

Photo/Rudy Calpo

**Distinct Mission Style house with full upstairs balcony and courtyard.**

## Seven homes will open their doors for the 28<sup>th</sup> neighborhood tour

By Lori Harder and Erik Fay  
Special to the Viewpoint

With an “aa-WOO-gah”, vintage Model A’s will kick off the annual Home and Garden tour April 26 by rolling up in front of seven Sierra-Curtis Park neighborhood homes and gardens. Food, music,

artists at work, presentations and historic displays in the north end of Curtis Park will round out the day.

This year’s tour features homes throughout the neighborhood built between 1910 and 1932 in Tudor Revival, Monterey and Foursquare styles. While all homes have beautiful original features, the interiors vary

### Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour

Date: April 26  
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Tickets: Advance tickets \$20 (\$15 for SCNA members); On tour day, \$25 (\$20 for SCNA members).

TICKETS can be purchased online at [www.sierra2.org](http://www.sierra2.org); at the Sierra 2 Center; Collected Works, 4524 Freeport Blvd.; or Haus, 5601 H St.

SCNA members may order discounted tickets online or at the Sierra 2 Center.

Docents are asked to purchase their special discount tickets through the Sierra 2 Center.

For more information: 916.452-3002.

from contemporary to traditional and show a wide color palette. Updated kitchens and bathrooms also vary in size and style. Outdoor spaces range from serene gardens and gracious patios to striking entertainment areas, fountains and swimming pools.

Two homes are Monterey style

*Please see Tour, page 3*

## Toxic clean-up almost complete at Curtis Park Village project

By Viewpoint staff

The state is nearly ready to declare the railyard clean and suitable for development as the Curtis Park Village. Documents issued by the Department of Toxic Substance and Control state that, with one exception, toxic soil remediation goals have been met.

The exception is for the commercial level toxics that will be buried under the commercial streets. Also, ground water remediation will continue for about five years, even though the system has reduced concentrations of chemicals to a point where treatment is not needed to meet City regulations for discharging into the sewer system.

“The toxic levels in the two water plumes associated with the site have significantly decreased, but groundwater will continue to be extracted until the cleanup is complete,” said Tom Tse, project

*Please see Village, page 8*

## Annual Egg Hunt starts April 12 with pajama parade

The ninth annual SCNA Spring Egg Hunt will start with a pajama parade at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 12 at the north end of Curtis Park. Adults will lead their pajama clad youngsters through the neighborhood to the Sierra 2 Center for arts and crafts in Curtis Hall before the egg hunt.

Thanks to our return volunteer Victor Calderon, the Bunny will on hand for photo opportunities provided by Eleakis & Elder Photography. Suggested donation for these digital photos is \$5, which the photographers give to Sierra 2.

The Egg Hunt dash begins at 10:30 a.m. on the Sierra Green behind the Sierra 2 Center.



Eleakis & Elder Photography

Separate sections will be set up for toddlers, ages 3-4 and for ages 5 and up.

Refreshments will be served for the children.

The event is free and open to the public.

Volunteers are needed to assist with crafts and crowd control. If you are interested in helping, please contact Faith Johnstone at [faith@sierra2.org](mailto:faith@sierra2.org) or 452-3005.

## Caterers to serve breakfast for First Friday dinner April 4

Neighbors and friends may want to check their watches when they first see that it’s breakfast for dinner at First Friday on April 4. This special meal will be prepared by the Sierra 2 tenant La Famiglia Catering.

On the menu are pancakes with butter and maple syrup, scrambled

eggs, sausage patties and assorted muffins.

Dinner is from 6-8 p.m. on April 4 in Curtis Hall. Dinner is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 10. Beer \$4, Wine and Mimosas \$5, Soda/Water \$1.

Diners in PJ’s are welcome.

## W-X Freeway project will push neighbors to find new ways to work

*Editor’s note: Cal Trans announced on March 27 it would start construction April 22, not May 2 as first reported.*

By Craig McCulloch  
Viewpoint staff writer

A major freeway project near our neighborhood has Curtis Park residents anticipating significant traffic congestion and headaches during May and June. The “W-X Freeway” (Highway 50) project between 18th Street and 24th Street will change how we drive during those months. This section of the elevated freeway north of Broadway will be resurfaced and resealed. The project includes strengthening the supporting columns and widening the freeway shoulders. The construction will also impact traffic on I-5, I-80 and Hwy 99.

During the construction, freeway traffic will be funneled into either the westbound or eastbound freeway lanes, and the opposite direction will be temporarily closed. Several nearby freeway on and off ramps will closed, as well as the connectors to I-80 and Highway 99 will close during part of this time.

Drivers will need to plan alternate routes for their transportation needs. It will be a good time to use alternate transportation, such as light rail, bus, car pools and bicycles. Some may

want to consider working from home. Despite a 24/7 work schedule, Cal Trans warns there will be delays up to one hour during commute times.

Drivers will find updated information and alternate routes at [www.fix50.com](http://www.fix50.com).

Construction starts May 2 and is scheduled to be completed by June 17. No planned disruption is scheduled over the Memorial Day weekend.

The project is in two stages.

**Stage 1, May 2-22:** Affects eastbound traffic on the W-X Freeway. The on ramps to Hwy 50 at 16th Street and 11th Street will be closed. The connectors to both eastbound I-80 (Cap City Freeway) and southbound Hwy 99 will also be closed during this time. Hwy 99 to the south will be accessed at either Broadway or 12th Avenue.

**Stage 2, May 28-June 17:** Affects westbound traffic on the W-X Freeway. The off ramps at 16th Street and 10th Street will be closed. The connectors from westbound I-80 and the northbound Hwy 99 to westbound Highway 50 will be also closed. Traffic will be diverted to eastbound Highway 50 with turnaround exits. Signs for detours will be marked.

*Note:* The exact locations of the detours are still under consideration. Maps for the detours will be available at [www.fix50.com](http://www.fix50.com).

For more information: 530-741-5474.



# Forum for City Council candidates set for May 5

**What:** Candidate Forum Night  
**Who:** City Council candidates  
Jay Schenirer and Ali Cooper  
**When:** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Monday, May 5  
**Where:** Curtis Hall, Sierra 2  
**Cost:** Free

The League of Women Voters will moderate the Candidates Forum Monday, May 5 in Curtis Hall. The free event is sponsored by the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association. The forum will give the voters an opportunity to see and meet **Jay Schenirer** and **Ali Cooper**, the candidates for the District 5 seat on the City Council. Attendees will be able to submit questions during the forum. The primary is June 3. A City Council candidate needs at least 50 percent of the vote plus one vote to win. Organizers expect to start the forum promptly at 6:30. Seating is limited to 150.

## Notes from March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting

# Following proposed change for open space in Village project, Board reviews agreement

In light of the proposed changes to the open space in Curtis Park Village, the board reviewed the previous agreement negotiated with Petrovich Development. Board member Andrea Rosen presented a timeline of the project's revisions, with special attention to recent changes that have been proposed but not yet adopted by the City Council. The board did not take a position on the proposed change because the development company has not yet submitted a request to change its plans for open space to the City Planning department. *(President Eric Johnson told the Viewpoint later that he expects the board to take a position if the request is submitted.)*

The SCNA Board meets at 7 p.m. in the Garden Room on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is April 9. For more information, call the Sierra 2 office at 452-3005.

### Sierra 2 lease renewed

The board approved a new five-year lease for Sierra 2. While the majority of the lease terms remained the same, it now contains background information on the relationship between SCNA and the operation of Sierra 2 Center. The board considered pursuing a 10-year lease agreement,

but determined it would be disadvantageous in regards to the possessory interest tax.

### Donation to Oak Park Little League

SCNA will donate \$250 to the Oak Park Little League to help purchase uniforms. Councilmember Schenirer reached out to community groups to contribute toward the \$1,500 total cost for uniforms, without which the team would be unable to compete this season. The board agreed this is an important community activity worth supporting.

— Submitted by Nicole Quinonez, Board Recording Secretary

## President's message

# Community planning work broadens my perspective on city's needs

I really enjoy being on the board of the SCNA, and I enjoy even more being president. Luckily, presidential duties do not fill the entire day, so in addition to a day job with the Department of Housing and Community Development and the weekend gigs as a benefit auctioneer, there's time to be part of the Sacramento Citizens' Planning Academy.

The annual Planning Academy consists of about 30 Sacramento City residents who undergo a competitive application process. Those selected undergo an 11-week series of seminars to become intimately acquainted with the city's planning process: everything from SACOG's Blueprint to preservation districts to CEQA to design review.

I just completed our third week of sessions, and I continue to be blown away by how knowledgeable and accommodating city staff is. The facilitator

**ERIC JOHNSON**  
SCNA Board President



began this meeting with, "How many of you have been to the Planning Desk? What was your experience? And yes, I'm wearing my bulletproof vest."

There proceeded half an hour of kvetching about the wait, the attitude, the caprice. Given our planning experience five years ago, there's a good chance it was accurate. But the people who presented are

aware of that perception/reality, and it sounds like they want to change it.

The heartening aspect, however, has been the other people in the Academy. The city did a great job in selecting a cross-section of Sacramento. There are architects, retirees, passionate neighborhood advocates, small business owners and everything in between.

This helps me. It's easy to get sucked into the passion of people in our neighborhood, and we're lucky enough to live in an upscale part of the city.

Our big concerns are the size of the green space, or the kind of business that will go into Curtis Park Village. Folks in other parts of town are desperate to develop any green space at all, or attract any business they can. I need to be reminded of that.

Make no mistake: I will continue to represent the interests of Neighborhood Association members to the best of my ability. I think that city staff is continuing to work their tails off to the best of their ability. And I hope that you, readers, will continue to support SCNA to the best of your ability, helping us achieve our purpose of providing cultural, educational and recreational opportunities and services for our neighborhood and the community.

## Correction:

In the March edition of the *Viewpoint*, we mistakenly stated the 1929 home appearing in the advertisement would be open during the April 26 Home Tour. It is not on the tour. We regret the error.

At HOME in Curtis Park.



Steffan Brown

(916) 717-7217

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Deadlines

Deadline for *Viewpoint* copy is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Neighbors who have an interesting story or event in our neighborhood are encouraged to submit ideas or articles to the editor via the Sierra 2 office at 452-3005.



# Tour: Historian and arborist will present free programs

*(Continued from page one)*

in the small subdivision known as South Curtis Oaks Hill, bounded by Sutterville Road, East Curtis Drive and Franklin Boulevard. The Curtis Park Heritage Committee has developed a walking tour map and informational brochure of this area. It will be available on tour day.

The brochure will feature historic and architectural information, numerous homes and original owners. Area historian and author Dan Murphy will give a presentation at 1 p.m. on South Curtis Oaks Hill, the last subdivision developed in Curtis Park. This subdivision hosts many Dean and Dean designed homes, and it has been home to some notable Sacramento residents for 85 years. Dan's presentation will also include information on the Sacramento Children's Home.

Visitors will see a striking Monterey style home on Coleman Way. Its design features include white, painted brick rather than the traditional stucco; an "L" shape with a corresponding front balcony, and an original front door and hardware. The low-pitched roof has original terra cotta barrel shaped tiles undoubtedly made from Northern California clay. A beautiful front courtyard, decorative curved rafter tails, and a staggered brick topped chimney all make for a stunning Spanish Colonial California architectural experience. (See photo on page one.)

A prominent 1910 Foursquare home furnished with antiques is a feast for the eyes. Tudor Revival homes on tour convey old world style with coved ceilings and unusual fireplaces. Two young families have homes with clean and classic interiors. Another Tudor displays vibrant art and a collection of masks and puppets from around the world.

Throughout the day at the north end of the park, visitors can take a



Mission Style features include hand-hewn wood beams and arched entries. Photo/Rudy Calpo

break to enjoy live music by Virginia Lights Duo and Midtown Jazz, food from Mama Kim Cooks, Wicked 'Wich, and Sacatomatoes. There will also be a table with historic home displays and information on home restoration.

During the tour, Oak Park artist Patris and other plein air artists will be painting outside the tour homes. In addition to Dan Murphy's presentation, which will be held at the northwest end of Curtis Park, SCNA Boardmember and certified arborist Dan Pskowski will give a presentation on tree care.

Walkers who visit all sites will log just over two miles. Bike racks will be provided for cyclists who opt to pedal for home to home.

SMUD returns as the major sponsor. This important fundraising event for SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center is also receiving sponsor support from Joseph Eschelmann with Wells Fargo advisers.

## Day of Giving Sierra 2 and Senior Center hope to benefit from local donations

SCNA, Sierra 2 Center, and the Senior Center are participating in the Big Day of Giving, a 24-hour online philanthropy initiative in the Greater Sacramento area.

The Big Day of giving is a collaboration of GiveLocalNow and several community foundations to increase philanthropy in our area.

Beginning at midnight May 6, donations made to SCNA/Sierra 2 Center, via GivingEdge, will be matched through funding administered by GiveLocalNow. Matching funds come from the regional community foundations and partners who are supporting the campaign in Sacramento.

The more donations we receive during this 24-hour online giving campaign, the more matching opportunities with thresholds of increased matching. Funds received will help SCNA continue to develop and deliver programs, activities, and community building initiatives in the neighborhood, at Sierra 2 Center, and in the Senior Center. Donors will be able to designate funds to certain areas such as art programs, children's programs, and the Senior Center.

To find out more, visit [www.givelocalnow.org](http://www.givelocalnow.org).

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Vine to track the campaign. Sign up for our email blasts and visit our website. Tell your friends.

— Terri Shettle  
Sierra 2/SCNA Executive Director

## What's new at Sierra 2

By Valerie Burrows  
Facility Administrator

### Connect to your creative self

The new Spirit Art class series is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 5, 12 and 26 in Room 11. The course fee is \$50, which includes frames, paints, brushes and journals.

Learn to connect with your higher self via healing meditation to create phenomenal works of art. By the end of the course each participant will have learned one meditation technique and created three art pieces to cherish.

For more details, contact Karen Sharp at [karencsharp51@gmail.com](mailto:karencsharp51@gmail.com).

### Release stress

As seen on the Dr. Oz television show, the MELT method class is a simple self-treatment to combat chronic pain, improve performance and decrease accumulated stress caused by repetitive postures and movements. Saturday classes at Sierra 2 will be held from 9-10:15 a.m. April 12, 19 and 26 in Room 12.

Regular MELTing is designed to help prevent pain, heal injury and

erase the negative effects of aging and active living. This is an all levels Hand and Foot MELT class that uses soft balls to stimulate hands and feet for a full body effect.

Participants should be able to sit on the floor for short durations. Walk-ins welcome, but space can't be guaranteed. The fee for the first class is \$20 or the series of three classes is \$50 (before April 7) and \$60 (after April 7).

To reserve a space or for info: [meltwithvanessa@gmail.com](mailto:meltwithvanessa@gmail.com).

### Meditation for beginners

This beginning meditation class is from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 15 in Room 9. It will focus on basic meditation practices and will be followed with a 30 minute group meditation.

Instructor Ryan Strong is an Ayurvedic practitioner and teacher of Kriya Yoga. Donations welcomed.

This class is taught in affiliation with The Center for Spiritual Awareness, whose headquarters are in Lakemont, Georgia. For more information, contact Ryan at (928) 607-7588 or [strongveda@gmail.com](mailto:strongveda@gmail.com).

Join SCNA! Visit [www.sierra2.org](http://www.sierra2.org)

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# APRIL AT SIERRA 2

## AT THE 24<sup>TH</sup> STREET THEATRE

**HMS PINAFORE**  
**Light Opera Theatre of Sacramento**  
April 3-13  
**Shows:** 8 p.m.Thursday and Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; 7 p.m. Sunday April 6; 2 p.m. Sunday April 13  
**Cost:** Adults \$20; seniors, students and children \$15  
**Tickets:** brownpapertickets.com/event/600166  
**Info:** lightoperasac.org

H.M.S. Pinafore; or, “The Lass That Loved a Sailor,” is a comic opera in two acts, with music by Arthur Sullivan and a libretto by W. S. Gilbert. A lowly sailor and his captain’s beautiful daughter find their love thwarted by their differences in rank, an evil shipmate, and an incompetent lord. Filled with beautiful and patriotic English music, “HMS Pinafore” is a fun-filled work.

**AMPLIFIED**  
**STRANDEDartists and Dance Theatre of San Francisco**  
Saturday April 19  
**Shows:** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
**Cost:** General \$20; Student/Dancer \$15; STRANDEDartists supporter \$35  
**Tickets:** eventbrite.com/e/amplified-tickets-9984954267  
**Info:** strandedartists.com

STRANDEDartists and Dance Theatre of San Francisco will join forces for one artistically loud evening. The show presents cutting edge contemporary choreography from established and talented rising choreographers Erik Wagner, Sandrine Cassini, Lindsey Renee Derry, and Leah Marie Bueno.



**Firebirds**  
**Fenix Drum & Dance**  
April 25 and 26  
**Shows:** 7:30 p.m. **Cost:** General \$15; at the door: \$22  
**Tickets:** www.brownpapertickets.com/event/573599  
**Info:** fenixdrumanddance.com

This show is an African-inspired ballet, featuring guest artists from Guinea, West Africa and the Caribbean. An African marketplace will open at 7 p.m. for patrons to browse a selection of authentic African handmade products. Wings and Roots, a family themed reggae band, will provide pre-show entertainment from 7:30 p.m.

Several neighbors taking African drum lessons will join in the performance. Among them are John Brush and Sally Flynn.

## ACTIVITIES AT SIERRA 2

### OUR TENANTS

- All Seasons All Reasons Fine Catering  
451-9393
- Charr Crail Photography  
505-1154
- Angela Curiale Ph.D. Psychologist  
455-1592
- Great Beginnings  
Child Development Center  
456-4642
- Suzanne Hambleton  
Right Light Images Photography  
214-9067
- Hope Harris Photography  
454-2111
- Italian Cultural Society  
Language School  
482-5900
- La Famiglia Catering  
739-6034
- River Song Meditation  
212-0062
- Runaway Stage Productions  
207-1226
- Sacramento Braille Transcribers  
455-9121
- Sacramento Yoga Center  
996-5645
- Straight Men's AA  
454-1100

**YOGA**  
**Iyengar Yoga**  
Tuesday, 10-11 a.m. • Studio 1  
Gladys Callander: 382-9943

**Tai Chi - Chi Kung & Yoga**  
Call for schedule. Tara Stiles: 454-5526

**Art of Living Foundation**  
**Yogic breathing/meditation**  
Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., Room 11 • 601-3101

**DANCE**  
**African Style Dance**  
Friday, 6-7 p.m., Studio 1  
Karen, (707) 360-5263

**Mindful Bellydance**  
Tribal fundamentals class for all levels  
Thursday, 7 p.m., Studio 1  
Sawako Ama • lovebreath@infocircle.net

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

**Irish American Ceili Dancers**  
1st and 3rd Monday, 7-9 p.m., Studio 1  
Helen Healy: 444-8051

**Manasa Tribal Dance**  
Sunday, 2-3:30 p.m., Studio 1  
Patrice Norris: 736-1730

**River City Taps – Tap Dance**  
Monday–Thursday 5–8:30 p.m.  
Tues: Tues/Thurs 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Studio 3  
www.rivercitytaps.com

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

**OTHER**  
**Center for Soul Healing**  
2nd Thursday and 4th Tuesday  
6:30-8 p.m. • Room 9  
CenterForSoulHealing.com

**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

**ART**  
**Awaken My Art Collective**  
**Glass mosaic classes**  
Tuesdays, Noon-3 p.m., Rm. 11  
karensarp51@gmail.com

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

**FITNESS**  
**Zumba**  
Friday, 6-7 p.m. • Studio 2  
Abraham Contreras, pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

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

**Gokhale Method**  
Posture & movement educational courses  
or for schedule, Robyn Penwell: 812-2607

**Zumba**  
Saturday, 10 a.m. & 11 a.m., Studio 2  
Vanessa: itsvtime@live.com

**Nia**  
Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Studio 1  
Kelly Holland • www.NiaNow.com

**Zumba**  
Thursday, 6 p.m. • Studio 1  
Natalie, (917) 501-0206

**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 Bushido Kai**  
**Japanese Martial Arts for ages 4-Adult**  
Monday, 6-7 p.m., Studio 2  
Wednesday, 6-7 p.m., Studio 1  
For schedule, Michael Mason: 616-5452

**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

**Typhoon Philippine School of Martial Arts**  
Tues/Fri, 8:30-9:30 p.m., Studio 2  
Master Maurice Gatdula: 509-6671



**CHILDREN**  
**Curtis Park Community Play Group**  
Infant–5 years old  
Tuesday, 10 a.m. – Noon, Room 9  
452-3005

**Capital City Music Together**  
Children 5 and under  
Call for class schedules.  
Jennie Ribadeneira: 990-3222  
www.capitalcitymusictogether.com

**Young Actors Stage**  
Saturday, Studios  
Call for schedule  
Musical Theater: (ages 6–14)  
Broadway Tap: Beginning (all ages):  
Theater Dance (all ages)  
Info: youngactorsstage.com

**Children’s Ballroom Dance Lessons**  
Salsa, tango, swing, and waltz.  
Ages: 7-10 (girls and boys)  
Saturdays, 4 p.m., Studio 1  
Naja: (219) 707-2382

**SPIRITUAL SERVICES**  
**Baha’is** Call for schedule: 491-5871

**Bethlehem Baptist Church**  
4th Sunday, 12:30-2 p.m., Room 9  
Pastor Willie Benson: 688-8818

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

**The Vibe Church of Sacramento**  
Sunday Services : 10-11:30 a.m., Garden Rm.  
Bible Study: 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Room 11  
John Macdonell, Pastor: 595-5622

# Our patronage of small, nearby businesses strengthens the character of the neighborhood

By Nancy McKeever  
Special to the Viewpoint

Most of us live in Curtis Park because it feels special. We like its identity rooted in unique small businesses, historic housing, beautiful parks and diverse neighbors. We may just say we like the neighborhood character. Understanding the elements that contribute character allows us to preserve and strengthen it.

This month, *Viewpoint* looks at how local businesses contribute to our identity. Yelp’s listings for a one-mile radius in Curtis Park reveal 235 businesses. The City of Sacramento’s database contains a surprisingly high 275 businesses in Curtis Park. Who knew? Just over half (55 percent) are on Broadway, Freeport Boulevard, Sutterville Road and Franklin Boulevard. Most (75 percent) are small, with five or fewer employees. Many (20 percent) are single-person businesses, such as music teachers, accountants, electricians, contractors or stylists.

“The importance of local businesses to the fabric of Curtis Park is something I’m very interested in exploring,” said Marco Guizar, SCNA board member and owner of Fitsom Studios on Franklin Boulevard. “I’d like to see businesses and neighbors develop stronger relationships.”

Supporting these businesses helps the neighborhood prosper. If the business is also owned by a neighbor, there is an even larger community benefit. Why? Compared to chain stores, locally owned businesses buy more

goods and services from other local businesses, employ a high percentage of people who live nearby, and more frequently invest time and money into community-building programs and activities. They also add personality.

With benefits like that, it’s no surprise that there are a growing number of programs to encourage support for local businesses. These range from directories to more sophisticated alliances with membership requirements, advertising and advocacy. Watch for these programs in Curtis Park soon.

“SCNA is looking at ways to encourage local businesses to join SCNA and become partners with the neighborhood,” said Terri Shettle, SCNA executive director and a resident of Donner Way. “There are great opportunities here for mutually beneficial relationships.”

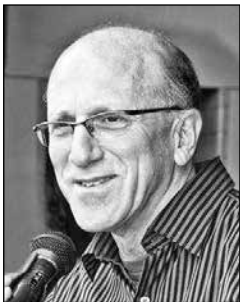
The website for the Institute for Local Self-Reliance ([www.ilsr.org](http://www.ilsr.org)) reports that customer traffic is improving for most local businesses on Main Streets across the country. However, “policymakers need to do more to create a level playing field and ensure that local businesses have an equal opportunity to compete,” states the website. In that spirit, neighbors are organizing to support homegrown businesses and restrict additional chain stores in Curtis Park. SCNA’s Neighborhood Concerns Committee will have discussed this effort last month for possible presentation to the SCNA board.

If you have ideas for how to promote local businesses and our neighborhood character, contact Kathleen Ave at [Kdave@donnerparty.net](mailto:Kdave@donnerparty.net).

## Schenirer’s message

# Enhanced farmers market and Med Zone help make Oak Park a stronger next door neighbor

Longtime residents of Curtis Park have watched as our Oak Park neighbors have dealt with the challenges of crime, depressed property values, unemployment and lack of access to healthy food. Nonetheless, a growing group of Oak Park residents have had a vision for their neighborhood and persisted in building partnerships and achieving small victories.



Jay Schenirer  
City Councilmember

### Oak Park Farmers Market

A great example is the Oak Park Farmers Market. Its small beginning has become a big deal. The market began selling produce on a vacant lot across from Old Soul Coffee. When the market needed to move, I worked with the City to realign funding to build the current facility in McClatchy Park. It’s become more than a Saturday market. Now it’s a community meeting place, I’m happy many Curtis Park neighbors shop there.

Before the new Farmers Market facility was completed, we applied for a Prop. 84 grant from the state to rebuild McClatchy Park. It was a competitive process. The strength of our application was leveraging the recent activities of our neighborhood revitalization effort. This included the WayUp program, the ability of the Farmers Market to help close the gaps in food access for the neighborhood, bringing community residents into the park.

We were awarded the grant, and construction has started on the \$2.8 million dollar renovation. The new play elements will be based on the original “Joy Land” amusement park that was the original focus of the park. The official ground breaking ceremony is April 26 (please join us from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.). This is also opening day for the Farmers Market and for the Curtis Park Home Tour.

### ‘Med Zone’ to bring job growth

In the spirit of persistence and vision, I’d like to also share a significant project I have been working on for the two years. Begun as an idea / concept and built through partnerships, I have worked to develop a health innovation zone connected to our major hospital systems. The “Med Zone” has the potential to bring thousands of high-paying jobs to our City.

My hope is that we can anchor much of this job growth along Stockton Boulevard and capitalize on the groundbreaking research taking place at UC Davis Medical Center. I am working with each of the major health systems, the Metro Chamber, Sacramento Area Commerce Trade Organization (SACTO), Sacramento Regional Technology Alliance (SARTA) and others, to incentivize entrepreneurial activity aligned with our education system. I hope to create the demand for jobs and the supply of a locally educated workforce. Additionally, the project has been made an official “proof point” for the region’s Next Economy economic development strategy.

In early April, we expect to complete our second level of analysis, which will include our next actionable steps for implementation.

### Park water fountains to be replaced in fall

A number of neighbors have asked about the water fountains in the park. Due to cloudiness in the water, the fountains were shut off last year. Thanks to Measure U funding, the systems are scheduled to be replaced this fall. I’ll let you know more specifics as the work is scheduled.

Finally, thanks to all who responded to my question about whether the City should ban outdoor patio smoking in Sacramento restaurants.

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Tuesdays/Thursdays  
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Pat Shaw: 856-0136

**Gentle Yoga**  
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. (6 classes \$40)  
Tara Stiles: 454-5526

**Tai Chi**  
Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
(6 classes \$40)  
April 9-May 14. Tara Stiles: 454-5526

**Walking and Polewalking Clinic**  
9 a.m. Thursdays

**Meditation and Chi Kung**  
Fridays, 10-11 a.m. (6 classes \$40)  
April 18–May 9. Tara Stiles: 454-5526

**LEISURE**  
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(4 classes \$48)  
Phoebe 455-6339

**Improvisation acting with Jetta**  
3–5 p.m. Last Friday of the month

**Book Club**  
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
**April:** “Life After Life” by Kate Atkinson  
**May:** “A Single Man”  
by Christopher Isherwood

**My Story Project meeting**  
1–4 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays

**Everyone Can Drum**  
1-2 p.m. Tuesdays (\$5) Studio 1

**Crafts and Conversation**  
1-3 p.m. Fridays (except last Friday)

**Sierra 2 Jewels**  
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10 a.m. – noon Fridays Room 11  
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**Ginasta**  
9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays

**Pinochle**  
1-3 p.m. Fridays

**EVENTS**  
**Potluck**  
Noon–2 p.m. Room 10  
Last Friday of the month

**Senior Committee Meeting**  
3 p.m. April 28, Location TBA

[seniorcenter@sierra2.org](mailto:seniorcenter@sierra2.org)



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# In 40 years Casa Garden has given \$2.6 million to Children’s Home

By Marlene Oehler  
Special to the Viewpoint

The Casa Garden Restaurant will celebrate its 40th anniversary during the week of May 5. During its four decades, the mostly volunteer operation on the edge of Curtis Park has donated more than \$2.6 million to the Sacramento Children’s Home.

The Casa, as it’s fondly called, opened its doors in May 1974, on the Home’s grounds on Sutterville Road. The Home opened in the early 1900s as an orphanage. Today its services have evolved to include residential treatment for some children and many community-based services for children and families.

The restaurant was the idea of two women on the Home’s board. They convinced the Board to approve it on the condition the restaurant be designed so it

could be converted into housing for children if the restaurant failed. In the beginning, members clipped Betty Crocker coupons to purchase silverware, and the original price for lunch was \$3.25.

Forty years later, the Casa continues to thrive. It serves lunches to the public during the week and hosts weddings, retirement parties and special events in evenings and on weekends. The former La Casita Gift Shop is available to rent for meetings.

Casa activities are directed by a professional manager. Volunteers work in the dining room, kitchen and gardens. New volunteers are always welcome. Many come from Curtis Park.

During the celebration week, each day will have a theme (see box at right).

The Casa encourages Curtis Park residents to join in the celebration.

For reservations: 452-2809.



Photo/Judy Harper

**Evelyn Fallon of Curtis Park, left, Georgia Boggs, center, and Joe Barnes enjoyed lunch on the patio at the Casa Garden restaurant on Sutterville Road. Volunteer server Linda Boyers took their orders. Georgia was married at the Casa 30 years ago, and Joe is a onetime SCNA board. It was St. Patrick’s Day, so Georgia and Evelyn wore green hats.**

- May 5 ..... Recognition of Casa Sponsor Members
- May 6 ..... Wine Social
- May 7 ..... Past Presidents’ Day & Fashion Show of early server uniforms
- May 8 ..... Casa Crafters Day, with volunteers’ crafted items for sale
- May 9 ..... Celebration of the Sacramento Children’s Home

# This group tackles the neighborhood’s toughest problems

By John Mathews  
Special to the Viewpoint

The Neighborhood Concerns Committee is often cited in the *Viewpoint*, but it’s not always clear what this group does.

The bylaws of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association’s Board establish five Standing Committees that provide a continuing organizational framework to meet the association’s goals.

NCC is the standing committee responsible for monitoring and responding to issues that affect the quality of life in the neighborhood. All the committees advise and recommend policies and actions to the board.

As chairperson of NCC, I have been involved in several concerns affecting the Sierra Curtis neighborhood.

Issues affecting “the “quality of life” in Curtis Park span a broad spectrum. We learn of issues when a neighbor emails us, comes to a meeting or talks to us at a SCNA event or out walking our dogs. Sometimes we can resolve the issue, and sometimes we can help neighbors resolve the problem themselves.

For the last decade, the Curtis Park Village project has been the main NCC topic of discussion. With the current proposed changes in the Village

park and the impending traffic impact, the Village remains the top priority.

Over the years NCC has also hosted Neighborhood Watch meetings and created a packet of information to assist neighbors in starting their own group.

The committee convinced the SCNA Board to adopt the Curtis Park through the City’s Partners in Parks program and held several park clean up days. We’ve also helped neighbors get gates in the neighborhood alleys and mitigate issues caused by the construction detour around 24th Street.

A recent matter has us focused on trying to save three beautiful Canary Island Palm trees on 21st Street that have been scheduled for removal.

If neighbors have a question or concern that needs to be addressed, the committee can be reached at [NCC@sierra2.org](mailto:NCC@sierra2.org).

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# COMMUNITY CORNER

## Far, far from home

John Loudermilk, an emergency room doctor in his day job, and Cindy Whitcher, a retired internist, enjoy a relaxed moment in Mumbai's Leopold's Café.



Photo/Judy Scheible

When John Loudermilk and Cindy Whitcher of Third Avenue were planning their trip to India this winter, they discovered they would be in Mumbai (Bombay) at the same time as Mike and Judy Scheible of Fourth Avenue. These longtime

neighbors picked a time and date for a rendezvous at Leopold's Café in Mumbai. Neither couple was sure it would happen, but it did and on time. They enjoyed beer, dinner and lots of travel stories before heading their separate ways home.

## Curtis Park students act in 'Little Shop of Horrors'

A down-and out skid row floral Assistant becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. Soon Audrey II, the plant, grows into an ill-tempered, foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore who offers the assistant fame and fortune in exchange for feeding its growing appetite. Eventually Audrey reveals itself to be an alien creature poised for global domination.

Curtis Park students in the play include Isa Flores-Jones of Cutter Way as Audrey; Jack Hughes of Portola Way as the dentist and Camilla Covington as Ronnette and Peri Proper of Donner Way.



C.K. McClatchy's Lion's Pride Players presents "Little Shop of Horrors" on the high school's stage. Performances are 4 p.m. April 7 and at 7 p.m. April 2, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11. Tickets for seniors (65+) and students are \$5; general admission is \$10; tickets are \$2 for April 2, 7 and 9.

## Coffee Garden baker now prepares all pastries

By Craig McCulloch  
Viewpoint staff writer

The popular neighborhood coffee shop and café on Franklin Boulevard near 4th Avenue, Coffee Garden, is now featuring European-style baked goods. Called Vesela's Bakery, it's perched in the café's main entrance. Michael Madsen, owner of Coffee Garden, said, "All of our baked items will now be house-made, except for bread used in the sandwiches."

Vesela Peneva, a native of Bulgaria, is now the exclusive baker. She offers éclairs, baklava, cannoli, quiche, several flavors of cakes, chocolate mousse, and a variety of muffins and scones.

In the past, these products were brought in from other bakeries. Gluten-free and vegan items are available daily. Specialty cakes, including wedding cakes and holiday pies, can now be ordered.

Coffee Garden, open for nine years, features

rotating artists who display their work in the dining area. The Café is a popular hangout for McGeorge Law School students and students from other colleges. The art gallery, next door on the corner of 4th Avenue, is open for Second Saturday art exhibits with hand-made crafts, also for sale. A small Farmer's Market will be set up on the extended sidewalk in front of the art gallery later this spring, open three days a week.

A dozen people work at Coffee Garden, including two women who are veterans of the war in Afghanistan.

The menu special Wednesday nights is BBQ tri-tip. Thursday evenings from 8-10 p.m. is Open Mic night with musicians performing their original music, alternating with poetry readings and comedy acts. Signups for the open mic start at 7:30 p.m.

Open every day of the year, the Coffee Garden hours are 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Sundays. Dogs are also welcome with treats available.



Photo/Joan Cusick

Vesela Peneva bakes cookies, quiche, cannoli and the popular lemon bars at Coffee Garden. She also takes special orders.

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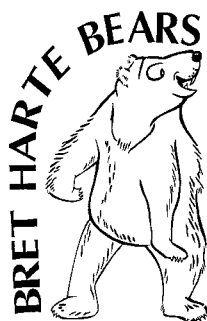
## Bret Harte News

# After-school engineering club has magnetic appeal for students

By Char Klassen  
Viewpoint Staff Writer

The new after-school club called Engineering is Elementary aims to get third and fourth graders interested in engineering. Its hour-long sessions include designing alarm circuits.

Principal Lorena Carillo is leading the club. She plans to help the students explore the different fields of engineering. The club has maxed out its membership with 24 youngsters.



Materials for the club are donated through the Vanir Foundation. Ms. Carillo said she is looking for guest speakers who could present their engineering projects to the students. Engineers interested in sharing may all her at 277-6261.

The club meets Tuesdays and Fridays. It started March 25 and will continue through May 2. Students who sign up for the club must commit to attending all 12 sessions.

### Pennies for cancer patients

Bret Harte students took collection boxes home and did their best to collect spare change to help kids battling blood cancer. The children were encouraged to see that by contributing they could make a positive impact with minimal effort. The collection lasted about three weeks in March.

Two weeks into the collection one student was overheard exclaiming, "Our class has already collected over \$100!" Students are experiencing the joy of participation.

The collection benefits the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. It's part of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's School & Youth Programs. Some classes have encouraged students to regularly bring in their boxes in order to keep their class totals current.

## Mark Your Calendar

**SPRING BREAK**  
April 14-18  
❖

# Major grant will help Broadway Partnership find ways to improve street

By Rosanna Herber,  
Viewpoint staff writer

Beginning this month, the Broadway corridor will undergo a major study to determine how to best improve access to Broadway for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and motorists. CALTRANS is contributing \$284,000 as part of a Complete Streets grant, and the City is providing \$113,600 in transportation matching funds.

The study will look at sidewalks, placement of bus stops, the road

shoulder and potential barriers for people with disabilities. It will also track the speed and traffic patterns of drivers, along with the movement of pedestrians and bicyclists.

The result will be a Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan, based on the most comprehensive data collected to date along this business corridor.

"We've had a series of planning meetings with business owners and the surrounding neighborhoods to get their ideas about Broadway," said Teresa Rocha, executive director for

the Broadway Partnership. "Now, we can match those ideas with real data from the study and identify opportunity points."

The study will span about 18 months. Consultants will do the research for the Complete Streets evaluation. Caltrans established the Complete Streets program in 2008. The goal is to ensure the streets provide safe access for all users. The study will make specific recommendations for improvements on Broadway. Rocha said her Partnership Board is eager to see what the data show.

"Where are the hot spots in the district? What are the most viable projects? What should be our first focus?" said Rocha. "This research will help us know our best options and give us a much better idea of what projects make the most sense for the five year Strategic Plan for Broadway."

According to Rocha, the Complete Streets study could help open doors for future local and federal funding to improve Broadway. First, the data. For more information, visit [www.greaterbroadwaydistrict.com](http://www.greaterbroadwaydistrict.com).

# Village: Compromises smoothed out obstacles to massive clean-up

(Continued from page one)  
manager for the state agency.

"To date, about 518,000,000 gallons of water have been pumped and treated. This was a substantial cleanup of the groundwater," Tse said. He also reported a total of 144,000 cubic yards of the worst toxics were shipped to a Utah landfill.

Cleanup of the railyard has faced many obstacles over the years. In 1995, the state approved a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to address the railyard's toxic substances, and Union Pacific Railroad began the cleanup. In 2002, Petrovich Development purchased the site and promised to cart away all toxic materials.

However, after six years of soil testing done by Petrovich Development's consultant, the site had more toxics than anyone had anticipated. In 2010, Petrovich asked the state to change the cleanup standards. His letter said the 1995 RAP didn't take into consideration the background levels of contaminants at the site. He argued the 1995 RAP standards required the site to be cleaned up beyond the level where some toxics occur naturally. DTSC agreed to review new research and weigh changing the cleanup levels.

SCNA participated in a DTSC public meeting and opposed any changes to the cleanup standards.

SCNA also opposed a proposal floated by Petrovich to bury 200,000 cubic yards of toxics in a 20-foot hole under the seven-acre park planned for the development. The contaminated soil would be capped with a plastic membrane and covered with two feet of clean dirt.

Later in 2010, DTSC lowered the cleanup standards after conducting public meetings and reviewing new research on the background concentrations of Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and arsenic in various California locations.

The new standards reduced the amount of toxic soil to be dealt with. The plan to bury toxics under

the seven-acre park was scrapped. Instead, the remaining toxic soil could be buried under commercial roads.

Ralph Propper, at one time head of the SCNA Toxic Committee, was notified that DTSC had accepted the Remediation Completion Report from Petrovich Development. Asked what he thought of the final outcome, he told the *Viewpoint*, "I think we were as successful as we could be."

"The soil is cleaned to a non-restrictive level, except under the roads, and the site is clean to within state standards. We did accomplish some good things."

The state's report is expected to appear on the Sierra 2 website soon.

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