

VIEWPOINT

A Publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association

Vol. 34, No. 8

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

April 2013



The house is approached past the sculptural iron gate and through the decomposed granite garden, featuring Mediterranean plants, weathered wooden chairs, and a cafe table.



Photos/Rudy Calpo

The pool with water features is the centerpiece of the backyard, surrounded by stacked quartz seating and walls, along with structures made to look like a European village.

Five homes and gardens ready for Tour on April 27

By Lori Harder

Special to the Viewpoint

This year's Home and Garden Tour on April 27 will showcase five lovely Curtis Park homes and gardens and celebrate the 90th birthday of the Sierra School building, home to the Sierra 2 Center.

Vintage Model A's will roll along our tree-lined streets

while tour goes and neighbors walk about to visit the homes, enjoy refreshments, have lunch and listen to music at the north end of the Park. Among the items for sale will be baked goods and lunch offered by Wicked 'Wich and Mama Kim's.

In addition, a plein air art show will feature springtime paintings of sites in Curtis Park.

Please see Tour, page 2

TOUR SCHEDULE

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27

Tickets—

In advance: \$20 (\$15, SCNA mbrs)

Day of tour: \$25 (\$20, SCNA mbrs)

Online: www.sierra2.org

In person: at the Sierra 2 Center office, Collected Works at 4524 Freeport Blvd. or Haus at 5601 H St.

Docents are asked to buy their special discount tickets at the Sierra 2 Center.

History tour on a bicycle

Dan Murphy, Third Avenue neighbor and author of "Sacramento's Curtis Park," will lead a leisurely two-hour tour of Curtis Park's historical hotspots as a fundraiser for light fixtures at Sierra 2. The tour will begin about 9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 14.

Participants will meet at the bike rack near the north 24th Street entrance to the center. The cost is a \$20 donation to the Sierra 2 light restoration project explained in the March Viewpoint. Participants need to bring their own bikes.

Checks should be made to SCNA or Dan Murphy. For more details: murpete@comcast.net or 736-2456.

Food truck service at First Friday April 5

First Friday dinner returns this month in Curtis Hall with a major change in food service. Instead of a caterer with a fixed menu, there will be service from a food truck, which will provide more food options in the future, according to Terri Shettle, Sierra 2's executive director.

The change came about because the inconsistent number of diners was not cost effective for SCNA.

Serving dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. April 5 will be the crew aboard the Krush Burger. The menu is mini burgers, BBQ pulled pork burgers or BBQ tofu sliders with fries. The cost is \$8, adults and \$4, children under 12. Diners will pay the vendor directly.

Inside Curtis Hall, the neighborhood association will have a no-host bar for beer, wine, soft drinks and water, and s'mores will be available in the patio area.

Sierra School enters 90th year with big party

In connection with the Home and Garden Tour on April 27, SCNA's Heritage Committee will help celebrate the 90th birthday of Sierra School.

The school, which is home of the Sierra 2 Center, was built in the Andalusian/Spanish revival style. It opened its door to students in 1923.

For the birthday celebration there will be exhibits and a film

depicting the history of the school. It will be shown every half hour between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in Room 9 at Sierra 2.

The exhibit in Room10 will include posters, pictures and documents from its early days as well as pictures from the building's rescue from demolition in the 1970s by neighbors who subsequently formed the Sierra School Association.

It later became the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association.

Docents will be on hand to answer questions about the exhibit.

A new neighborhood project to restore 17 schoolhouse lights along the first floor hallway was expected to be complete in time for the anniversary celebration, but a few bureaucratic glitches got in the way.

Please see Anniversary, page 8

Portola Way builder returns with permit

By Dennis Cusick

Viewpoint staff writer

A new house may rise soon on the foundation of one of Curtis Park's oldest houses, at Portola Way and 26th Street.

The owners of the property at 2601 Portola Way cleared a hurdle to resume construction of a two-story, four-bedroom house at a public hearing March 28 before city Zoning Administrator Joy Patterson. Her approval will allow construction to resume once the owners receive a building permit.

The city had "red-tagged" the property the first week of November, forcing the owners to halt work on the property, after framers had removed the previous structure down to the subfloor.

Associate city planner Robert Williams said that after the tear-down, "It became not what we originally received and approved. It became new construction."

If the owners had sought the city's permission to change the project, they likely would have gotten it, Williams said. "Building within the existing footprint —



Front elevation of the plan for the new home at the corner of Portola and 26th Street.

that's always appropriate to do." However, "before you proceed, since you've been approved for one thing, you should come in before you do something different."

Williams said the public hearing was required for the current owners to receive a special permit to deviate from the building code, which was necessary because the garage

Please see Construction, page 6

Notes from March 13th meeting

Board looks at building designs, airport addition and streetlights

Change to check-signing policy

Previously, two signatures were required on every check over \$500. The Board approved an increase to \$2,000. The change allows the executive director to sign checks up to that amount.

CVS design plans critiqued

The board sent a letter to the city planning commission criticizing the proposed design plans for the CVS Pharmacy slated to replace Mercado Loco at the corner of Sutterville Road and Franklin Boulevard. The board’s comments encouraged the applicant to look toward the Sacramento Children’s Home for design inspiration in architectural details and more pedestrian/ bicycle friendly features. The board will invite the applicant to meet with the board on their plans.

Executive Airport development

The Sacramento Executive

Airport contacted the Board proactively to inform the community a Taiwan airline is considering the airport for a flight school. The project could result in more than a \$13-million investment in the airport. The airline must still obtain approval from the FAA, but the County is considering the lease prior to approval. The board was told only small 2-4 seat planes would be flown and flight patterns shouldn’t impact the community. The board indicated they had no concerns with the project.

Sierra 2 staff gets kudos

The executive director included thank you messages the staff has received following events so the board could see the appreciation from users of the center. The board added their praise for staff and expressed excitement at seeing others taking the time to recognize the staff.

The SCNA Board meets at 7 p.m. in the Garden Room on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is April 10. For more information, call the Sierra 2 office at 452-3005.

Community takes charge of Curtis Park

SCNA has officially adopted William Curtis Park through the city’s Partner in Parks program. The first clean-up day is April 6th. Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. -noon. See separate story on page 7.

City decision on street light project

The board learned city staff has finalized its recommendation regarding the streetlight replacement/ refurbishment project in the neighborhood. The Board will invite city staff to

present the recommendation to the board and neighbors at the next meeting.

Greater Broadway Partnership seeks support

Teresa Rocha, executive director of the partnership, asked the board for a letter of support for a grant the city is pursuing from CalTrans. The grant would fund additional planning on Broadway. It would continue the planning they began with the Urban Land Institute grant last year. The partnership aims to increase safety for bicyclists and pedestrians and improve the corridor for businesses.

A number of community groups are being asked to show their support to strengthen the application. The board agreed to send a support letter by March 31.

— Submitted by Nicole Quinonez, Board Secretary

President’s message

Reinterpreted tax code results in huge bill for back taxes on Sierra 2

The bill is \$25,470. 34. This is the amount the Sacramento County Assessor’s office billed the Sierra 2 Center in mid-February for the tax years 2011/12 and 2012/13. The sheer size of the bill could cause serious problems for the center. Moreover, the 2011/12 bill was unexpected because we had received a letter from the Assistant Assessor stating that he was canceling the bill.

ERIC JOHNSON
SCNA Board President



public entities, however, are not subject to that tax for buildings they own on public land. In many cases, private firms lease out these buildings to conduct commercial or other revenue-generating activities. The California Constitution says that it is only fair for these firms to pay similar taxes like the rest of us — this is called the Possessory Interest Tax. Seems fair.

Non-profit entities are generally not subject to the Possessory Interest Tax through the Welfare Exemption, much like charities are exempt from many taxes. SCNA is in an interesting position here, since we are a non-profit entity that rents out our building to many private tenants. We use that revenue to carry out the mission as laid out in our Purpose: enhancing the quality of life in the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood and Sacramento.

As I understand it, the County is essentially telling us that it no longer views SCNA’s activities

as non-profit. Renting out Community rooms is one of our primary purposes, and our mutual understanding about those rentals dates back to the 1990s. If this interpretation stands, it will have severe repercussions on activities at the center, since the center itself will have to pass on this tax to its tenants in the form of rent increases.

The Sierra 2 Center wants to be a good citizen and meet its fair tax obligations to the community. We believe, however, that this assessment is unfair and contradictory. In the coming weeks, several Board members and I will meet with appropriate officials to determine the best way forward. I will keep you up to date as things progress. In the meantime, enjoy what promises to be a very fine Spring.

Tour: Music, art and lunch in the park

(Continued from page 1)

This year’s home tour will feature five Curtis Park homes that are smaller in size, but large in character and charm. Among the open homes is a 1913 rustic shingled bungalow that turns 100 this year. It invites visitors with its large open porch, and warms them with its wooded interior and large craftsman windows open to nature. Other houses were built in the 1920s Revival styles. A Spanish Revival conveys Old World style within its arched windows and coved ceilings. A Colonial Revival gives the purest of the eastern seaboard airiness with its clean yet colorful walls and furnishings, and huge multi-paned windows. One English Tudor home is timeless in style. It has a bright kitchen with a farmhouse sink. Another Tudor home displays cutting-edge art and has intense colors that are offset by rustic, early American furniture, which includes

family heirlooms. Some stunning backyard spaces with water features will also be on the tour. The homeowners’ many styles create a variety of interior spaces for visitors to experience. The diverse designs will help visitors appreciate what can be done within the original historic houses. SMUD returns this year as the major tour sponsor. Other sponsors include the Greater Broadway Partnership, Joseph Eschleman with Wells Fargo Advisors, and City Councilman Jay Schenirer. The home tour is a key fundraising event for SCNA. Its proceeds and those from the sale of artwork will benefit the Sierra 2 Center and the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association’s activities, including Music in the Park and publication of the Viewpoint. For more information: 452-3005, the Sierra 2 office.

VIEWPOINT	
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Neighbors who have an interesting story or event are encouraged to submit ideas or articles to the editor via the Sierra 2 office: 452-3005.

Neighbors dig in to plant Valley Oaks

By Jeff Hunts
Special to the Viewpoint

Just beyond the foul line, in deep right field of Curtis Park’s baseball diamond, a beautiful pre-spring dawn found folding tables set with muffins, fruit, and tree-loving literature eagerly awaiting the volunteers. Near 9 a.m. Sacramento Tree Foundation personnel unloaded shovels, hoes, stakes and caging from a trailer, while certified arborist and rookie SCNA board member Dan Pskowski dispersed baby Valley Oaks to 11 designated spots in the north and six in the south.

So began a March 2nd effort that showed how many hands make light work. The work was to conduct the mitigated plantings required after the Curtis Park Village project removed mature oaks in the rail yard.

By the time Tree Foundation Nature Director Erika Teach had finished collecting waiver forms, more than two dozen neighbors with work gloves had gathered. Neighborhood Concerns Committee co-chair John Mathews provided a few words of context, as did SCNA Board Vice President Andrea Rosen.

Then, after watching Tree Foundation Restoration Field Specialist Sarah Somers

demonstrate ideal planting technique, volunteers teamed up and spread out to dig. Quercus lobata saplings grown in three-gallon T818 pots were carefully placed in each prepared hole, crowns above grade, and gently tucked into the earth. Although much smaller than the 15 gallon specimens often used in past planting efforts, the size and shape of the veritable sprouts should ultimately allow the young trees to establish themselves more vigorously. That is, if they survive.

Tree plantings in the park over the past two decades have had notoriously mixed success, with some efforts ending in 50 percent losses to vandalism. This time, extra protection in the form of T-posts and sturdy cages will guard the trees from whimsical malice.

Employing an additional preventive strategy, volunteers were offered the opportunity to “name” their plantings, and signs might later be hung on the cages to further personalize these gifts to the future.

The Tree Foundation is under a three-year maintenance contract with the City to provide care and watering: weekly for the first year; twice a



Photo/Joan Cusick
Lara Pucik Johnson, left, volunteered for tree planting with Chance Johnson and Marc Christensen.

month the second; and monthly during the third. Neighbors are encouraged to keep an eye on the new trees, but they are discouraged from providing additional water or fertilizer, or from planting any flowers nearby. The goal is to wean the trees by the time the contract is over. Any concerns about the trees well-being can be directed to NCC@sierra2.org. Neighbors may be curious that some of the new oaks were planted in line with the stately London
Please Planting, page 8

What’s new at Sierra 2

By Valerie Burrows
Facility Administrator

Explore folkloric arts of Brazil

Brazilian Capoeira classes with world renowned artist Mestre Caboclinho Aruanda from Brazil take place from 2-3 p.m. Saturdays in Studio 1. Capoeira combines music, philosophy and folkloric arts to form an art played between two people. Capoeira’s teachings impart life skills for ages 7 and up. Those skills include self-discipline, self-confidence, conflict resolution as well as physical fitness and rhythm.

For more information: 588-5463, brazacali@yahoo.com or www.tabcat.org.

The Shamanic journey

This introductory workshop is from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 13 and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 14 in Sierra 2’s Garden Room. Its emphasis is on the classic shamanic journey with the aid of drumming and other techniques for awakening spiritual abilities, including connections with Nature.

Methods to discover and study with power animals and spiritual teachers are also taught. Students will learn how shamanism can be applied in contemporary daily life to help heal oneself, others, and the planet.

Registration: www.shamanicuniverse.com.

Learn about domestic adoption

The adoption of a domestic infant and an open adoption are the focuses of a free, single-session orientation conducted by Adoption Connection from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 in Room 9. Adoption Connection is a 25-year-old licensed adoption agency that has been serving birthparents throughout the United States and adoptive parents in 19 counties in Northern California.

Pre-registration is required to attend this event. For details and to register, visit: www.adoptionconnection.org.

Demystifying Medicare

Platinum Insurance and Financial Services will hold two presentations a month to help seniors understand their final expense and their Medicare coverage. The first Tuesday of the month session from 1-2 p.m. will cover the Final Expense. The second Saturday of the month session from 11 a.m. to noon will cover Medicare. Both are in Room 11.

Platinum is committed to senior education as resource specialists and is dedicated to providing financially sound solutions.

Neighbors are invited to attend these free presentations, or contact John Peterson at (916) 832-4815 to schedule a free, one-on-one consultation.

Steffan Brown
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APRIL AT SIERRA 2

AT THE 24TH STREET THEATRE

Recovery Rocks Talent Show II
River City Roundup

April 6
Doors: 6:30 p.m. • Show: 7 p.m.
Advance tickets: \$10 • At the door: \$15
Tickets: Kevin Alverson, (916) 296-6567
Info: www.rcru.com

A night of Sacramento talent features an encore live performance of “Share! The Musical.”



The Little Mermaid
Runaway Stage Storybook Theater

April 20, 26 and May 4
Saturdays at Noon and 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$8 General, \$6 Children
(12 and under)
Info: (916) 207-1226 or
www.runawaystage.com

A young boy and his father move to a lighthouse by the sea. One day, as the boy sits alone and lonely, a miraculous thing happens. He is transported under the waves where he makes friends with a beautiful singing mermaid and battles a fierce shark who wants to barbecue them for dinner.
Original script, songs and music by Ray Fischer.



42nd Street
Runaway Stage Productions

April 12–May 5
Shows: Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.,
Sundays at 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$22 Adults, \$20 Seniors (60+),
\$18 Students and SARTA
\$15 Kids (12 and under)
Info: (916) 207-1226 or
www.runawaystage.com



This Broadway musical is based on the classic 1933 movie with the same name. It’s the story of a naive young actress named Peggy Sawyer who arrives to audition for the new Julian Marsh extravaganza set to open on Broadway starring aging leading lady Dorothy Brock. This classic backstage story is one the whole family will enjoy. The 1980 Broadway production won the Tony Award for Best Musical and became a long-running hit. The show was produced in London in 1984 (winning the Olivier Award for Best Musical), and its 2001 Broadway revival won the Tony for Best Revival.

NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR



Community Yard Sale: May 18
Dinner and a Movie: June 21
Music in the Park: Last Sunday of June, July & August, Curtis Park
Curtis Fest: August 25, Curtis Park
Curtis Park Wine Tasting & Silent Auction: October 5

ACTIVITIES AT SIERRA 2

OUR TENANTS

- All Seasons All Reasons Fine Catering
451–9393
- Angela Curiale Ph.D. Psychologist
455–1592
- Great Beginnings
Child Development Center
456–4642
- Hope Harris Photography
454–2111
- Italian Cultural Society
Language School
482–5900
- La Famiglia Catering
739–6034
- River Song Meditation
212–0062
- Runaway Stage Production
207–1226
- Sacramento Braille Transcribers
455–9121
- Sacramento Yoga Center
572-9139
- Straight Men's AA
454–1100
- Charr Crail Photography
505-1154



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

Capital City Music Together
Children 5 and under
enjoy singing, dancing,
drumming, playing, giggling
Call for class schedules.
Jennie Ribadeneira: 990-3222
www.capitalcitymusictogether.com

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for K–8th Grade
4-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Rooms 11 & 12 • www.efsac.com

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

Zumba
Mon/Wed/Fri, 10-11 a.m.
Tues./Wed./Thu. 5-6 p.m.
Sat. 11 a.m.-noon • Sun. 4-5 p.m.
Studio 2 • Vanessa • itsvtime@live.com

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

DANCE
New York Salsa
Tuesdays, 7–10 p.m., Studio 1
Oscar Castenada • 296-2216

Mindful Bellydance
Tribal fundamentals class for all levels
Thursdays, 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

Sacramento Powwow Dance Class
All ages and levels • Free
6:30–8:30 p.m. Mondays, Curtis Hall
Shonnie Bear: 747-5133

Irish American Ceili Dancers
1st and 3rd Mondays, 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

River City Taps – Tap Dance
Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday, 5–7:30 p.m.
Wednesday–Thursday, 5-8:30 p.m. and
Thurs, 9:30-12:30 p.m., Studio 3
www.rivercitytaps.com

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

MARTIAL ARTS
Eagle Claw Kung Fu Academy of Sacramento
Wednesdays, 6–7 p.m. 441-7215
Saturdays, 12:30-2 p.m., Studio 2

Sacramento Bushido Kai
Japanese Martial Arts for ages 4-Adult
For schedule, Michael Mason: 616-5452

Sacramento Sword School
Martial Sword Arts of Europe
Thurs, 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

YOGA
Iyengar Yoga
Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. • Studio 1
Gladys Callander: 396-8055

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

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
Sundays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Room 10
Lee Aviles: 203-6461

Bethesda AOH Church of God
Sundays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Room 11
Pastor Geraldine Carte: 392-2877

New Covenant Ministries
Sundays, 9 a.m. - Noon
Room 9 • Pastor John Jacobs

Rising Star Ministries
Sundays, 1:30-4 p.m. Room 10
Pastor John Parker, 904-9552

OTHER
Golden Eagles Toastmasters Club
1st and 3rd Sundays, 10:15-11:30 a.m.
Room 11 • Lonna Moreno
goldeneagles.toast@yahoo.com

Atheist and Other Freethinkers
1:30-4 p.m., Room 10
April 14, June 9, Aug. 11
www.aofonline.org

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

Arbonne
1st Tuesday, 7–8:15 p.m., Room 10
Tracy Moore 396–4680 or tracymoore.

Platinum Insurance & Financial Services
Final Expense: First Tuesday, 1–2 p.m.:
Medicare 101: 2nd Saturday, 11 a.m.-noon:
Room 11 • Free • John Peterson, 832-4815

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812-2607

Brazilian Capoeira
Saturdays, 2-3 p.m.
Studio 2
Mestre Caboclinho Aruanda, 588-5463

Seniors write about pivotal moments in their lives

Wouldn't all of us love to have a journal, a memoir or find a letter hidden away from someone we loved, at some point in our lives?

Joe and Bubbles Miguel realized the importance of leaving a legacy through writing and so began the Life History Writing Class at the Sierra 2 Senior Center.

The Miguels remind us of the simple pleasures of writing, no emails, text or phone, simply writing about life experiences and reading. Joe and Bubbles are passionate that we leave behind written words for our loved ones,

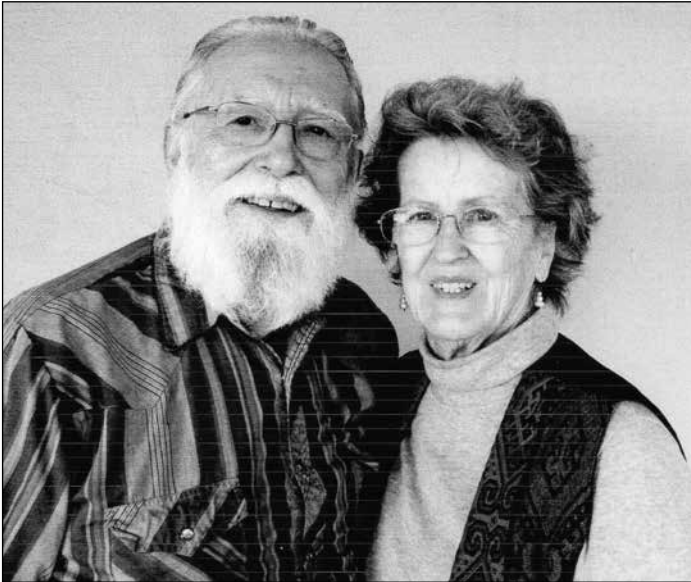
something to hold onto to read and reread and share. A bit of mortality you might say.

Participants in the group have been meeting since 2002, and their bond cannot be broken. "Our

friends share their deepest thoughts and experiences, both happy and tragic times, knowing that they are shared with confidentiality," Joe said. Writing and reading stories provides a personal freedom, which the group respects.

Because of the personal nature of the stories, participants of the group may know an individual better than anyone else in their lives. Stories focus on birth, family, animals, death and everything in between. Joe and Bubbles' training on how to lead small groups gives

'Reading our Lives'
1 p.m. • April 14
Curtis Hall at Sierra 2
Admission: \$5



Joe and Bubbles Miguel lead the Life History Writing Class at the Sierra 2 Senior Center.

them an edge on how to conduct the Life History Class so participants get the most from their experience.

Joe and Bubbles have been married 60 years. They stay physically active and enjoy ballroom dance with the Sarabande Dance Club. Both have been active since 1995 at the Hart Center, where they lead the Life History and the Balance and Strengthening classes. In between spending time with their family, Joe weaves baskets and Bubbles creates books. Sierra 2 Center is honored to have Joe and Bubbles at our center to help create lifelong memories.

As part of the Life History Class, the community is invited to attend the "Reading Our Lives" program at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 14 in Curtis Hall at Sierra 2 Center. Guests will hear stories written by seniors in our community. The event is sponsored by Eskaton Monroe Lodge. Tickets are \$5. For details, call 455-6339.

— Karen Oosterman, Senior Center director

Sierra 2 Senior Center in April

The Senior Center is open to all seniors (age 55 and up). It is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in Room 12 of Sierra 2. The center provides opportunities to keep learning, exercise, meet new people and be actively involved with neighbors. Free (donations accepted) and fee-based classes and activities are on the schedule. See the calendar.

Schenirer's message

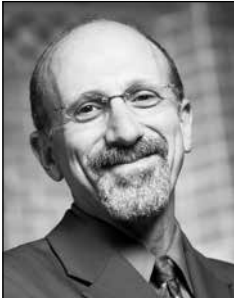
Appointee expected to aid renewed commitment to parks

As a City Councilmember, I am allowed to make a few appointments to support the stewardship of our City — the Planning and Design Commission and the Parks Commission being the two most important. Recently, the District Five Parks Commission appointment opened up, and I'm happy to announce that Curtis Park's very own Terri Shettle, as of March 26, is the new District 5 Parks Commissioner.

The Commission recommends and advises the City Council and the Department of Parks and Recreation on policies, projects, and other matters pertaining to parks, recreation, trees, and human services in the City. In addition, our office has a number of projects we will be asking Terri to assist us with, such as organizing volunteer park clean up days and working with the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission to install art in area parks.

There is little doubt that one of the most important services our City offers is building and maintaining of our parks. Our park system provides over 5,000 acres of green space and recreational opportunities. In recent years our parks have also become perhaps the most recognizable aspect of our City's budget cuts. Fortunately, that is changing.

Thanks to the people of Sacramento, the passage of Measure U is bringing much needed reinvestments back into our parks. In March, the City Council voted to approve some of the unallocated Measure U revenue to restore funding for nearly all of our swimming pools and five wading pools, including McClatchy and Mangan



Jay Schenirer
City Councilmember

parks in District 5. Additionally, the City Parks Department will soon be coming back to the Council with a prioritized list of deferred maintenance projects. It is my hope the Council will dedicate between \$600,000 and \$800,000 in the coming weeks for shovel-ready repairs, including fixing many of the irrigation problems we have.

The Council decided to restore some services for public safety immediately rather than wait for the budget process in June. On

March 12 the Council voted unanimously to approve funding to eliminate two of the four fire department brownouts, fund the SAFER grant that expires in May through the fiscal year, and fund the first Police Department Academy since 2008. The commitment to these services goes beyond the current fiscal year. Their ongoing funding will require over half of the \$27 million generated annually from Measure U. Through maintenance of effort agreement, the City also dedicated over \$500,000 of Measure U money to the library system.

On a separate note, as many of you know, I participated last year in the NorCal AIDS Cycle, a 330-mile, four-day ride to raise money and awareness for HIV / AIDS service providers in the Sacramento Valley and beyond. Last year, the ride raised over \$300,000 for this worthwhile cause; my contribution was slightly under \$5,000. This year, my wife, Bina, and I will ride in the May 16-19 event, and our combined goal is \$7,500. I hope that you will consider supporting us in this endeavor. You can find the link to make a donation on my Facebook page.

SENIOR CENTER AT SIERRA 2

Room 12
For details on classes and events, call 455-6339.
Everyone is welcome.
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FITNESS
Fall Prevention with Pat Shaw
11:30a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Tuesdays/Thursdays
\$20 a month (one class per week)
\$35 a month (two classes per week)

Gentle yoga with Tara Stiles
10-11 a.m. Wednesdays (6 classes \$40)

Tai Chi with Tara Stiles
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Wednesdays
(6 classes \$40)

Walking and Polewalking Clinic
9 a.m. Thursdays

Meditation and Chi Kung with Tara Stiles
10-11 a.m. Fridays (6 classes \$40)

LEISURE
Beginning I Drawing with Patris
Thursdays, 4/25 – 5/16
8:45-9:45 a.m. • \$48

Beginning Drawing II with Patris
Thursdays, 3/28-4/18
9:45-11 a.m. • \$48

Improvisation acting with Jetta
Friday, March 29 • 3-5 p.m.

Book Club
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday, April 8
"Dreams of Joy" by Lisa See

My Story Project meeting
1-2 p.m. Mondays

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

Crafts and Conversation *
1-3 p.m. Fridays (except on potluck day)

Sierra 2 Jewels *
1-3 p.m. Fridays (except on potluck day)

Life History Writing *
1-3 p.m. Wednesdays

Community Acupuncture Clinic
9:45-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, (\$15)

Open Art Studio *
10 a.m. – noon Fridays
Bring projects to work on

CARDS AND GAMES
Mahjong *
10 a.m.-noon, all Mondays except second

Bridge just for fun *
1-4 p.m. Thursdays

Ginasta *
9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays

Pinochle *
1-3 p.m. Fridays

EVENTS
Monthly potluck
(new date) Noon-2 p.m. April 26

Senior Committee meeting
10 a.m. April 8

WORKSHOPS
AARP Driver Safety Program
Monday, April 8 and Tuesday, April 9
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hearing Seminar and Screening with Avalon Hearing Aid Centers
11:30 a.m. Friday, April 5

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Curtis Park inspires Sacramento’s Poet Laureate Jeff Knorr

By Sue Staats
Viewpoint staff writer

There’s a lot to inspire poets and artists in Curtis Park — trees, quiet streets, vintage homes and colorful gardens — but Sacramento Poet Laureate and 12-year Curtis Park resident Jeff Knorr is often spurred to creativity by something many of us don’t notice. He looks to the birds flying over our heads. Knorr lives on 25th Street which, he discovered, is a flyway for geese going to and from the fields where they feed during the day. “I love to hear them in the early evening, coming over low,” Knorr says. “Sometimes, they’re low enough to hear their wings making that scraping sound in the air.” When asked what else about Curtis Park inspires his work, Knorr mentions the “play among kids, the connectedness.”

Knorr grew up in a similar neighborhood in San Leandro. He was a struggling biology major at Chico State when a sympathetic professor suggested he take a break from the sciences and focus on what he liked. Knorr lighted on English courses, and soon discovered poetry. He went on to earn a graduate degree and subsequently found a teaching job at Sacramento City College, where he’s a professor of English and Creative Writing. With three published books of poetry to his credit, as well as several poetry craft books, Knorr is a high-profile leader in Sacramento’s literary community. He was a natural to take on the two-year commitment as Sacramento’s Poet Laureate, and was appointed by



Sacramento Poet Laureate Jeff Knorr likes to hear the birds’ wings “scraping” the air as they fly low over 25th Street, in front of his home.

the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission in September of 2012. The job is quite a challenge. In addition to his teaching load, Knorr is the public face, and voice, of poetry for Sacramento. He’s scheduled 50 events in the first six months of his tenure, from reading to school assemblies and getting people to write love poems on Valentine’s Day to the honor of being selected as the keynote speaker at the California Cultural Summit in Los Angeles. What’s surprised Knorr most is how much response there has been from places he didn’t expect. He’s working to get poets reading in the

Summer, Splitting Wood

By Jeff Knorr

A cord takes me all of Saturday to split and stack,
long work under July sun when wood’s cheapest.

The maul and sledge clang dull, the ring sucked
into the wood, and the ax slices out wedges.

I swing them in an ancient arc of work.
The back and forth, the grain of time against palms.

Early evening, the resident geese fly over honking
out to the island, I long to be somewhere else.

Their wings slide against twilight, cut wind,
they become dots against a sun that has shrunk to a peach.

Fir breaks open yellow like whiskey; I bury it in the stack
to snap us warm some night late December.

Construction: SCNA board member says proposed home ‘fits’ the neighborhood

(Continued from page 1)
and side porch were closer to the sidewalk than the current building code allows. The current ownership group bought the property in July 2012. It inherited renovation plans that the previous owner had submitted to the city several months earlier. A building permit was issued Oct. 17, 2012, and the framer hired by the new owners gutted the house down to the studs. When the remaining structure proved to be largely rotted and unsuited to support a second story, the framer removed the studs down to the subfloor. William Lercari, an agent for the ownership group, said he first became aware of the public interest in the property when people stopped by to observe the demolition work. Some said it was about time that work was done. However, he was taken aback when “some people said it’s a shame what you’re doing.” Williams, the associate city planner, expressed sympathy for the plight of the current ownership

group, who bought a property that had been allowed to decay for years. One of the current owners, David Herzer, apologized to the neighborhood for going beyond what the permit allowed. “We certainly didn’t intend to cause such a negative uproar,” Herzer said. “Our intent was to renovate the house. We discovered structural problems and wood rot problems.” SCNA board member John Mathews has reviewed the reconstruction plans. “At least the new house isn’t going to be giant stucco McMansion as many people feared,” Mathews said. “The design generally fits into the neighborhood, and it’s going to have nice wood lap siding.” The house was not properly set back from the sidewalk because the sidewalk went in after the house. Williams pointed out that the original map of the Curtis Oaks subdivision from 1907 had a lot next to the property where 26th Street later went

through to Marshall Way. Curtis Oaks was created in January 1907, when William Curtis sold the northern edge of his ranch to developer J.C. Carly. The resulting tract comprised the current streets Portola Way, Fifth Avenue and the north half of Donner Way, east of 24th Street. Lots in the Curtis Oaks tract initially sold for \$500 to \$600. Real estate salesman E.A. Pierce, the first owner of 2601 Portola Way, purchased the lot from Carly in April of 1907. Historian Dan Murphy, who wrote a book about the neighborhood, describes the Curtis Oaks tract today as “a rare example of a bungalow street car suburb subdivision with its streetscape relatively intact. That fortunate history is what makes the Curtis Park neighborhood so attractive. To preserve that look, reconstruction that fits in with the existing historic streetscape is very important.” Anyone who opposes the zoning administrator’s decision had 10 days from March 28 to appeal to the 13-member city planning commission.

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Nancy Landrum, left, is greeted by hula dancers Jaqueline Velasco and Yulan Feng at the “Blue Hawaii” Dinner and a Movie on March 22.

An evening of Aloha

The Sierra 2 dinner and a movie event attracted 50 people for a Polynesian dinner in Curtis Hall. After dinner, another 10 joined the group in the 24th Street Theatre. Twelve dancers from Pan Pacific Dance Studio, a longtime Sierra 2 tenant, performed the

hula. The evening concluded with Elvis Presley’s 1961 movie “Blue Hawaii.”

The next Dinner and a Movie will be June 21 with “Julie & Julia” (a 2009 American comedy-drama film written and directed by Nora Ephron and starring Meryl Streep).

Park clean-up day April 6

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association has officially adopted William Curtis Park through the City of Sacramento Partners in Parks program. This adoption program allows volunteers to perform routine clean up, maintenance and gardening in their park. City of Sacramento Park Operations staff will provide the training, and bring tools and other equipment needed for all adoptions, so no prior experience is needed — only the desire to pitch in and clean up our park.

For our first clean-up day from

9 a.m. to noon Saturday April 6, we need volunteers. We will trim bushes, rake leaves and spread mulch around the tennis courts, playground and the beautiful garden area our neighbor Candy Anderson has planted.

On future work days, we will clean up and paint around the baseball diamond and mulch trees in the park. Please join your neighbors to show we care about our park.

Volunteers can sign up by emailing NCC@sierra2.org or calling Faith at 452-3005. Volunteers will receive a list of items to bring.

Renewed landscape project airs April 25

The yard makeover for Brad and Erin Satterwhite of 4th Avenue took place in November, but only now will neighbors get a chance to see the extent of the big dig. The landscaping crew scraped the backyard down to the dirt and started fresh. Their work was filmed by Big Table Media of Sacramento and photographed by Viewpoint photographer Rudy Calpo.

The Yardcore show will premiere April 25 on the DIY network. Viewers can check their cable channels for the time, which will vary with the provider.



A view of the finished backyard design.

Group plans to spruce up Land Park Amphitheater

Most of us are familiar with the Land Park Amphitheater, home to many graduations and the Sacramento City College’s annual Shakespeare in the Park. The theater was built in the late 1930s as a Works Projects Administration (WPA) job.

You may have noticed that theater does not accommodate people with disabilities, its acoustics are minimal, and during the Shakespeare plays, the temporary chain-link fencing and portable toilets detract from the park’s ambiance.

A group of Sacramentans

are working with local architects and planners to raise funds for improvements. Their list for the amphitheater includes improved seating and sightlines, handicapped access, a box office and projection booth, as well as an enlarged stage with a canopy and upgraded acoustics.

Renderings of the amphitheater with the proposed changes have been made.

Anyone interested in this effort can contact Curtis Park resident Maurice Read of 4th Avenue, at 454-5354 or m-read@surewest.net.

Join SCNA today! www.sierra2.org.



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Bret Harte News

Fit Fridays get kids moving

Submitted by Char Klassen
Viewpoint Staff Writer

Bret Harte students, teachers and even some parents are lacing up their running shoes and logging laps every Friday. The Youth & Family Resource Center has been sponsoring this recreational event since November. Participating students complete laps either by walking or jogging from 7:40-7:55 a.m. each Friday. Rubber bands are collected for each "lap" completed. Students then earn prizes as they log their laps. Council member Jay Schenirer's



WayUp Sacramento program and a 10-year initiative of the California Endowment called Sacramento Building Healthy Communities are contributing the prizes. Each week up to 70 students participate. As many as 180 individuals have participated since the program began. To date participants have logged a collective 2,434 laps, which is more than 240 miles. The handful of teachers who are regular lap loggers include Mrs. Shelley, Mrs. Bunney, Mrs. Borskin and Mrs. Sardelich. A few parents came out the first few weeks, but their

participation has dropped off. The Resource Center would love more parents lace up. Elizabeth Sterba enthusiastically works as a specialist with the resource center at Bret Harte and loves seeing the school community come together each Friday. "Fit Friday is a program led by the YFRC at Bret Harte that builds community, gets students moving and prepares them mentally and physically for success in the classroom. Spending just 15 minutes Friday mornings starts the day with energy and positive activity." Liz also noted that, "The BHC and Councilmember Schenirer's WayUp program have generously contributed inventive prizes that encourage student participation, which increases enthusiasm."



Photo/Elizabeth Sterba
Students receive rubber bands as they complete laps on Fit Friday.

Anniversary: Two historic landmark plaques will mark occasion that concludes with cake

(Continued from page 1)
A sample light fixture will be on display, according to Heritage Committee member Dan Murphy. A highlight will be the unveiling of historic landmark plaques for the Sierra 2 campus and the 24th Street Theatre, which was added in 1929 and extensively remodeled in recent years into a key

community theater. The celebratory ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. at the Sierra 2 entrance on 24th Street. Expected speakers include City Councilman Jay Schenirer, a neighbor. Following the formalities, guests can go to the Garden Room to enjoy a piece of cake donated by Freeport Bakery.

Planting: Rugged trees are expected to endure

(Continued from page 3)
Plane trees that ring the park's jogging path. These locations were approved in advance by the Parks Department. Several attempts over the years to replace deceased Plane trees have failed due to their susceptibility to diseases, such as powdery mildew and anthracnose. The Valley Oak, native to the region, is rugged and eventually majestic. And it provides the extra benefit of habitat to other native fauna. As noon rolled around on this planting day, the last of the baby trees were being mulched, staked

and caged. Shovels were gathered and stowed. Neighbors brushed dirt from their knees and, perhaps with a bit of muscle ache, trudged home, knowing that one morning's work may provide many lifetimes of enjoyment. Among the neighbor volunteers who participated are Polly Allen, Ada Allen, Sheila Harrington, Mark Baker, Beverly Kriborian, John Mathews, Dan Pskowski, Taylor Greenberg, Jansson Stout, Alex Morton, Dan Fehringer, Bella Morton Fehringer, Lea Morton Fehringe and Kris Olesan.

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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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