ballot, vote 11 days early at a vote center, or use a secured ballot drop box to vote.

Recently, 64 percent of Sacramento County voters have voted by mail. The voter registration deadline is 15 days prior to the election—May 21 for
SCNA President Eric Johnson reported that Kim Tucker of Impact Foundry would have the strategic plan wrapped up in the spring. Board members were encouraged to work with her to share thoughts and goals. Andi Liebenbaum volunteered to help finalize the plan. Eric encouraged board members to attend meetings of other organizations, such as the Greater Broadway District and Oak Park Neighborhood Association.

Cal Trans is doing a study to make Sacramentos more walkable, with tentative plans for 2020. SCNA would like to be involved in the planning process while it is still being imagined.

Bruce Pierini read a statement he crafted to reach out to neighbors with specific strengths and skill sets to let them know they are needed. A volunteer coordinator who manages a database of people willing to work for specific events is a priority.

Jonathan LaTurner said the board should not become complacent regarding the loss of the park. The officers circulated a crime density map for Land Park, which helped the residents voice their concerns.

The SCNA board will sponsor a Cops and Coffee meeting and will focus on neighborhood outreach before the event, including posts on nextdoor.com and other social media sites. Volunteers will be needed for upcoming political forums and races.

An informal talk was suggested regarding the loss of the migratory songbirds when heritage oaks were cut down for Crocker Village. The talk could take place before the home tour April 28, or possibly be a class for the Learnery.

Senior Center
Angela reported the annual appeal brought in more than $2,500, a little less than last year. New formats for the open house, such as one free Friday a month, were suggested. The Hart Center will need to be consulted because it supplies grant money for the Senior Center. My Story Project needs volunteers with camera and computer skills. Board members were encouraged to ask friends and family to tell their stories.

Viewpoint
Bruce said he sent out requests to board members regarding Q&As. The neighborhood newspaper is looking for articles and writers, and the new editor, Dennis Cusick, is open to new ideas. SCNA will be inviting him to board meetings to share his vision.

Submitted — Kate Van Buren, board secretary

NOTES FROM FEB. 7TH MEETING
SCNA seeks to plan for walkable city

Traffic engineers to discuss how the neighbors can work with the city police officers to meet with neighbors to answer questions and discussed solutions. SCNA will host a Cops and Coffee event in which city police officers will meet with neighbors to answer questions and address public safety concerns. The date is yet to be determined. SCNA is still advocating for a safe pedestrian/bike path through Crocker Village to avoid future heavy traffic on Crocker Drive.

SCNA will work with the city’s Department of Parks and Recreation to fill in hazardous depressions and holes in William Curtis Park.

Next meeting
The next regular meeting of the SCNA Board will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 7 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2.

Neighborhood Concerns
John reported that a flex zone plan by the Crocker Village Senior Housing was submitted and withdrawn, showing commercial buildings in place of housing.

A Cops and Coffee meeting was proposed for Curtis Park. Land Park recently hosted a meeting with four officers and more than 35 neighbors. The officers circulated a crime density map for Land Park, which helped the residents voice their concerns.

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Q&A WITH THE SCNA BOARD

What is SCNA doing about neighborhood safety? — Bruce Pierini

SCNA Board Member John Mathews answers: SCNA has conducted a number of public meetings in the past two years to discuss neighborhood safety concerns and explore solutions.

SCNA and Councilmember Jay Schenitzer recently held a public discussion at Sierra 2 Center on neighborhood safety with Police Chief Daniel Hahn, Capt. Dave Peletta, Assistant City Manager Arturo Sanchez, and Sacramento Police Department Impact Team representatives.

SCNA held a neighborhood meeting with city traffic engineers to discuss how the neighbors can petition the city for traffic calming on their street. SCNA held a meeting with neighbors to discuss hiring a private security company to patrol Curtis Park streets. It was decided that it would be better for individual streets and areas of the neighborhood to hire their own private security.

SCNA and the Land Park Community Association co-sponsored a public meeting to discuss homelessness in Sacramento. Several representatives from the city and private organizations answered questions and discussed solutions.

SCNA will host a Cops and Coffee event in which city police officers will meet with neighbors to answer questions and address public safety concerns. The date is yet to be determined.

SCNA is still advocating for a safe pedestrian/bike path through Crocker Village to avoid future heavy traffic on Crocker Drive.

SCNA will work with the city’s Department of Parks and Recreation to fill in hazardous depressions and holes in William Curtis Park.

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 31
Be the Bunny—You know you want to.

Join your neighbors for the annual Spring Egg Hunt on March 31. The SCNA board is looking to fill several key volunteer positions to help make this beloved event run smoothly: organize the group photo, lead the parade, dress as the Easter Bunny, help to hide or protect the eggs. To volunteer, call Faith at 916 452–3005.

PAJAMA PARADE: 9:30 a.m. top curve of Curtis Park
CRAFTS & PHOTOS: 10 a.m. Curtis Hall at Sierra 2
EGG HUNT: 10:30 a.m. at Sierra 2 Green
SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018

To advertise in Viewpoint, call Fran at 916 452–3005.
By Katie Byram

Charr Crail lives and breathes creativity. From her pinky-reddish-orange hair, colorfully patterned eyewear, and tall bright ensembles, Charr embodies the creative spirit she draws out in others.

A spontaneous decision to join the Sac City Express newspaper in college gave Charr her start as a photojournalist. She worked for various newspapers as a staff photographer and picture editor for 15 years before striking out to build her own business as a full-time freelance photographer. Charr’s newfound business was an instant success with on-location gigs as well as portrait work in her shared studio upstairs at Sierra 2 Center.

In recent years, Charr’s focus has shifted to teaching. Like her photojournalism career, teaching is patterned eyewear, and her bright personality she draws out in others. From her own classes online and through the Learnery.

Now teaches at Sacramento City College, as well as photojournalism at Cosumnes River College. She professional colleague asked her to teach a class on teaching. Like her photojournalism career, teaching has been an instant success with on-location gigs as well as portrait work in her shared studio upstairs at Sierra 2 Center.

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Crime: Neighbors help by being ‘in touch’ with police

By Carol Conti

Curtis Park crime statistics

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Grand Total 336 267 236 264 272 211 1564

These statistics provided by the Sacramento Police Department show crime has decreased over six years.

Mobile phone photo workshop at the Learnery

By Julie Byram

Charr teaches classes that inspire students to create, regardless of experience or talent, like in her exploratory class “The Art of Doodling on Metal,” taught through the Learnery last fall. “Teaching art is my favorite but hardest subject because people don’t see themselves as creative,” Charr says. As an instructor, Charr applies a few simple truths to teaching: Art is everywhere, everyone is creative and just do it anyway.

You can get creative with Charr in a number of classes coming up at the Learnery in the Sierra 2 Center. The first is “Mobile Photography Made Easy” from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. March 24. The cost is $42.

This three-hour workshop will explore photographic capabilities with a smart phone. It is perfect for anyone wanting to take better photos, edit on the go, or simply step up their Instagram game. The top photo editing apps will also be discussed.

This class is for both iPhone and Android users.

Learn more about the class at sierra2.org/ thelearnery and follow Charr Crail’s creations at instagram.com/charrcrail.

What’s new at Sierra 2

Film shows rise of black businesses

By Julie Byram

Business in the Black,” a Strong Productions documentary film chronicling the rise of black businesses in America from the 1800s to 1960s, will be shown at 7 p.m. March 6 at Curtis Hall.

Included are interviews with descendants of business owners, local historians and business owners. Highlighted are the names of black millionaires in the 1800s, accounts of slaves who bought their freedom and some who attended college, reports on what bigotry did to destroy black business districts, and interviews with people whose family owned a business in the early 1900s.

A reception starts at 6:30 p.m. with opening remarks about the history of black business in Sacramento and a question-and-answer session with the film’s producer, Anthony Brogdon. The film follows at 7 p.m.

Admission is $10 at the door or in advance at eventbrite.com. Advance tickets are suggested as seating is limited.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit businessesintheblack.net.

New vice president sees neighborhood as park-like dream

By Julie Byram

SCNA Vice President Bruce Pierini lives with his husband Wayne Anderson and their beloved cats on a friendly block of 25th Street where neighbors gather for progressive dinners and block parties.

Bruce moved to the neighborhood from Midtown more than 30 years ago. Bruce says Curtis Park is a “beautiful part of Sacramento, a dream, with a park-like atmosphere, varied architecture, and breathtaking streetscapes.”

Bruce was elected to the SCNA board three years ago. His primary interests were the Neighborhood Concerns Committee and the Curtis Park Village Development. He also serves on the Executive Committee, the Neighborhood Concerns Committee and the Viewpoint Committee. He was recently elected vice president of the board.

Bruce is a longtime member of the Italian Cultural Society, one of Sierra 2’s original tenants. As a fluent Italian speaker, Bruce has organized a weekly group to meet and enjoy the language and culture of Italy. He authored a book, “Italians in Sacramento,” and has written for the Historical Society and The Sacramento Bee. He also organized a weekly group of French speakers (see Bruce’s story on front page).

Bruce was a professor of physical and cultural anthropology for more than 30 years at the Los Rios Community Colleges.

Bruce and Wayne take advantage of the oak trees and migratory songbird activity close to home while strolling the neighborhood. They travel extensively. Retirement is “good for the soul,” says Bruce.
**Activities at Sierra 2**

**Dance**
- Adult Ballet
  - Two Rivers Dance Center
  - Mondays & Saturdays
  - Richard@tworiversdancecenter.com
- Heels & Sass Dance class
  - 7:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, Studio 1
- Irish Folk Dancing
  - 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7-9 p.m., Studio 1
- Polynesian Dance
  - Tuesday, 6-7:30 p.m., Studio 2
  - alohatyra@aol.com
- River City Taps – Adult Tap Dance
  - alohatyra@aol.com
- Heels & Sass Dance class
  - 7:30-8:30 p.m., Monday–Wednesday, Studio 2
- BellyFit
  - Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., Studio 3
- Motivational Aerobic Dance Exercise
  - Monday–Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Studio 1
- Oyster
  - Friday, 6-7 p.m., Studio 2
- Sunday, 11 a.m.–Noon
- Zumba
  - Friday, 6-7 p.m., Studio 2
  - Saturday, 11 a.m.–Noon
  - Robert Aburto, roberts.zumba@yahoo.com

**Fitness**
- Hot Hula Fitness
  - 7:45–8:45 p.m., Fridays, Studio 2
  - Ohaanafi, 595-3765
- Zumba with YoYa & Linda
  - 7:30–8:30 p.m., Monday–Wednesday, Studio 1
- LaToya Bufford, la.toy@bufford59@yahoo.com
- BellyFit
  - Tuesdays, 2 p.m., Studio 2
  - Randi Robinson-Snaer

**Martial Arts**
- Free
  - Gabrielle Kennedy: 476-5073

**Tennis**
- Beginner Ages 9+, 7–8 p.m.
  - Tuesday, Studio 1
- Intermediate
  - 8–9 p.m.
  - Kristy Oshiro, kristyoshiro.com

**Zumba**
- Friday, 6-7 p.m., Studio 2
- Saturday, 11 a.m.–Noon
- Robert Aburto, roberts.zumba@yahoo.com

**Weight Watchers**
- Thursdays, 9 a.m.
- Lee Aviles, 203-6461

**Meditation**
- Free
  - Pastor Grant Harper: 382-2885
- Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation
  - Sundays, 9–10 a.m., Room 12
  - Knowthyselfassoul.org

**Caprino Fitness**
- Free
  - Pastor Grant Harper: 382-2885
  - Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation
  - Sundays, 9–10 a.m., Room 12
  - Knowthyselfassoul.org

**Shiatsu**
- Free
  - Dr. Amy Sackett: 916-209-4473

**Heels & Sass Dance class**
- 7:30-8:30 p.m., Monday–Wednesday, Studio 2
- krystal, kgstilettos@gmail.com

**MOVIE SWEEPSTAKES**
- 7-8 p.m.
- Fridays, Studio 3. All ages

**SPORTS/CULTURAL**
- West African Drumming
  - Intermediate, 8–9 p.m.
  - Kristy Oshiro, kristyoshiro.com
- Beginning Ages 9+, 7–8 p.m.
  - Tuesday, Studio 1
- Free
  - Gabrielle Kennedy: 476-5073

**Guitar**
- 2nd Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 12
- Lee Aviles, 203-6461

**Couples’ Seminar**
- March 17
  - 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
  - Cost: $25

**Potluck Lunch**
- March 15
  - 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
  - Cost: $7

**Valentine’s Day**
- February 14
  - 6:30–8:30 p.m.

**Parent Night Out**
- March 15
  - 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
  - Cost: $15

**Sisters’ Night Out**
- March 14
  - 6:30–8:30 p.m.

**ADULT BALLET CLASSES**
- Ballet Basic
  - 6:30–8:30 p.m., Mondays
  - Instructor: Katie Rogers
  - Instagram: @lotsarox

**CHILDCARE**
- Caprino Fitness
  - $7

**DANCE**
- Adult Ballet
  - Two Rivers Dance Center
  - Mondays & Saturdays
  - richard@tworiversdancecenter.com
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Senior Center thrives with dedicated support staff

By Katie Byram

Upon first glance, the Sierra 2 Senior Center is a relatively small operation within the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association. But the Senior Center in Room 12 has a growing number of participants. In 2017, the center hosted 6,712 visits from older adults—up 1,214 from the previous year’s attendance record. In addition to the increased volume of senior participants, the Senior Center also programs high-quality events and activities. All this wouldn’t be possible without the wonderful support staff—a program assistant, a volunteer and an intern.

Charso Elliot is the program assistant overseeing daily operations by answering inquiries, tracking attendance and playing barista by keeping the urns full of freshly brewed coffee. Although Charso is relatively new to the position, she already feels at home in the Senior Center. “The participants here are nice and sociable,” Charso said. “Someone is always inviting me to join their class or pool deck. I feel very comfortable and lucky to be working here.”

The program assistant position is part of the federally
Please see Senior Center, page 8

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IN THE DISTRICT
City programs address challenge of homelessness

We’re almost through winter, and things at the city are still moving along. I’m pleased to share a quick update on what’s been happening citywide with regard to those experiencing homelessness — and how we are continuing to keep this issue at the forefront.

As we think about solutions to homelessness in our city, we want to ensure they are:
• Compassionate to the needs of those most vulnerable in our community;
• Responsive to the concerns and impacts of homelessness on the greater community;
• Suitable for the needs of those currently experiencing homelessness;
• Suitable for older children.

We know this isn’t enough, but it’s movement in the right direction. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please be in touch.
TREES OF CURTIS PARK

Now is the time to plant trees in your yard

By Dan Pskowski

Spring is almost here. That tree you’ve been thinking about planting needs to go in the ground now. Your tree will need to adjust to its new environment and develop roots into the surrounding soil. This will help the young tree survive summer’s scorching days. Winter is the optimal time for tree planting, although spring and fall are acceptable times to plant. Summer time should be avoided.

Tree selection and placement are crucial considerations. You don’t want to plant a tree only to have an arborist recommend removal 15 years later because of poor health or lack of adequate space for root and crown development.

Not sure what type of tree to plant? Walk around and develop roots into the surrounding soil. This will help you and how a particular tree will fit into your landscape. You will also have a better idea of which tree species are adaptable to the soils in our neighborhood.

Give strong consideration to drought-tolerant trees such as our native oaks – valley oak, blue oak and interior live oak. Other drought-tolerant species include Chinese pistache, cork oak, western redbud and crape myrtle. Yet be aware that drought-tolerant species and lush green turf don’t go together, which is why the recently planted cork oaks along Crocker Drive are starting to lean and fall over.

Once narrowed down to a few species, you need to determine if there is adequate space in your yard. If you have high-voltage electrical wires overhead, select a small- to medium stature tree that will mature at 35 feet or less. You must also locate underground utilities (water, sewer and gas services) to your home. If you’re sure where the underground utility services are buried, call 811, the local one-call center, which will transmit information to affected utility operators.

This is a free service and recommended before any digging in your yard.

If you already have a large-canopy tree in your yard, consider planting an understory tree like the Japanese maple, dogwood or saucer magnolia. The flowers, fall color and screening effect add a nice accent to the landscape.

For more information about trees that do well in Sacramento, check out the Sacramento Tree Foundation’s SMUD Shade Tree List at sactree.com or the City of Sacramento’s street tree planting list at cityofsacramento.org under the Public Works Department/Urban Forestry. Sacramento is fortunate to have a climate that offers a palette of trees to fit almost every landscape situation. Let’s get planting.

Nextdoor

Trash accumulation draws neighbor complaints

By Craig McCaldish

• Homeless encampments have drawn significant criticism recently on Nextdoor.com from neighbors with a focus on the lack of attention from city officials to clean up the large amounts of trash that accumulate nearby. One post protesting the amount of garbage drew about 40 responses and comments from neighbors around the city.

• The Oak Park neighborhood has set up the “Oak Park Fix-it Café,” described on the Facebook page as “a new community collaboration intended to help build and empower our neighbors to connect with each other and build a community. There are 2,070 members from Curtis Park, Oak Park, Land Park and Hollywood Park residents also participate. Typical posts are about lost and found pets, crime reports, and neighbor recommendations for electricians, plumbers, roofers and handy-persons.

• Volunteers gather on the third Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oak Park United Methodist Church, 3600 Broadway. Additional volunteers are sought to be open more often. More information is available at: http://oakparkfixitcafe.us.

• A Hollywood Park neighbor asked about interest in walking around Land Park and received about 40 responses.

The group informally meets at the Land Park sign on Freeport Boulevard and Sutterville Road on several days at different times. You can find the times and days on Nextdoor when you read “nearby neighborhoods.”

Nextdoor.com is a free community-based social media site for neighbors to connect with each other and build a community. There are 2,070 members from Curtis Park.

Oak Park, Land Park and Hollywood Park residents also participate. Typical posts are about lost and found pets, crime reports, and neighbor recommendations for electricians, plumbers, roofers and handy-persons.

Oak Park connects neighbors to repair and maintain bicycles, clothing, household items, and more.

• Volunteers gather on the third Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oak Park United Methodist Church, 3600 Broadway. Additional volunteers are sought to be open more often. More information is available at: http://oakparkfixitcafe.us.

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Vote: Deadline to register is May 21

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The June primary. You must re-register if you have moved, changed your name, or want to change your political party registration.

Voter registration can be done online at: sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/. Paper registration forms may be obtained by calling (800) 345-VOTE (86683) or contacting the Sacramento County Elections Department.

California voters may check their statewide registration status online at votercen/sos.ca.gov. Voting in person will be available at 78 vote centers countywide. Sixteen of these will be open 10 days early,
Sac State student Tyffanie Wedding appointed to city housing commission

Curtis Park resident Tyffanie E. Wedding has been appointed to the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission by Mayor Darrell Steinberg.

Tyffanie is a women's studies major at Sacramento State University. She is a graduate of the Sacramento's District Attorney's Citizen's Academy. She has also done volunteer work as a crisis response advocate for WEAVE, where she currently works as an anti-trafficking case manager.

In 2017, she completed a fellowship with Black Women Organized for Political Action. Her research project in the fellowship was “Just One Time, Just One Night,” which explored issues of domestic minor sex trafficking. Such community experience exposed her to issues experienced by women in crisis, including homelessness.

“It is my hope that I can bring awareness to the issue of homelessness in Sacramento and contribute to the commission’s work by developing comprehensive solutions to this issue,” Tyffanie said. “I hope that people come to understand that homelessness presents in many ways, and to solve the issue we must change how we respond to homelessness and the policies and programs we develop to combat it.”

She plans to attend law school after she graduates from Sacramento State.

Taking their time settling in

Tak and Ladi Abe moved to Sacramento from San Francisco in 2013 to be closer to family and friends. Tak “likes the slower paced, relaxed atmosphere here, especially for raising kids.” Four years and two kids later, they decided they needed a larger home with a pool and room to grow.

Both were drawn to Curtis Park by visiting friends on Third Avenue. So when two adjacent lots across the street hit the market, they pounced.

Ladi, Tak, 4-year-old daughter Lalah, and 2-year-old son Omid are taking their time settling in.

After sprucing up the interior, they are now focused on planting a garden and making plans for the undeveloped lot. They are starting with a fairly clean slate after clearing all the ivy and dead and dying trees. Ladi has always wanted to have chickens, so a chicken coop is in the planning stages. And Omid and Lalah look forward to helping mom and dad create fun and imaginative play areas.

Both Tak and Ladi work out of their home. Ladi is a freelance copy editor; Tak is a personal chef and owner of Tak Cooking dinner party catering. While Tak specializes in a variety of cuisines, Ladi prefers his Japanese food.

― Leslie Goodbody

Flavor-of-the-month

David Gonsalves won the flavor-of-the-month auction item at the Wine Tasting so that his son, Apollo, could create the flavor “Smores.” From left, above, are his family, Julianne, Eileen, David and Apollo, enjoying the new flavor.

A house with ‘good bones’

Out visitors to a Third Avenue open house last summer saw the place as a major fixer-upper. The McCallin family saw it differently. Having experience working on 100-year-old homes, Keith McCallin said, “the house has good bones with a bit of osteoporosis.”

After moving from Salinas in 2014 and renting in the Pocket, Keith stumbled on Curtis Park during his bike commutes downtown. They were looking to buy a larger house, walking distance to schools and biking distance to downtown, and they found it.

Formerly a physician’s assistant at a family practice in Salinas, Keith is now a full-time single-payer health care activist. His wife, DeeAnne, is a program director at nonprofit CalHIPSO, and is in charge of helping health safety net providers get access to electronic health records.

While living in the Pocker, the McCallins were also considering high school options for their two daughters, Ellen, 14, and Monica, 12. Ellen, who is now a freshman at McClatchy, attended California Middle School, making it an easy choice for her sister, who is in seventh grade now.

― Leslie Goodbody
BRET HARTE NEWS
Neighbors invited for coffee with the principal

By Adrianna Gonzalez

You can join the next “Coffee with the Principal” session from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. the last Friday of the month in the Parent Room. Attendees must first report to the front office. All parents and the surrounding community are invited to fill up a hot cup of coffee and engage in informal conversations about what’s going on at Bret Harte and the wonderful opportunities available to the students.

During these sessions, parents can expect to hear directly from Principal James Tucker regarding topics such as program development and parent involvement. For example, parents can expect to discuss the wonderful opportunities available to the students. This includes the delightful pinochle players and the talented seniors of the Open Art Studio. A.J. has undertaken the monthly potlucks, providing rides home to those who need them, all because “the seniors are like family.”

The newest addition is Kate Lauter, a gerontology intern from Sacramento State University. Kate’s close bond and friendship with her grandfather sparked a curiosity and affinity for older adults and her pursuit of a gerontology degree. Her internship goals are to familiarize herself with the inner workings of the Senior Center and develop an activity for her community project. Kate hopes to “build relationships with adults at the Senior Center through program development but also by simply talking and listening.”

As the Senior Center progresses and evolves, it does so in the hands of people who have a genuine passion for the community it serves. Please stop by the Senior Center to become better acquainted with the staff who support it.

French: Neighbors enjoy chatting in the *belle langue*

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until the speaker finishes their phrase or idea. Other than that, it’s pretty free-form and flowing depending on who shows up. There are about three to four regulars and it suits us since everyone gets a chance at *la pratique.*

A retired professor joins a psychotherapist, dental hygienist, poet, actor-director and the occasional former French professor for two hours on the 24th Street side of Downtown. Most of us have been students at Sacramento Alliance Française, now moved to the Clara Center for the Performing Arts (the old, remodeled Fremont School at 24th and N streets). We also welcome advanced and native speakers, *bien sûr!* Then there’s our friend Mario, a native speaker from Montreal. He is an enthusiastic and competent French speaker—we’re thrilled to have him in the group—but his delivery is in Québécois, the dialect that is definitely not what you’d hear in Paris, or even in the south of France.

Le Cercle participants are mostly in our 50s and 60s. We in Le Cercle are happy to plod on with conversations in the *belle langue* and invite neighbors and friends (who are at least at the intermediate level or higher) to join us. We don’t feel bad because our native French Skype pals tell us they often have difficulty, especially with written French. Nobody in the group, save the occasional *professeur,* deludes themselves they’ll ever speak elegant French.

That would be *trop!* (Too much!) If you can’t be in Paris for the spring, at least you can feel a little bit of the magic of the language during our conversations. Come and introduce yourself. We will resume on March 31. Please send any questions to me at brucepierini@gmail.com with “French Conversation” in the subject line.

As vous!