

Freeport Boulevard bike lanes coming this summer

By Andrea Rosen
Viewpoint staff writer

Faith Bernstein was a McClatchy senior from Curtis Park in January 2010 when *The Sacramento Bee* first reported on the formation of a grassroots group called SAFFE — Safety Along Freeport For Everyone.

Faith gathered statistics and organized the production of a video showing the danger of riding a bike on Freeport Boulevard. Car-bike accidents and too many near misses plagued high school and City College students biking on Freeport to and from school.

SAFFE started advocating for turning about a mile of Freeport Boulevard between Vallejo Way and Sutterville Road into a “Complete Street.”

The good news is that it’s finally going to happen this summer, reports City Engineer Adam Randolph, who is overseeing the project. Bids were due by March 23 with ground breaking to occur at the southern end of the project on May 16, timed to coincide with the Sacramento City College spring break. With luck, the northern end, near McClatchy, will be constructed during summer break

between June 13 and Aug. 12.

SCNA voted to support the Freeport Boulevard project. SCNA board members were among more than two dozen speakers at the November 2012 City Council meeting at which the project was approved.

The Freeport Boulevard project will add bike lanes in both directions, reduce speeds and improve pedestrian crossings. New signage and striping are standard improvements. The revised roadway will include bus pullouts to help traffic flow more smoothly and flashing beacon crosswalks and radar speed-limit signs to slow traffic, increasing safety for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists.

One traffic lane in each direction will be eliminated to make room for the bike lanes and a center turn lane.

“I believe that the addition of bike lanes on Freeport Boulevard will have a tremendous effect on the public’s ability and willingness to navigate a popular corridor between two light-rail stations and without a car,” said city planner Sparky Harris. “It feels like we have reached a tipping point in terms of enthusiasm and support at the highest levels for bicycling in Sacramento.”



Photo/Joan Cusick

Max Kaplan shares his 100th birthday with friends at the Senior Center.

Secret to living 100 years is right in front of him

By Dennis Cusick
Viewpoint staff writer

What causes longevity? On the eve of Max Kaplan’s 100th birthday last month, his fellow members of the Senior Center writers group wanted to know his secret.

“I’m just lucky,” he told them. “I

have no idea why I’m this age. It is as much a surprise for me as it is for you.”

Kaplan was in the spotlight, not only because his fellow writers group members had a large birthday card and cake for him, but also because it was his turn to read something he’d written.

“I have been thinking about our

Please see *Longevity*, page 3

Variations on Tudor style in this year’s home tour



Photo/Rudy Calpo

This Markham Way house is among a line of Tudors replete with developer Frank Williams’ handcrafted design details.

By Lori Harder
Special to the Viewpoint

A parade of Model A automobiles will begin the annual Home and Garden Tour at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 30. The classic cars will lead the way to seven beautiful homes and gardens on tour. Food, music, displays and a walking tour of drought-tolerant landscapes will round out the day.

This year’s tour features homes in variations of the Tudor Revival style. While all homes have beautiful original features, the interiors vary from serene and cool tones to rich deep color and artwork.

Both updated and vintage kitchens and bathrooms vary in size, color and style. Outdoor spaces range from intimate gathering spots to large landscapes with dramatic trees, fountains, iron and stone work.

The homes on tour are located throughout the neighborhood, encompassing a loop of just over

two miles. Bicycle racks will be provided for those who opt to cycle between the homes.

One home takes in sweeping views of the park through two stories of leaded-glass windows. Interiors behind those windows are colorful and elegant. The homeowners (one of whom grew up in Curtis Park and wanted to return), are also finishing a new apartment and office, in place of the garage, that is architecturally tied to the design of the house, complemented by a new small pool.

Longtime and devoted Curtis Park residents Mark and Sharon Helmar will graciously open their home for this 30th anniversary tour. In 1986, dedicated to renovating and reviving the Sierra 2 Center, they volunteered their home for the first tour and fundraiser when they lived on West Curtis Drive with their children. (See related story.)

Also on the tour are two beautifully detailed Tudor homes by noted developer Frank Williams

Please see *Tour*, page 6

No public notice required for ‘Village’ commercial site plan

By Andrea Rosen
Viewpoint staff writer

The site plan that authorizes developer Paul Petrovich to build a shopping center in Curtis Park Village was quietly approved by the city’s design director with no advance notice to Curtis Park neighbors.

The details of the plan, approved nearly two years ago, have never been publicly reported. They address basic city requirements concerning streets, lighting, landscaping, fire, water, utilities and the like.

Three retail spaces, between 7,500 and 5,600 square feet, were approved along Crocker Drive. They don’t appear to open onto Crocker Drive but instead open to the parking lot. The rest of the shopping center space is largely occupied by a grocery of 54,936 square feet, with two adjacent buildings between 10,000 and 18,000 square feet.

Some 209 parking spaces were approved on the interior of the shopping center surrounded by retail space. Ten long-term bike parking spaces are required with space for 52 more bikes. No location for bike parking was specified or required.

What was not specified in the site plan was something that has caused controversy ever since — a piece of the northeast interior corner marked as “future building.” Six weeks after the site plan was approved, developer Petrovich requested a conditional use permit for a 16-nozzle gas station at this location. City Council rejected the gas station request last November.

Please see *Site Plan*, page 5

Notes from March 2nd meeting

Tech Lab envisioned as learning space for kids

Tech Lab

Terri Shettle is working on funding and grants for equipment. The cottage will be the new home of the Tech Lab after it is repaired, rewired and secured. This will be a great place for neighborhood children to gather and learn code, record beats, etc.

SCNA staff will be going on a series of field trips to learn how other organizations create tech spaces and how we can evolve to the next level. The next field trip will be behind the scenes at the Crocker Museum.

Executive Director's Report

Terri Shettle says she is continuing to work with Runaway Stage Productions on the condition of the cottage and other concerns. These issues will likely require SCNA expenditures and resources when they leave. The Parks Department is undergoing an evaluation and reprioritization

Next meeting

The next meeting of the SCNA Board will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 6 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2. For more information, call the Sierra 2 office, 452-3005.

process. SCNA has a few months to submit suggestions for the new budget. The Home Tour on April 30 has six homes. A native plant group will do a presentation on gardening, landscaping and pollinators at the event area in William Curtis Park.

Standing committees

Facilities: Terri Shettle reported the walk-in cooler will need to be replaced and installed.

Development: Kara Leong reported the Egg Hunt would be Saturday, March 26. Rosanna Herber would be the constable. The bunny and photographer were lined up and ready. Board members had signed up

for shifts.

Wine Tasting: A new Curtis Park couple has volunteered to chair the committee.

NCC: Dan Pskowski said there should be SCNA involvement with city officials so we can be apprised of changes in development issues. Bruce Pierini will organize a proactive development forum with articulate and thoughtful developers and city officials for the fall. It was suggested that Councilmember Jay Schenirer could give SCNA an hour once a month or every two months.

Pskowski gave an update on the tree ordinance update and said it would go to the Law and Legislative Committee in April with 10 days to review the report, but there is still pushback from city staff.

Councilmember Jeff Harris will help with the April Curtis Park cleanup day to repair irrigation and fill in holes.

Candy Andersen's garden by the

tennis courts will be taken over by the city.

Pskowski is working on hiring an arborist to assess the health of the heritage oaks at the north end of Curtis Park Village.

Treasurer's report

Joseph Eschleman reported that investment income is OK, despite a volatile market. Terri Shettle said the Sierra 2 Center's block users generate revenue of \$20,000 per month.

Annual retreat

Board members planned to attend the yearly retreat on Sunday, March 13. The SCNA strategic plan was to be discussed.

Recognition

Staff member Valerie Burrows will be recognized for 11 years of hard work.

— Kate Van Buren, Board secretary

Front porch is prime seat in theater of life

There are 17 potted plants on our front porch. Jade, fuchsia, impatiens, lamium, ivy, a bromeliad that occasionally hides delicate pink flowers in its recesses, and our orchid that blooms much more rarely than a blue moon. For whatever reason, it has decided to send out a stalk this season, and the buds just opened to beautiful deep red and umber. The sun is out, the flag is up, and the youngest is sweeping the sidewalk to make an ideal twig-free environment for wearing his Heelys shoes.

The front porch also has some, shall we say, discolorations, born of countless hours spent on our metal chairs. Stout, soda, brie, salsa, potato chips (probably salt & pepper Kettle chips), ice

ERIC JOHNSON

SCNA Board President



cream and other mostly delicious substances that serve to continually baptize the concrete.

The porch has also entertained all kinds of visitors at all kinds of hours. Parents, siblings, friends walking their dogs, children walking their parents, aspiring politicians, true believers, neighbors, shoe

thieves and delivery people. Most of them are welcome, and the majority of the above groups will hang out for a bit when I hail them.

We try to make it a habit to say hello to the walkers when we're out front, and if it's someone we're acquainted with, there's almost always an offer of a beverage. As an added bonus, if we're out front, the dog walkers always pick up their detritus.

The boy is now running back and forth on the lawn, balancing the broom on his outstretched palm to see how long he can keep it vertical. His best so far is 22 seconds.

The dueling leaf blowers are tuned at a major third, and the buzz saw in the distance adds a discordant seventh as the sun wisps behind a cloud. A squirrel skitters along the roof of the house across the street, debating whether to make the leap to the plane tree. He edges up to the eave, checks to see if anybody's watching ...

He makes it. I remember my grandfather cursing while air rifling at rodents in his back yard, and I wish momentarily for a relaxation of laws regarding BB guns within city limits.

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Photography	Rudy Calpo Joan Cusick Judy Harper

LUNAFEST®

short films by, for, about Women®

LUNAFEST film festival comes to the 24th Street Theatre April 7

The 2016 LUNAFEST festival of six award-winning short films is coming to the 24th Street Theatre at 7 p.m. April 7.

LUNAFEST is a traveling festival dedicated to showcasing women filmmakers and raising women's issues. The six films were chosen from more than 300 entries. Three of the films are directed by California women, the others by women from Finland, France and England.

"Finding June" views the world through the eyes of a deaf woman just diagnosed with breast cancer.

"Balsa Wood" shares a lighthearted slice of life about two mixed-race siblings visiting their extended Filipino family for lunch.

"Boxeadora" profiles a woman who defies Fidel Castro's ban on female boxing to follow her dreams of Olympic glory.

"Raising Ryland" is an intimate look at the transgender experience of a 6-year-old boy and his parents.

"First World Problems" tells the story of a tired housewife who loses her car in a shopping mall and finds that problems can open a door to a new world.

In "Beach Flags," a young Iranian lifeguard, determined to participate in a competition in Australia, experiences an unexpected obstacle.

Metro Soroptimist International Club will host the festival. Proceeds will go to the Breast Cancer Fund and local nonprofits. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for students before April 1, and then all tickets are \$30. Non-alcoholic drinks and light snacks are included in the ticket price. There will also be a raffle and a silent auction. Visit www.lunafest.org/sacramento0407.

Mayoral candidates come to Sierra 2 to meet with neighbors

The SCNA Neighborhood Concerns Committee has arranged for the top four mayoral candidates to meet with neighbors in the Garden Room at the Sierra 2 Center.

On April 20, Tony "the Tiger" Lopez will visit at 7 p.m., followed by Russell Rawlings.

On May 26, Angelique Ashby is scheduled at 6 p.m., followed by Darrell Steinberg at 7:15 p.m.

The candidates will explain why they are running for mayor, followed by questions from a moderator and then neighbors. If you have questions for the candidates, please send them to NCC@Sierra2.org.

Neighbors interested in a more formal debate can attend the Mayoral Neighborhood Forum on May 11, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Grand Hall of Clunie Community Center in McKinley Park. The forum is sponsored by *Inside* magazine publisher Cecily Hastings, who indicated invitations have been sent to more than 40 neighborhood associations in the monthly magazine's readership area. Journalist Bob Graswich will be the forum's lead moderator.

Anyone planning to attend the forum should get there early, as only 191 seats will be available in the Grand Hall.

— Rosanna Herber, Viewpoint staff



Angelique Ashby



Tony Lopez



Russell Rawlings



Darrell Steinberg

Longevity: Finding a true sense of community gives Max purpose

(Continued from page one)

family history," he began. Born in a Chicago hospital on March 24, 1916, he grew up in Indiana, about 30 miles to the southeast. When World War II began, he was a student at the University of Chicago, hoping to become a history teacher. Kaplan knew he didn't want to shoot a gun, so he asked one of his professors, a World War I veteran, what he should do. The professor suggested that he enlist in the hospital corps, which he did.

His unit was sent to New Guinea to treat soldiers' illnesses, war wounds and emotional traumas. Because of his background in history, Kaplan was assigned to obtain patients' histories, give them intelligence tests and evaluate the soldiers' fitness for duty. "I sent most of them back home," he said. "A few, with non-combat duty, I sent back to their units."



Photo/Craig McCulloch

Max, third from left, front row, poses with the Life History Writing group.

After the war, Kaplan returned to the University of Chicago, where he obtained a master's degree in human development, enabling him to secure positions treating patients, first at a psychiatric facility in Manteno, Ill., then for 20 years at Napa State Hospital, before he retired to a practice counseling private patients in Novato.

Upon hearing Kaplan's story,

fellow group member Tony Leneis, a self-described "fly boy," remarked that New Guinea had been a "terrible place to serve," with mosquitoes and disease and mud.

"Yes it was," Kaplan said. "When you came on the island, the odor of the vegetation hit you like a cloud." And he heard the stories, from his emotionally wrought patients, about

the buddies they had seen killed in front of them.

The answer to his longevity, Kaplan's daughter Jana Cinder suggested, had nothing to do with his lifestyle. "He did everything wrong," she said. "He drank, he smoked, he didn't exercise." Instead of meals, he often would just have coffee and something sweet.

"The important thing to what makes life happy as you age," she said, "is groups like this," where his fellow seniors can appreciate the stories of lives well lived. "Being around people who want what you have to offer."

She said her father has found a true sense of community in the writers group. "It's so important to him. He feels welcomed and looks forward to his Sierra 2 Senior Center activities all week. If there is any secret to happiness in a long life, it is these things."

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Info: www.lunafest.org
Contact: Abby Maurer, SIMSweb@sacmetrosoroptimist.org

LUNAFEST is a traveling film festival of award-winning short films by, for and about women. This season's film program — filled with stories of reflection, hope and humor — will travel to more than 150 cities. Proceeds support the Soroptimist International of Metro Sacramento club's Community Assistance Fund and the Breast Cancer Fund.



SING FOR JOY: A SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

April 10
Showtime: 2-4 p.m.
Free tickets: Hart Senior Center reception desk; 915 27th St., Sacramento, 95816
Info: 808-5462

The Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center and the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission present "Sing for Joy: A Spring Choral Concert," showcasing the singing talents of Singers with Hart, a choral group of 40 singers age 50-plus. The two-hour spring concert, which is free and open to the public, will feature traditional folk music, classical and popular songs, along with contemporary choral favorites. (For story, see page 7.)



STORIES OF IMMIGRATION FILM FESTIVAL

April 17
Showtime: 2:15–5:15 p.m.
Reception: 5:30–6:15 p.m.
Tickets: Free
Info: Jessica Braverman Birch, 486-0906

The Latino-Jewish Forum explores the immigrant experiences of Latinos and Jews in America through two films, "SS St. Louis," and "Underwater Dreams," followed by a community conversation. Speakers: Rabbi Mona Alfi, Maia Jaffe and students Oscar Vazquez and Lorenzo Santillan from Underwater Dreams.

SHIFT-Twenty16

Shows:
 Friday, April 29, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, April 30, 2 & 8 p.m.
General admissions: \$20
Tickets: brownpapertickets.com
Info: www.twopoint4dance.org

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

Motivational Aerobic Dance Exercise
 Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Room 10
 Kia: keynorrisfitness@gmail.com

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

Weight Watchers
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 Saturdays, 9 a.m. • Room 10 • (800) 374-9191

MUSIC

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

String orchestra lessons
 Second and Fourth Wednesday
 7:30-8:30 p.m., Room 9
 Krystyna Taylor, 216-0429

Japanese Taiko drumming
 For schedule: Kristy Oshiro,
 kristyoshiro@gmail.com

YOGA

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

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

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

OTHER

Center for Soul Healing
 Tuesdays, Room 12, 7-8:30 p.m.
 3rd Saturday, Room 12, 1-5 p.m.
 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

DANCE

Fenix Drum & Dance
 3rd Fridays, 5:30-7 p.m., Studio 3
 Angela James, 205-3970

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 Thursdays, 7 p.m., Studio 1
 Sawako Ama • lovebreath@infocircle.net

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 Cardio class to live music for all levels
 Fourth Saturday, 11 a.m., Studio 1
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Irish American Ceili Dancers
 1st and 3rd Monday, 7-9 p.m., Studio 1
 Helen Healy: 444-8051

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

West African Dance
 2nd & 4th Fridays, 5:30-7 p.m., Studio 1
 Jessa Cruz: 365-3721

River City Taps – Tap Dance
 Monday–Thursday 5–8:30 p.m.
 Thursday, 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
 Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Studio 3
 www.rivercitytaps.com

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

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

CHILDREN

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 www.capitalcitymusictogether.com

ART

Glass mosaic classes
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 karensharp51@gmail.com

Watercolor class
 Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon, Room 11
 Michael Mikolon, 730-9347
 www.artistmichael.com

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

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 Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Room 12
 Pastor Benson, 230-8069

Wings of Mercy & Grace Church
 Saturdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Rm. 12
 Pastors Dee & Eric Asbury: (209) 276-5340
 wingsofmercyandgracefcf@gmail.com

New Destiny Ministries
 Sundays, 12:45-2:15 p.m., Room 9
 Pastor Singleton, 532-5581

Sacramento Native American Believers Fellowship
 Sundays, 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



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Sierra 2 Senior Center

Garden Club to give Sierra 2 courtyards a makeover

By Katie Byram
Special to Viewpoint

With the days getting warmer, members of the Sierra 2 Garden Club are ready to dig in and get their hands dirty with two courtyard beautification projects in the Garden Room and Curtis Hall.

The projects include weeding and pruning the existing planter boxes and later updating the gardens with new plants and flowers. Organized by the Sierra 2 Senior Center, the Garden Club is looking for new members to share skills and knowledge and to assist with these projects.

Workdays are scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on two Tuesdays — April 5 and 26. Grab your garden gloves, pruners and weeders and join the club members as they spiff up the courtyard areas. Coffee, water and pastries will be provided for volunteers. However, the workdays will be canceled if it rains.

The Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month in Room 12. Monthly meetings include guest speakers, presentations, demonstrations and project discussions. The meeting on April 12 will focus on the workdays in the courtyards and a discussion on gardening.

The Garden Club's mission is to provide a safe and comfortable environment for gardening, and to promote community engagement and personal well-being. The



The Garden Club's first project will include pruning the existing garden and the planting of new lavender bushes in the Garden Room Courtyard.

club is open to anyone interested in gardening and plants. No experience is required. The club is free to join, but donations are welcome to help fund supplies and projects.

You can also meet Garden Club members and learn more about the club at the 30th Annual Home and Garden Tour on April 30. The club will have an information table at the north end of William Curtis Park.

If you have questions about the Garden Club or would like to participate in a workday, please contact Louise at louiser@sbcglobal.net.

Finding Your Ancestors

Are you interested in learning about your family's history? Do you need to know more about how to research your ancestors? There are many ways that the Sacramento Public Library can help you get started or further your research.

Join librarian Beth Daugherty for April's Hot Topic Tuesday's free presentation from 10–11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26 in Room 12. During this presentation you will learn about the many resources, including books, databases, lectures and individual help that the library offers the genealogist.

There is no charge to use any of these resources, so find out what the library can offer you!

Schenirer's message

RT board seeks ways to improve public transportation

As chair of the Regional Transit Board of directors for the past 15 months, I have spent a great deal of time working on the organization's System Improvement Initiative. Catalyzed by the opportunities presented by the opening of the downtown Entertainment and Sports Center, the initiative has evolved into a full-scale effort to improve the entire system and attract more "choice riders" — those who can choose to use public transportation.

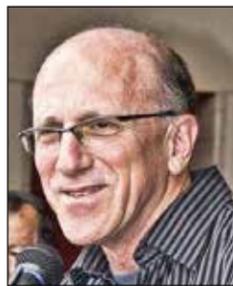
We have heard loud and clear that folks are not satisfied with the levels of safety and security on trains and buses, the cleanliness of vehicles, the frequency of some routes and other aspects of RT's operations.

Recently, lower gas and diesel prices have not only further reduced ridership, but have reduced our tax revenues generated from the sale of fuel. The convergence of all of these issues has led to some serious stock taking by the board and senior staff.

At our March 15 meeting, the

board took a number of steps forward. After several months of organizational assessments and planning, the board agreed to hire 30 new fare checkers — soon there will be a fare checker on every light-rail train, 10 hours a day. This should both increase revenues and guarantee that those who have not paid and may be causing problems for other passengers are kept off the trains. The board also moved on hiring 25 part-time cleaners to better ensure the cleanliness of our light-rail vehicles. These were the easy decisions, and I want to acknowledge our unions for working collaboratively with management to enact these changes.

The hardest decision was to adopt an increase in fares. RT has not raised its fares since 2009, despite steady increases in operational costs. As a result, RT has been forced to dip into its reserves to balance its budget over



Jay Schenirer
City Councilmember

the last three years. If the board had continued to do nothing, RT would have run a multi-million-dollar deficit next year. While staff had recommended a 20 percent increase split over two years, the board made a decision to support a 10 percent increase July 1, and to come back in the fall and winter to

assess how other revenue-producing initiatives are faring, and then begin a discussion about 2017 fares.

Whether you ride RT or not, please know that the success of the system is integral to the success of our region. A strong public transportation system is critical to economic development and meeting a host of the region's goals. Please let me know your thoughts on RT, and how we can both improve its operations and attract more riders.

As always, you can contact me at jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org.

Site plan: SCNA filed objections to lack of notice

Continued from page one

Curiously, the design director's decision approving the site plan states: "Any person dissatisfied with the above action may file a request for the design director to review and reconsider the decision" within seven calendar days. However, it is unclear how "any person" would have known this decision had been made because there

was no public notice requirement to alert the public to the existence of a deadline to timely file such a request for reconsideration.

SCNA has lodged objections to the lack of notice of such design review requests and continues to work with the city to receive such notices on a timely and courtesy basis.

APRIL 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., Wednesday & Friday
Rm. 12. \$10/Drop-in; \$40/6 classes
Pat Shaw: 856-0136

Fall Prevention
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m., Tues/Thurs
4 classes \$20; 8 classes \$40
Pat Shaw: 856-0136

LEISURE

Book Club
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., 2nd Monday
April 11: "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown
May 9: "Arabian Jazz," by Diana Abu-Jaber

Popcorn & Movie
1:30-3:30 p.m., Third Tuesday
April: Ladies in Lavender
Donation: \$1-3 (includes popcorn)

My Story Project meeting
1–3 p.m., 2nd Monday of the month

Everyone Can Drum
1–2 p.m., Tuesdays. Studio 1, \$5

Life History Writing
1–3 p.m., Wednesdays

Open Art
Noon–3 p.m., Fridays. Room 11

EDUCATION

Garden Club
10-11 a.m., Second Tuesday, Room 9

Beginning Drawing
9-10:15 a.m., April 7, 21 & 28
\$36/month; \$13/drop-in
Patris: 397-8958

Hot Topic Tuesday
Finding Your Ancestors
10-11 a.m., last Tuesday of month, Free

CARDS & GAMES

Ginasta
9:30–11:30 a.m., Mondays

Mahjong
10 a.m.–noon, Mondays (not 2nd Monday)

Fun Bridge
1–4 p.m., Thursdays

Pinochle
1–3 p.m., Fridays

WELLNESS PROGRAM

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

Healthy Back
4:30-5:30 p.m., Mondays, Studio 1

Practical Nutrition
2-3 p.m., Tuesdays, Room 9

Yoga + You
11:30-12:30 p.m., Fridays, Studio 3

Chair Massage
2:30-4:30 p.m., Wednesdays, appointment only

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

Tai Chi
10:30-11:15 a.m. Thursdays, Room 12

EVENTS

AARP Driver Safety Program
9 a.m.-1 p.m., May 9 & 10, Room 10
Fee: \$15 (AARP members) or \$20 (non-members)
Register: Jim Finnegan, 804-9777

Potluck
Noon–2 p.m., Last Friday, Room 12

Senior Committee Meeting
3 p.m., Call for date

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ESTATES & HOMES

National Arbor Day — a tree-planting holiday

By Dan Pskowski
Viewpoint staff writer

Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees.

Newspaper editor J. Sterling Morton promoted the first American Arbor Day in Nebraska City, Neb., on April 10, 1872. The idea Morton presented to the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture resulted in an estimated one million trees planted on that one day in Nebraska.

Morton and his fellow pioneers missed the trees they were accustomed to back east because Nebraska was naturally a treeless prairie landscape. Morton advocated tree planting in his articles and editorials and encouraged civic organizations and groups to engage in tree planting.

Trees were needed for wind breaks to keep tilled soil from blowing away. Trees also supplied fuel, building materials and shade from the hot summer sun. Morton

recognized and publicized both the aesthetic and economic value of trees on farms, around homes, in schoolyards and throughout the community.

In 1970, President Nixon proclaimed the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day -- April 29 this year. Individual states also celebrate their arbor day in the spring when it's a good time to plant in their locales.

California Arbor Day is celebrated on March 7 in honor of horticulturalist Luther Burbank's

birthday and also because it's typically ideal for planting trees in most areas of the state. Burbank was called the plant wizard because he pioneered methods in plant breeding that produced scores of improved fruit and nut trees.

Interested in planting trees for Arbor Day? The National Arbor Day Foundation (arborday.org) and the Sacramento Tree Foundation (sactree.org) post information on their websites to help individuals or groups plant and care for trees.

First Curtis Park Home Tour was response to crisis

By Janice Calpo
Special to Viewpoint

As we celebrate 30 years of Curtis Park home tours, we look back to the crisis that prompted the first home tour.

In 1986, the entire electrical system at Sierra 2 Center was in dire straits. Concerns for public safety were enough to close the 24th Street Theatre, leaving groups such as the Capitol City Ballet and Jazzworks scrambling. The SCNA Electrical Committee, assisted by Councilmember Joe Serna, was working to raise funds for a new transformer and a complete electrical rewiring of the center.

The electrical crisis was a rallying call. Curtis Park residents Shirley McKibbin and Connie



Hoover stepped up and created the first Home Tour & Boutique for the December holidays as a benefit for the Sierra 2 Center.

"It's been heartwarming and gratifying to see the neighbors join together again to support our center," Shirley said at the time, recalling the initial effort that saved the Sierra School building from demolition. Volunteers were called upon to docent and help in other ways, such as baking cookies for the holiday bake sale.

The 1986 tour included eight homes, which tour organizers described as "large and small, old and middle-aged, classy and homey." Homeowner Melanie Kuhnel said, "It's not a designer's dream — it's our home."

Though the December Home Tour & Boutique eventually became the spring Home & Garden Tour, it's easy to imagine the holiday festivities of the day, with the Christmas Boutique in the Community

Room, where neighbors and guests gathered to chat over hot mulled wine and cider, taste baked goodies, and select a Christmas tree to take home for decorating.

Sadly, the county health department no longer allows the sale of home-baked goodies, but 30 years later we enjoy gourmet food trucks.

Social media, online ticket sales and many "modern" conveniences have benefited our home tour, but the traditions of friendliness and historic authenticity remain.

Not only is the spirit of the first home tour alive and well today, many of the homeowners are still in the neighborhood. Mark and Sharon Helmar, who opened their home for the first tour, will open their doors again. Their current home is a post-children downsized house a mile up the road but still in the heart of the neighborhood.

Note: The "Save our Sierra" illustration was done by Sacramento Bee editorial cartoonist Dennis Renault.



Tour: Featuring food, music, drought-tolerant gardening, beekeeping

Continued from page one

facing each other on a unique stretch of Markham Way with massive oak trees in the center of the street.

Tour goes and the public will enjoy live music, food and information displays at the north end of Curtis Park. Musical groups will include flautist Sarah Karliner, Poki and Little Green Grass Snake Band, Amanda Gray and the Templetons. Mama Kim Cooks and An Honest Pie will have food for sale. Picnic tables and chairs will be provided.

Displays and activities will focus on drought-tolerant landscaping, fruit and vegetable gardening, and even beekeeping. In addition to the homes on tour, a map will indicate drought-tolerant gardens in the neighborhood.

Key event sponsors include SMUD, Joseph Eschleman/Wells Fargo Advisors, Steffan Brown/Keller-Williams, PORTA Real Estate Services with Paramount Mortgage, and Gunther's Ice Cream.

Tickets can be purchased in advance on-line at www.Sierra2.org, or at the Sierra 2 Community Center. Advance tickets are \$25 (\$20 for SCNA members), and day-of-tour tickets are \$30 (\$25 for SCNA members).

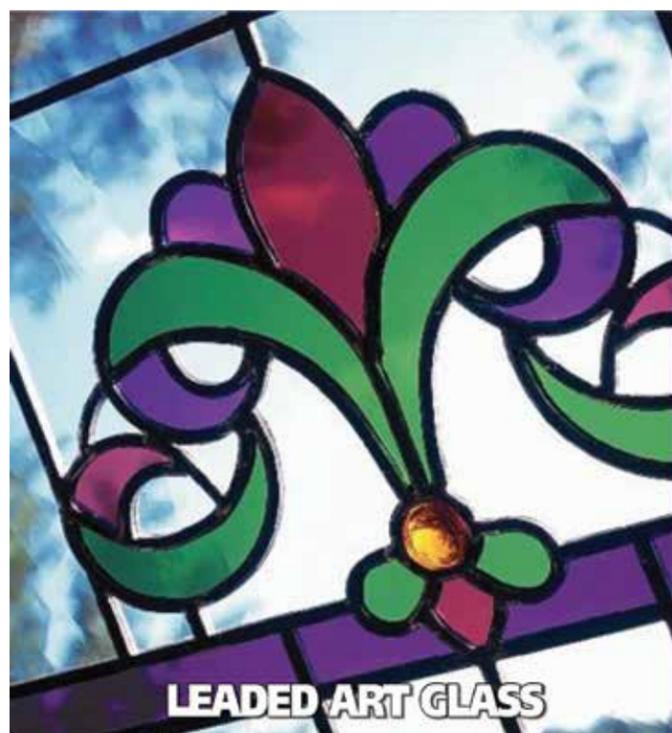
On the day of the tour, tickets can be purchased at the north end of Curtis Park at 26th Street and Donner Way. Tickets will not be sold on tour day at the Sierra 2 Center.

Docents and volunteers are asked to purchase their discount tickets in advance at the Sierra 2 Center or on tour day at the north end of Curtis Park.



Photo/Rudy Calpo

This sleek corner house emphasizes a simple Tudor design aesthetic, enhanced by leaded glass windows under a steep cross-gabled roof.



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Annual pajama parade and egg hunt attracts 'hoppy' people

Spring hopped into Curtis Park March 26 with another festive SCNA Egg Hunt. Many children, family members and friends joined together for a pajama parade, craft activities, Bunny photos and a fantastic Egg Hunt.

Rosanna Herber led the parade and Kate Woolley took over as the Master of Ceremonies.

Event photos by Joan Cusick can be viewed at www.joancusick.com/Events/Easter-2016/.

— Faith Johnstone



Michael and Shannon McKinney Hearn's child Alister gets a bunny face paint.



Dayle and Larry Rodenborn's son Case is content with his egg treasure.



Photos/Joan Cusick

Rosanna Herber stepped in this year as grand marshal to lead the parade. Angela Mia with her dog Wicket joins in by bicycle.



The Singers with Hart belt out a lively song at a recent performance.

Singing for joy

The Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center and the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission present "Sing for Joy: A Spring Choral Concert" showcasing the singing talents of *Singers with Hart*, a choral group of 40 singers age 50-plus, 2-4 p.m. April 10 at the 24th Street Theatre. The two-hour spring concert features traditional folk

music, classical and popular songs, and contemporary choral favorites. This is a free, but ticketed, event. Free tickets may be obtained at the Hart Senior Center reception desk, 915 27th St.

For more information, call 808-5462 or visit www.cityofsacramento.org/hartcenter.

— Valerie Burrows

Songwriting workshop April 27



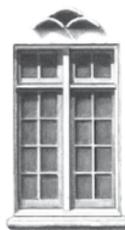
Steve Seskin

Nashville Songwriters Association International NOR CAL welcomes Grammy-nominated and NSAI & Music Row magazine song of the year winner Steve Seskin ("Don't Laugh at Me") for an intimate workshop on melody and lyrics, 6-9 p.m. April 27 in the Garden Room. Artists who have recorded his songs include Tim McGraw ("Grown Men Don't Cry"), Kenny Chesney, Peter Frampton, Waylon Jennings, Alabama, and Peter Paul and Mary.

Seskin is also a successful performer and recording artist with more than 20 albums. The workshop fee is \$40 for NSAI members and \$45 for non-members.

For reservations, contact Gabrielle Kennedy at 476-5073 or gabrielle@gabscourt.com.

— Valerie Burrows



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Bret Harte news

Local author entertains young readers

By Fayzah Mughal
Viewpoint correspondent

In honor of “Read Across America Day,” a national event celebrating Dr. Seuss’ contributions to children’s literature, author **Kate David** entertained children in grades K-3 with a 45-minute interactive storytelling.

Students dressed up in costumes supplied by the author. David also supplied each class in attendance and the school library with signed copies of her books “Murphy and the Magical Hat” and “McKay and the Magical Hat.”

Student Support Center coordinator **Elizabeth Sterba** and her super-intern, **Ms. Jaime**, worked tirelessly organizing the event. On a moment’s notice, Bret Harte neighbor extraordinaire **Susan Frye** volunteered to fill in for a guest reader.



Garden club

More than 50 students have enrolled in Bret Harte’s after-school garden club, inspired by Soil Born Farms’ “A Garden in Every School” symposium.

Five members of the Bret Harte family attended the symposium, which included two days of lectures, workshops and idea sharing. With the help of three enthusiastic Sacramento State University students, a few parent volunteers and the Garden Team, the club’s rollout was a smash hit.

Anyone wishing to contribute labor, plants, tools or other forms of support to the garden program may contact bhartegardengrows@gmail.com, or call (916) 277-6261.

Happy feet

Three Bret Harte teachers are collaborating to get students moving through their “walk and talk” physical education program. Children in grades 1-3 will walk laps around Curtis Park in pairs, chatting away with their partners; this should make for some interesting conversations.

Another group you may come across on your Friday afternoon walk at the park is the “Runnin’ for Rhett” team. The local nonprofit has the goal of getting kids “moving into life.” Bret Harte’s group of boys and girls is training for the May 1 Pony Express 5K at the Capitol.

Reading Partners

Reading Partners is a literacy nonprofit that provides one-on-one literacy tutoring to struggling elementary readers. Community volunteers work with students twice a

week for 45 minutes.

Anyone interested in helping to change the life of a student is welcome to volunteer. Reading Partners provides initial and ongoing training support for volunteers; no prior experience is necessary.

The reading center at Bret Harte Elementary is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Student participants are between one month and two and a half years behind grade level. Their classroom teachers refer students to the center.

People may volunteer in several ways:

- * Individual volunteering, one hour per week;
- * Team volunteering, sponsoring a certain hour or day at Bret Harte;
- * One-day volunteer events.

For more information, contact **Rachael Valler** at rachael.valler@readingpartners.org.



Photo/Elizabeth Sterba

Kindergartners through third-graders gather with author Kate David for a special assembly storytelling time.



Photo/courtesy of Karen Lim

At the symposium are Soil Born’s co-founder Janet Zeller, second from left, with Fayzah Mughal, Gerine Williams, Onethia Riley and Karen Lim.

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ADS are \$5 for 25 words or less with advance payment. Deadline is the 15th of the month. Make check to Sierra 2 at 2791 24th St., Sacramento, CA 95818.

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