

VIEWPOINT

A Publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association

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2791 - 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95818 • 452-3005 • www.sierra2.org

March 2017

Among the homes on this year's Home & Garden Tour is this rusticated Tudor. A flowing garden with cobbled walkways surrounds the home, which radiates its rich, earthy orange-brown tone.

Photo/Rudy Calpo



Home & Garden tour is a sure bet for April 29

By Lori Harder
Special to the Viewpoint

So much rain will give way to warm, sunny and verdant green days this spring. The highlight will be the 31st annual home and garden tour on April 29. Neighbors will want to mark their calendars and join the neighborhood's happiest day of the year.

During the event, people from throughout the region enjoy strolling under our leafy tree canopy, viewing lovely vintage homes and pretty gardens, outdoor entertainment, refreshments and music in the park.

The Capitol A's Model A Ford Club will return to tour classic cars throughout the neighborhood.

Tudor, Mediterranean and other revival styles are showcased this year. Within the setting of historic homes with original architectural features,

Sponsors/volunteers for Home & Garden Tour

Home & Garden tour organizers are seeking volunteers to either contribute two hours to help monitor homes on tour, or help for 45 minutes with equipment set-up or break-down (good exercise!). The event is Saturday, April 29 and volunteers may buy their tickets for \$10.

Contact Lori Harder at 801-7189 or lorikoi@sbcglobal.net. Sponsorships and program advertisements start at \$250; call Terri Shettle at 452-3005 or terri@sierra2.org.

a variety of decorating styles bring individuality. Features include recently renovated kitchens, baths, outdoor buildings, gardens and/or outdoor entertainment spaces. There is a variety

of furnishings and décor in traditional, eclectic and contemporary styles.

Throughout the event, neighbors and tour goers can enjoy activities at the north end of Curtis Park, including music and food, displays and arts and crafts for sale.

The home tour is a key fundraising event for programs sponsored by the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association and the Sierra 2 Center.

The tour is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online, beginning mid to late March, at www.Sierra2.org, or by visiting the Sierra 2 Center office. Ticket are \$25 in advance (\$20 for SCNA members), and \$30 on tour day (\$25 for SCNA members). The discount is a great reason to join the neighborhood association. Docents and event volunteers can purchase their ticket for \$10.

For more information, call Sierra 2 at 452-3005 or visit www.Sierra2.org.

City asks court to quash harassing subpoenas

By Viewpoint Staff

In two lawsuits filed against the City Council and the City of Sacramento by the Petrovich Development Company (Petrovich), at least 30 subpoenas seeking depositions and business records concerning communications about the requested fuel center permit (denied by the City in November 2015) have been served on City officials, City staff and several private citizens, including many SCNA board members.

In the first lawsuit — the writ suit — SCNA, Eric Johnson and Andrea Rosen were personally sued in addition to the City of Sacramento. The writ suit asks the court to reverse the City's decision last November 2015 to deny the conditional use permit requested by Petrovich to operate a mega-fuel station in Curtis Park Village.

In the second lawsuit — the damages suit — Petrovich sued the City of Sacramento asking for millions of dollars in damages stemming from the same action — its denial of a conditional use permit for the mega-fuel station, a permitted discretionary decision by the City Council.

Last May, Petrovich started issuing wildly over-broad subpoenas for depositions and business records to non-parties to the suit, including not only City staff, but also to private citizens, many of whom live in Curtis Park.

Two more rounds of subpoenas have been issued since then, with the most recent on Jan. 25, 2017 to 30 individuals including eight private citizens who live in Curtis

Please see Subpoenas, page 8

Community support needed for long overdue 24th Street Theatre repairs

By Terri Shettle
Executive Director, SCNA

Since the last theater update in 2005, we have logged more than 600,000 people, 3,000 shows, and 42,000 hours of activity in the Sierra 2 Theatre. The update in 2005 included new carpet, re-upholstered seats, refinished stage floor, some electrical improvements, and new paint throughout. With the amount of traffic flowing through the theater, a renovation is long overdue.

Discussions about improving the theater have

been going on for several years. Serving as the catalyst for a much bigger, long overdue theater improvement project, we successfully submitted a request for funding through the SMAC Arts & Cultural Facilities Grant. Specifically, we were approved for matching funds to replace the 281 seats. For every dollar we contribute to this project, SMAC will match it up to \$40,000.

The theater's seats were purchased in 1979, after decades of use at Memorial Auditorium. While having them reupholstered extended

Please see Theater, page 2



Photo/ Roger Eleakis

The 1929 theater needs a new roof, carpet, stage floor, curtains, house lights and cosmetic updates.

Gourmet hot dogs, beer tastings June 2

Due to scheduling conflicts, the next First Friday dinner will be held June 2. The June event will have a new format and will be called The Dog Days of Summer.

It will include beer tastings,

gourmet hot dogs and other fun elements designed to celebrate the neighborhood's passion for four legged friends.

The Viewpoint and www.sierra2.org will keep you updated.

SCNA begins strategic planning effort

By Andrea Rosen
Viewpoint staff writer

Last year the SCNA budgeted for a strategic planning consultant. It issued a Request for Proposal in January 2017 to get that effort under way. As most neighbors know, SCNA

operates both as a neighborhood association as well as a non-profit business operating a vibrant arts and community center that receives an estimated 400,000 visits a year and has a significant budget. The Sierra 2 complex is about 40,000 square feet

Please see Plan, page 3

Notes from Feb. 1st meeting

SCNA seeks team to develop and plan for Sierra 2 Center

Attending: Eric Johnson, Terri Shettle, Dan Pskowski, John Mathews, Andrea Rosen, Andrew Booth, Angela Mia, Larry Easterling, Lori Harder, Andi Liebenbaum, Jonathan LaTurner, Steffan Brown, Patrick Soluri
Guests – Website Team

Action Items

Andrew Booth served as interim secretary in **Kate Van Buren’s** absence.
Joe Eschleman has resigned from the board. **Jonathan LaTurner** volunteered to fill Joe’s role and was unanimously elected.
Eric Johnson will work on contacts for availability for Neighborhood Concerns Committee to host neighborhood meetings in regards to Craft House, a proposed

Next meeting

The next meeting of the SCNA Board will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 5 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2.

business for the 24th street site of the former Society for the Blind.
Discussion Items
As part of the board’s plan to work on the strategic plan, it requested proposals for a team that would develop and plan for the center. Three of the four requests were returned with proposals. All are within budget and ready to start. **Andrea, Eric,** and **Terri** will conduct interviews and make a selection by March 1 (*see story, page 1*).

President’s Report

The Board received a sneak preview of the new Sierra2.org website which will debut very soon. “It looks fantastic,” President Johnson said. He anticipates it will be much more user-friendly than the current site.
Johnson asked **Andi Libenbaum** to join the Finance Committee, and she accepted.

Executive Director’s Report

The condition of the theater roof and other repairs were discussed.

The roof is old and needs to be completely replaced. Executive Director Shettle is awaiting estimates.
The theater renovation will be the focus of this year’s Big Day of Giving for Sierra 2.
The Crab Feed was sold out.

Treasurer

The treasurer reported that the balance sheet is up \$5,000 ahead of budget, but the budget is at a \$49,000 budgeted loss for the year.
Sierra 2 Center’s revenue is below projections. The reason given is the lack of a planned Tech Lab.
The Senior Center is turning a profit.
The Workers’ Compensation took a \$3,000 hit after the year-end audit.

Development

The Development Committee discussed SCNA’s membership. Currently it has 655 members, which includes 48 new members.
The committee is discussing a supporter plan, such as a Friends

of Sierra 2, that would be more focused on the Sierra 2 Center’s operations instead of SCNA.
The committee also announced that the First Friday program would take a break and return in June.

Neighborhood Concerns Committee

The committee will consider the Fifth Avenue bicycle lane report in a month or so.
The committee reported receiving several emails opposing the plan to develop Craft House, which would be a café in the former Society for the Blind building on 24th Street.
SCNA will host a neighborhood meeting on the proposal.

Senior Center

There was discussion about the upcoming Age of Love mixer following the showing of a love story film on Valentine’s Day.
Respectfully submitted by
Andrew Booth

Theater: Renovation will enhance the use by our family of renters

(Continued from page one)

their life, it is past time for replacement. With this significant funding now available, we have the opportunity to replace the seats while also taking on all the necessary updates to bring the theater back to its full ‘experience’ potential.

The 24th Street Theatre was built as part of the Sierra School and is used for large meetings, lectures, film screenings, musical, theatrical and dance performances. The interior architecture, including wood beams and chandeliers, stage and dressing rooms date to the original construction of the auditorium in 1929.
Some of our frequent occupants of the theater include Front Street Animal Shelter, Young Actors Stage, Presley Theater Group, Light Opera

TERRI SHETTLE
Sierra 2 Executive Director



Theatre of Sacramento, WIC, Environmental Council of Sacramento, Sacramento Natural Food Co-op, Wild & Scenic Film Festival and the Community Writers of Squaw Valley.
The renovation of the theater will enable continued use by our family of renters as well as attract other groups,

such as musicians, notable speakers, performing arts festivals and other engagements that promote cultural connections.
As in 2003, we will be asking for community support to undertake this big project. In addition to the seat replacement, the theater needs a new roof, new carpet, stage floor, curtains, house lights, and general cosmetic updates. The HVAC system will likely also need to be addressed.

These improvements are expected to cost about \$125,000. Community contributions will help bring the project to fruition without jeopardizing other important parts of our work.
More information and details will be coming soon. Visit sierra2.org for information on making contributions, volunteering, or offering expertise. Plan to give on Big Day of Giving, May 4, where your dollars will get a boost.

VIEWPOINT

Editors	Dennis Cusick Susan MacCulloch Judy Scheible
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Contributors	Valerie Burrows Ariel Calvert Erik Fay Adrianna Gonzalez Rosanna Herber Eric Johnson Faith Johnstone Craig McCulloch Dan Pskowski Andrea Rosen Terri Shettle
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The *Viewpoint* appreciates neighbors who submit news about their babies, new neighbors, milestones and special events. This includes letters to the editor. Please send them by the 15th of the month. Please send to jgscheible@hotmail.com.

NOW HIRING!



Sierra 2 Center is looking for an energetic, enthusiastic customer service team member for the position of Facility Monitor, 20-25 hrs/wk, in a dynamic, vibrant and growing nonprofit organization. Contact terryo@sierra2.org or visit sierra2.org for more information.

Longtime board member decides to focus on his kids

Joe Eschelman of Third Avenue has served as treasurer on the SCNA board of directors for about six years but now he’d rather coach his son’s Little League team and take his daughter to softball.
Joe, an investment officer with Wells Fargo, and his wife, Megan, have two children, Henry, 7, and Josephine, 10. When Joe has a wedge of free time, he likes to trail run and lift weights.



Joe Eschelman

Two-story Spanish-style home will be open April 29

Home tour goers can anticipate walking through the rooms of this classic Spanish style home at the north end of the neighborhood.

Photo/Rudy Calpo



County Fair encourages kids to exhibit garden in a wheelbarrow

City kids exhibit at the Sacramento County Fair just like their rural counterparts who show off their animals through 4H. Only in the city, thanks to Sacramento County Fair Board, city youngsters can have a wheelbarrow garden to show off. And the materials are free. Entry deadline for first timers is March 1 with a workshop on the same day.

Curtis Park neighbor Coby Turner of Marshall Way flagged

this opportunity from her position as a director for the 52nd District Agricultural Association. The fair this year is May 25-29. The Farm Garden in a Wheelbarrow program is open to grades K-6. The program also provides learning materials about gardening and lesson plans. The minimum group size is 8.

To find out more about both programs, go to www.sacfair.com or call (916) 263-2975.

Plan: To assist, Board hired strategic planning consultant

(Continued from page one)

and includes a 297-seat theater, three dance studios, a banquet hall and many individual rooms, some of which are rented to regular tenants and some reserved for block users.

SCNA as a neighborhood association is unique due to its operation of the Sierra 2 Center. SCNA outgrew its last strategic plan quite a while ago and has never had a formal Mission or Vision statement. Having a strong and clear 5-year strategic plan accompanied by an implementation plan based on its Mission and Vision statements is widely considered important best practices for successful non-profits.

After reviewing proposals and conducting interviews of all

respondents, the Impact Foundry was selected. (Its former name was the Non Profit Resource Center.) Its executive director, Kim Tucker, will lead the strategic planning effort, which is expected to take about six months.

SCNA board members are committed to putting in the time and the work to make this a meaningful and productive effort. Terri Shettle, as SCNA's executive director, will spearhead the process in conjunction with the consultant. The Board may be seeking input from neighbors via an online survey, so please stay tuned.

As always, the Board encourages all neighbors to join SCNA so our neighborhood can maintain the Sierra 2 center and be prepared for the future.

What's new at Sierra 2

Lend your support

The second Nasty Women Fight Back Meet-Up & Fundraiser will take place from 6:15-8:15 p.m. Monday, March 6 in the Garden Room. All proceeds from the event will benefit Opening Doors, Inc. Entry is free, but guests are encouraged to make donations as well as bring wine and snacks to share.

The program highlight will be a talk by Deborah Ortiz, CEO for Opening Dors. She will speak about the nonprofit's current needs and projects.

Opening Doors Inc. works to empower refugees, immigrants, human trafficking survivors, and underserved Sacramento area residents to achieve self-sufficiency by accessing opportunities to mainstream economic and social systems. They do this by providing safe places, skills development, business loans, and connections to community resources, assisting clients to build financial and personal assets while maintaining their cultural identity and individual goals.

For additional information email Kathleen Taylor at kathleen@veteranwomensvoices.org.

Songwriters take note

Imagine taking a songwriting class from a songwriter who has "made it." You can! Back by popular demand, NSAI (Nashville Songwriters Association International) will be welcoming Steve Seskin for a unique all day songwriting workshop. Steve is the only pro songwriter and instructor invited to host a yearly workshop event at the legendary Bluebird Cafe in Nashville.

During this Sacramento workshop, he will go into great depth on writing melody & lyrics.

What makes Steve extra special is that he has been successful all these years while still living in California. He is a seven time #1 Grammy, ACM-, and CMA-nominated songwriter.

More info on Steve can be found at: <http://steveseskin.com/presskit/>.

The workshop takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 8 in Room 12. The cost is \$125. For more information or to reserve a seat, contact Gabrielle Kennedy at 476-5073 or by email at gabrielle@gabscourt.com.

— Valerie Burrows
Facility Administrator

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MARCH 2017 AT SIERRA 2

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Show times: March 8–April 9;
Wed., 7 p.m.; Thurs., 2 & 7 p.m.; Fri., 8 p.m.
Sat., 2 & 8 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$45-\$65 (other fees may apply)
Information: www.PlayhouseInfo.com;
Phone: (855) 448-7469
Video clip: vimeo.com/195539659

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ACTIVITIES AT SIERRA 2

DANCE

Awakening Bellydance
Cardio class to live music for all levels
Fourth Saturday, 11 a.m., Studio 1
Sawako Ama • lovebreath@infocircle.net

Irish Folk Dancing
1st and 3rd Monday, 7-9 p.m., Studio 1
Liam Irish, 530-677-5549

Polynesian Dance
Tuesday, 6-7:30 p.m.
Studio 2 • alohatyra@aol.com

River City Taps – Tap Dance
Adult Tap Dance
Studio 1 & 3
See website for class schedules
www.rivercitytaps.com
Richard@rivercitytaps.com

Auntie Amy's Hula
Thursday, 3-4 p.m., Studio 1
Amy Cornellier, 792-5561

West African Dance class
2nd & 4th Sundays
Noon-1:30 p.m., Studio 3
jessakaycruz@gmail.com

Kalanjali: Dance of India
Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Rooms 10 & 11
510-526-2183, katherine.kalanjali@gmail.com

Sacramento Academy of Ballet
Tuesday/Wednesday/ Thursday
4:15–6:30 p.m., Studio 1
Janelle Sebren, 971-0945

Brazilian Dance
Fridays, 7-8:30 p.m., Studio 2
Marta Santos, 833-9724

ART

Glass Mosaic Classes
Tuesday, Noon-3 p.m., Room 11
karensarp51@gmail.com

CHILDREN

Capital City Music Together
Children 5 and under. For schedule:
Jennie Ribadeneira: 990-3222
www.capitalcitymusictogether.com



Zumbini with Stephanie
Sundays, 9:30 & 10:30 a.m., Studio 1
Stephanie Tadlock, info@zumbinisacramento.com

Zumbini with Candace
Mondays, Studio 2, 10 a.m.
Candace Childers, candace@zumbinisacramento.com

Children's Creative Movement Class
Ages 5-6 • Saturdays, 10–11 a.m., Studio 1
Richard@rivercitytaps.com

Children's Pre-Ballet Class
Ages 7-8 • Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon, Studio 1
Richard@rivercitytaps.com

MARTIAL ARTS

Eagle Claw Kung Fu Academy of Sacramento
Wednesday, 6–7 p.m. 441-7215
Saturday, 12:30-2 p.m., Studio 2

Sacramento Sword School
Martial Sword Arts of Europe
Thursday, 6:15-8:15 p.m., Studio 2
Maestro Eric Myers: 276-2247

Unified Chinese Martial Arts
For schedule, e-mail Shifu Byron at
Lohan36@sbcglobal.net

OTHER

The Forum
6-7 p.m., Thursdays, Garden Room
Dr. Leona Kashersky
sacramentocounseling.net

Cochlear Community Meetings
6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. May 18, Aug. 17, Nov. 16
10:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Apr. 11, Oct. 17
Room 12 • Cochlear.com/US/events

Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation
1st Sunday of the month, 1–4 p.m. Curtis Hall
knowthyselfassoul.org

Marxist School of Sacramento
Speaker Series: call for schedule
799-1354, marxistschool.org

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

Sacramento Native American Believers Fellowship
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Room 10
Lee Aviles, 203-6461

Baha'is
Call for schedule: 491-5871
sacamentobahais.org

Mustard Seed Faith Ministries
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 9
Pastor Dorothy Hayes, 213-0901

Good Shepherd Parish
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 12
Contact: Mother Elizabeth English
502-6773, GoodShepherdCommunity.org

Empowerment Theological Seminary
Monday, 6-9:55 p.m., Room 9, 308-7646
empowermenttheologicalseminary.com

True Life Ministries
Sundays, 2:45-4:15 p.m., Room 9
Pastor Grant Harper: 382-2885

YOGA

Iyengar Yoga
Tuesday, 10-11 a.m. • Studio 1
Gladys Callander: 743-0246

FITNESS

Fierce FUNK Dance Fitness
2nd & 4th Saturday, 10 a.m., Studio 2
\$5 at the door. All levels welcome
Jessica Brown, jnbrown23@gmail.com

Zumba with Toya & Linda
Monday/Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Studio 2
LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.com

Bellyfit®
Tuesdays, 2 p.m., Studio 3
Randi Robinson-Snaer
randirobinson@mac.com

Dancehall PowerUp
Thursday, 8:30-9:30 p.m., Studio 3
LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.com

Motivational Aerobic Dance Exercise
Monday/Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Studio 1 • Kia: keynorrisfitness@gmail.com

Zumba
Friday, 6-7 p.m. & Sunday, 11–noon. Studio 2
Abraham Contreras, pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

Weight Watchers
Thursday, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. • Room 10 • (800) 374-9191

YouGotThis! Fitness
Easy 8s Dancercise
Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Studio 1
Shelly@yougotthisfitness.com

Hooping
Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Room 10
Info: contact@resolutecirclesgroup

MUSIC

Nashville Songwriters Association
2nd Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 12,
Free • Gabrielle Kennedy: 476-5073

Japanese Taiko drumming
Tuesday, 7-9:30 p.m., Studio 1
Kristy Oshiro, kristyoshiro.com



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Senior Center kicks off Lunch & Learn series

Spring at the Senior Center brings new ideas, activities and partnerships. This month, we're kicking off a new Lunch & Learn series, starting a scrapbooking club, and offering a free exercise class.

New educational series offers budget advice, self-care help over lunch

The Lunch & Learn quarterly series is a presentation-over-lunch-style event. Through partnerships with different organizations and professionals, seniors can enjoy talks on a variety of interesting and educational topics.

Lunch is generously provided by Eskaton Monroe Lodge.

The first presentation is at noon Thursday, March 9 in Room 10. It will explore financial tools, budgets and savings goals.

Financial psychologist and AARP volunteer Anita Johnson will discuss the importance of spending and saving plans, and will review strategies to cut costs and save money in order to achieve financial goals.

March's menu includes an



Financial psychologist Anita Johnson

assortment of pasta, green and fruit salads. Admission to individual presentations is \$8.

Preserving precious memories with Tricia

Join us for an introductory scrapbooking workshop from 10–11 a.m., Tuesday, March 14 in Room 12. Instructor Tricia Nelson will cover design and organization ideas, and tips for safely preserving precious memories.

Participants should bring 6–8 photos for the creation of a unique page for a new or current album project. The \$15 fee includes supplies. Spaces are limited; please call us at 455–6339 to reserve your spot with payment accepted at the door.

Scrapbooking Your Ancestors

Also new is an art club called Scrapbooking Your Ancestors; it will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesdays. It will be led by Angela Au, a gerontology student at Sac State and intern at the Sierra 2 Senior Center. Au will provide weekly prompts to give members inspirations on completing their scrapbook pages.

The club is also a great opportunity for like-minded individuals to share their passion of scrapbooking, begin genealogical documentation, or start a hobby to

share with loved ones, especially grandchildren.

Great workout and full body benefits, all with a chair

It's important to adopt a "work smarter not harder" philosophy when it comes to exercise. The Wellness Program's Chair Exercise with Allison is specially designed for seniors on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 11. Instructor Allison understands the importance of moves that combine essential muscle groups to gain strength, flexibility and balance. With a chair, an effective piece of exercise equipment, students will get a full-body workout, which can be continued at home.

In addition to physical benefits, this class can boost brain function and improve diabetes-related issues like poor circulation and glucose and metabolic control. "It is not just about adding years to your life, it's about adding life to your years," Allison says, and that includes a sense of well-being and energy as well as protection for your heart, mind and mood.

Class will be free on Wednesday, March 8. Chair Exercises with Allison is usually \$10 to drop in, or punch cards can be purchased in the Sierra 2 Center office. For details, call Allison at (916) 451-7815.

Schenirer's message

We thrive through teamwork

We all love our neighborhood for a variety of reasons.

From the historic homes, to the mature trees, to the community events such as First Friday, concerts in the park, the home tour, movies in the park or Curtis Fest, there is a lot to appreciate. However, none of these things have happened by chance. Over the decades our neighborhood has been home to neighborhood leaders who have worked countless hours to protect, preserve and enhance our neighborhood and our city as a whole.

As a councilmember from Curtis Park, I'm honored to follow in the footsteps of city leaders such as former mayors Phil Isenberg, and Joe Serna. They left big shoes to fill, and I hope I'm doing my part. However elected office is not the only way of giving back to our community. Over the decades Curtis Park has been fortunate to be home to a dedicated group of neighbors working tirelessly to make our neighborhood great.

This month I wanted to give a shout out to a few of these leaders like SCNA President Eric Johnson. Eric has told me on more than one occasion that he ran for president to help shepherd the neighborhood through the Curtis Park/Crocker Village development, assuming it would take a year or so. Eric was just reelected to his fifth term. Maybe this will be the year. In any case, thank you Eric for your tremendous dedication and hard work. In addition to Eric, there is a group of individuals who have spent years protecting our trees, planning events and defending the integrity of the neighborhood. John Mathews, Rosanna Herber, Dan Pskowski, Andrea Rosen, and the SCNA board of directors. We all owe you a huge "thank you."

As we know, this neighborhood doesn't always agree



City Councilmember Jay Schenirer

on the issues. Whether it was street closures, the location of the children's playground, or a fuel center, there have always been folks on both sides of the issues. We should acknowledge our neighbors who we might not always agree with but who are sincere in their love for Curtis Park and advocate for what they think is best. Every voice is welcome and the debate makes us better.

Finally, I would like to give huge kudos to some of our neighborhood's youngest leaders: Luna, Ellee, Mariah and Mira of Fifth Avenue. Last month, after the tragic passing of a classmate at Leonardo DaVinci school, these young leaders set up a lemonade stand and raised \$237 to defray burial expenses for the grieving family. I mourn with them for the loss of their friend, and, I was deeply moved by their act of kindness.

There is no lack of leadership in Curtis Park, it's one reason we all live here. As a councilmember, I am thankful for the partnership I have with the SCNA board and the other neighborhood leaders. Together we get things done and make our neighborhood and city a better place to live. To my neighbors who love our community, appreciate the events that make Curtis Park special but maybe have not engaged or volunteered to make them happen, don't be shy. Dig in. It is your community too, and it takes a village.



Photo/Brett Williams

At their lemonade stand on behalf of their friend: left, Luna Williams, Mira Amador-Chen, seated, and Ellee Amador-Chen.

MARCH 2017 ACTIVITIES

SIERRA 2 SENIOR CENTER

Room 12 • 455-6339

seniorcenter@sierra2.org

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Activities are free except where noted. (Donations appreciated.)

FITNESS

Gentle Yoga

10–11 a.m., Wednesdays
\$10/drop in; \$30/4 classes
Pat Shaw: 856-0136

Fall Prevention

11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m., Tuesdays/Thursdays
4 classes \$20; 8 classes/\$35
Pat Shaw: 856-0136

LEISURE

Book Club

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., 2nd Monday

Mar. 13: "The Burgess Boys,"

by Elizabeth Strout

April 10: "The Monuments Men"

by Robert M. Edsel

Nonfiction Book Club

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., 3rd Thursday

Mar. 16: "The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court"

by Jeffery Toobin

April 20: "The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl" by Timothy Egan

Popcorn & Movie

1:30–3:30 p.m., 3rd Tuesday
"Bridge of Spies"
Donation: \$1-3 (includes popcorn)

Beginning Drumming

1-2 p.m., Tuesdays, Studio 1
\$7/class; \$25/ month

My Story Project meeting

1-3 p.m., 2nd Monday of the month

Life History Writing

1-4 p.m., Wednesdays

Open Art Studio

Noon–3 p.m., Friday. Room 11

EDUCATION

Beginning Drawing

(No classes December–March)

Grief & Loss Support Group

9:30-11 a.m., 1st and 3rd Fridays, Room 12

CARDS & GAMES

Ginasta & Mahjong

9:30 a.m.–noon, Mondays

Fun Bridge

1-4 p.m., Thursdays

Pinocle

1-3 p.m., Fridays

WELLNESS PROGRAM

10-class punch card \$60; 5-class punch card \$35; Drop-ins \$10
Purchase cards in the Senior or Sierra 2 Center offices

Pilates with Lauren

11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Studio 3
10:30-11:30 a.m., Fridays, Studio 3

Chair Exercises with Allison

1-2 p.m., 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday, Room 11

Healthy Back

5-6:15 p.m., Tuesdays, Room 9

Yoga + You

11:30-12:30 p.m., Wednesdays

Chair Massage

4-5 p.m., Mondays
Appointment only

Fitness Walking & Lessons

9 a.m., Thursdays
Lessons: punch card; Walking: Free

Tai Chi

10:30–11:15 a.m., Mondays in Studio 3 and Thursdays, Room 12

EVENTS

Potluck

Noon- 2:00 p.m., Last Friday of the Month

Lunch & Learn: Budgeting and Savings

Presenter: Anita Johnson
Noon – 1:30 p.m., March 9, Room 10. Fee: \$8

Preserving Precious Memories with Tricia Scrapbooking Workshop

10 – 11 a.m., March 14, Room 12. Fee: \$15
Register by calling 455-6339; Pay at door

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Trees in Curtis Park

Getting to the root of the problem

By Dan Pskowski
Viewpoint staff

Several residents have inquired about the recently planted oak trees along Crocker Drive why they look like the leaning Towers of Pisa. There are at least a dozen of the these cork oaks (*Quercus suber*) that are leaning, and one has already been cut down, most likely because it blew over during one of the several recent storms.

There are approximately 50 cork oaks trees lining the street that were planted in early 2014. If you look closely at their trunks, you'll see the outer bark is made up of cork. This is the same cork used to seal wine in a bottle. The cork is harvested from the tree just like wool from a sheep. Therefore, the tree isn't cut down, and it continues to produce cork.

But why are these cork oaks leaning? Is it a shallow rooted species? No. Cork oaks are a deep rooting tree native to the Western Mediterranean and North Africa whose climates are similar to Sacramento's hot dry summers. Drought tolerant tree species develop a deep root system. What's happening here is these trees were not properly rooted into the surrounding soil to sufficiently anchor them.

There are several reasons why this happened. The tree could be pot bound. The tree was kept in the nursery container too long and the roots grew in a circular pattern conforming to the inside of the container. If a tree is pot bound before it is planted, the roots need to be cut and spread out. This can be done easily if the roots are ½ to 1 inch in diameter.

However, if the roots are 2 to 3 inches in diameter, it is difficult to correct these circling roots, which arborists refer to as girdling roots. This rooting pattern causes the tree to fall over during a storm event. Trees with severe girdling roots should never be planted.

Another cause for lack of rooting could be compacted soil. The construction of the road and adjacent sidewalk require 90 percent soil compaction. The soil in the park strip wasn't properly prepared for planting trees. Good soil drainage is crucial for root growth. Roots won't grow in a soil that stays wet and doesn't have a chance to dry out. The turf which was installed up to the tree's base exacerbates the problem. The constant watering that the newly installed turf requires doesn't allow the tree to form deep roots.

What should be done to resolve the leaning oak problem? Unfortunately, all these cork oaks, not just the ones leaning, should be removed and replaced with a more appropriate tree species. The cork oaks were planted in 4 ½ ft. to 5 ½ ft. wide planters, which are too small a planting space for a large canopy shade tree. U.C. Master Gardeners recommend not planting cork oaks in a turf area. Drought tolerant trees aren't compatible with summer watering, which can predispose the tree to certain root diseases.

SCNA Board President Eric Johnson sent a letter



Photo/Dan Pskowski

A young cork oak planted in 2014 along Crocker Drive is one of at least a dozen that have become uprooted.

to the City's Urban Forester in July 2014 expressing concern over the planting of these cork oaks. SCNA was troubled to learn that Urban Forestry's own tree planting guidelines recommend at least a 7 ½ ft. wide planter for large canopy trees. Furthermore, the City should have required Petrovich Development to construct a 7 ½ ft. wide planter for these cork oaks. Why, because they were allowed to remove

over 250 trees on site and, therefore, did not have to design roads and other infrastructure around existing trees. The Urban Forester wrote back defending the selection of the cork oaks.

SCNA sent a letter in June 2016 to the City's Public Works Director expressing concerns about the fill soil around Portola alley oaks and reiterated the concern about the cork oaks along Crocker Drive. The City again refused to acknowledge the poor tree selection and take any action to replace the cork oaks.

Hopefully, when the cork oaks with poor root development have to be replaced, a tree more compatible to the site will be replanted.

Run Because You Can 5K will come through Curtis Park April 2

By Viewpoint Staff

Local nonprofit Runnin' for Rhett will hold its seventh annual Run Because You Can 5K April 2. The run will start at Sacramento City College, go over the new foot bridge into Crocker Village, head east on Fifth Avenue, south down 26th, then around William Curtis Park, west on 10th Avenue, south on Crocker Drive, and across the Sutterville overpass back to City College. The run usually has between 2,500 and 3,000 participants, and most of them are children between 8 and 13.

Runnin' for Rhett is a nonprofit foundation established in December 2007 in memory of Rhett SeEVERS, who passed away unexpectedly in 2004 at age 7 due to complications from

cerebral palsy. Since the program began, grants valued at \$540,000 have been awarded to 352 schools, allowing nearly 21,000 students to participate in training for their runs.

The foundation recently awarded nearly \$80,000 in grants to area schools providing a five-week afterschool training program in preparation for the April run.

The organization is now recruiting volunteers to help with the run. They would love to have Curtis Park neighbors come out and be part of the event.

Volunteers can sign up at <https://signup.com/group/635528792097>

The majority of the runners sign up within the last two weeks before the race. They hope for a large contingency of Curtis Park runners.

They have issued a coupon code for \$10 off of the race: CURTISPARKRES. It is case sensitive and will expire March 31 at 2 p.m.

Registration is available at www.runbecauseyoucan.org.

Organizers are working with the Sacramento Police Department on the best path for residents to enter/exit the neighborhood. All residents will be notified with written communication a couple of weeks ahead of the event, and signs will be posted along the route one week prior to race day to be sure the residents who don't read the notification will be aware of the event in their neighborhood. At this point, it's expected Sutterville will remain open to traffic. SPD will only shut down one lane.

Neighborhood notification: The residents directly on the course and within two blocks of it will receive a letter with details and a map. Signs will also be placed in the neighborhood.

The area of the course directly around the park is actually on the path inside the park, not on the street.

Run organizers are working with Republic Waste Management to supply dumpsters and trash bins. Volunteers will pick up trash on the race course. In this event, there has never been a complaint about trash.

Runnin' for Rhett does not place security on the route; however, organizers do have SPD officers and vehicles on the course to manage and direct traffic.



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A sellout crowd enjoyed good food and sweets at the annual crab feed



Kara Leong of Curtis Way, with husband Ed Olkowski at right, won (during the Dessert Dash) the Salted Caramel Parfaits made by La Famiglia.

Photos/Angela O'Neil

The third annual Crab feed at Sierra 2 Center drew more than 120 hungry people to Curtis Hall last January. The event is the first of



Happy crabbing is Curt Davenport.

several important 2017 fundraisers for the SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center. It was generously sponsored by Frank Cook and Cook Realty, and raised approximately \$10,000.

In addition to delicious crab, attendees enjoyed hearing Beatles tunes performed by students of the Sacramento Prep Music Academy and receiving their food served by students in McClatchy High School's HISP program and its debate clubs. Both groups benefit from the event.

For the popular Dessert Dash, delicious desserts were donated by SCNA board members, Sierra 2 staff, community individuals and La Famiglia, Sierra 2's house caterer which made Salted Caramel Parfaits. Freeport Bakery made a beautiful Under the Sea themed cake, which was arranged for by an anonymous donor.



Photo/Brad Realmuto

Before the flavor-of-the-month went public, Gunther's ice cream maker Brad Realmuto invited the Blackman family and friends Larry Ginsburg and Lynn Simon to sample his creation. At the front table, left to right, are Ginsburg, Simon (holding a tin of her homemade Rugelah cookies), Josh Blackman, Ariel Calvert and Carol Blackman. At the back table, from left in front row, are Tatum Blackman, Sydney and Avery Acosta; in the back row, from left, are Peter Blackman, Abbie Blackman, Andrew Acosta and Jack Blackman.

Family cookie recipe becomes Gunther's flavor-of-the-month

Carol and Peter Blackman of 26th Street got an unexpected surprise from their high school friend Larry Ginsburg at last year's wine tasting. Ginsburg, and his girlfriend Lynn Simon, came up from the Bay Area for the event.

At the auction they were captivated by the Gunther's flavor-of-the-month item. After they won the bid for it, they gave it to the Blackmans with the flavor designed

by Lynn. She wanted the ice cream to taste like the Jewish cookie Rugelah. When Carol introduced the flavor to Gunther's ice cream maker Brad Realmuto, he was intrigued. He researched it and included all of Lynn's ingredients: apricot preserves, chocolate chips, currants, walnuts and cinnamon in a creamy cookie-flavored ice cream.

Brad reported brisk sales of this February flavor.

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Learning to code with colors, characters and fun elements

By Adriana Gonzalez
Viewpoint staff writer

Bret Harte is doing its part to keep up with the times. The new literacy for the 21st century is computer science education. According to data from the Bureau of Labor of Statistics (BLS), computer programming and computer science occupations are expected to grow more than 9 million jobs between 2012 and 2022.

During this time there is expected to be a shortage of talent for these positions so it's important to get the next wave of technology talent started as early as possible. At Bret Harte, kindergartners have been engaging in early Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related curriculum. They are learning to code, thanks to Project Lead the Way, a non-profit organization that teaches in-demand skills such as computer science, engineering and other STEM courses.

Ted Richardson is one of the teachers implementing the program with his kindergarten class. Richardson is certified in providing STEM instruction, and he trains fellow teachers in higher grades so that they, too, can implement computer programming in their classrooms.



Twice a week kindergartners become programmers for an afternoon, and the classroom becomes a computer lab filled with Mac Book laptop stations for each student. The children learn to code through a program on code.org, a non-profit dedicated to expanding access to computer science curriculums and increasing participation of women and underrepresented minorities for K-12 in the United States. The coding curriculum through code.org comes in a range of formats designed for all ages and abilities. The program makes it fun for the young kids by incorporating bright colors, cute characters and elements that get make it fun to learn.

Young students start off by learning the basics, moving objects, dragging and dropping visual blocks. As students advance to higher levels, they learn about loops, debugging and sequences. Richardson can monitor students' progress on the teacher homepage to make sure his students stay on the lesson plan.

Introducing coding as young as five and six years old will help lay the basic skills of coding, such as sequencing, pattern recognition and logic, the foundation that trains them to think like computer programmers.

So, while students are having fun using a series of commands, they are sharpening their critical thinking, problem solving and math skills.



Photo/Adriana Gonzalez

On the computer is Kindergartener Sofia Uribe who is learning to code with help from her teacher Ted Richardson.

Subpoenas: Many recipients were outraged at Petrovich's demands

(Continued from page one)

Park. According to the motion filed Feb. 16, 2017, the City of Sacramento asks the Court to quash the subpoenas and to issue a protective order to protect them from "unwarranted annoyance, embarrassment, or oppression, or undue burden or expense."

The City charges Petrovich with issuing the subpoenas directed at personal communications of private citizens communicating with the City... for the purposes of harassing and chilling First Amendment Rights. The City's lawyers called the subpoenas egregious, harassing and intended to target protected speech. The City argues that the subpoenas are unconstitutional since they aim to


harass and chill non-party private individuals' First Amendment rights to petition their government, free speech and freedom of association.

The subpoenas are so broad they ask for fuel-center related communications between private citizens for a seven-year period (2010 forward) and are not limited to private citizen communications with their elected officials or City staff. Recipients were outraged at Petrovich's demand that they review and turn over seven years of communications between them and anyone else, including private communications not sent to the City, about the proposed fuel center. Many expressed anger at the perceived harassment.

In his lawsuits, Petrovich alleges that he did

not get a fair hearing from the City and that the City relied on information that was uninformed and not permitted as part of the basis for rejecting his request for a fuel center permit. In the writ suit, Judge Mike Kenny denied to enforce compliance with the 31 subpoenas issued by Petrovich and later, permitted limited discovery for former Mayor Johnson, City Council members, a few of their staff, the City Clerk and the City Manager. In the damages lawsuit, the question of quashing these subpoenas will be addressed for the first time.

The public hearing on this motion is scheduled for 2 p.m. March 22 in Department 53. SCNA will update neighbors about the public hearing in the event of changes.



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