

## Traffic and gas station proposal are discussed at SCNA's annual neighborhood meeting

By Dennis Cusick  
Viewpoint staff writer

Traffic on 24th Street, a bridge to Sacramento City College, a proposed gas station and a new park—all of them related to development of Curtis Park Village—dominated the discussion at SCNA's annual meeting on Nov. 18. About 50 neighbors attended the event in Curtis Hall.

Neighborhood complaints about decreased quality of life from increased traffic on 24th Street prompted the city to conduct a six-month study, said John "Bucky" Perez of the city's traffic engineering office.

"We collected data and we verified that there's a speeding concern there," Perez said at the

meeting. The study determined that the average speed on 24th Street, between the stop signs at Second Avenue and Portola Way, is 33 miles an hour, 8 miles an hour above the speed limit.

Perez said the city is proposing a "traffic calming" strategy that would include a traffic circle at the Marshall Way intersection of 24th Street, new "speed lumps" on 24th Street south of Castro Way and south of Fourth Avenue, and a relocated speed lump from just north of Fifth Avenue to just south of Portola Way. If approved, the speed lumps would be installed next summer. To improve traffic flow, the four-way stop at Portola Way would become a two-way stop, Perez said.

City Councilmember Jay Schenirer addressed the bridge, gas

### SCNA writes to City

Excerpts from SCNA's letter to the City about the gas station proposal appear on Page 2. The entire letter is on Sierra 2's website, [www.sierra2.org](http://www.sierra2.org).



Members of SCNA's board at the annual meeting are, front row from left, Angelia Mia, Eric Johnson, Kara Leong-Olkowski and Andrea Rosen; back row, front left, John Mathews, Patrick Soluri, Dan Pskowski, Rosanna Herber, Bruce Perini and Jonathan LaTurner.

station and park issues. Schenirer said the pedestrian bridge project to City College has gone out to bid, with a contract expected to be awarded on Dec. 2. Weather permitting, construction could begin in December and be completed in January 2016.

City staff has yet to make a recommendation on the proposal

by CPV developer Paul Petrovich to include a gas station with a Safeway supermarket in the development's commercial area, Schenirer said. The proposal could go to the city planning commission in February or March and be considered by City Council four to six weeks after that, Schenirer said.

(Please see Meeting, page 7)

## Rochon Way pair install drought tolerant landscape

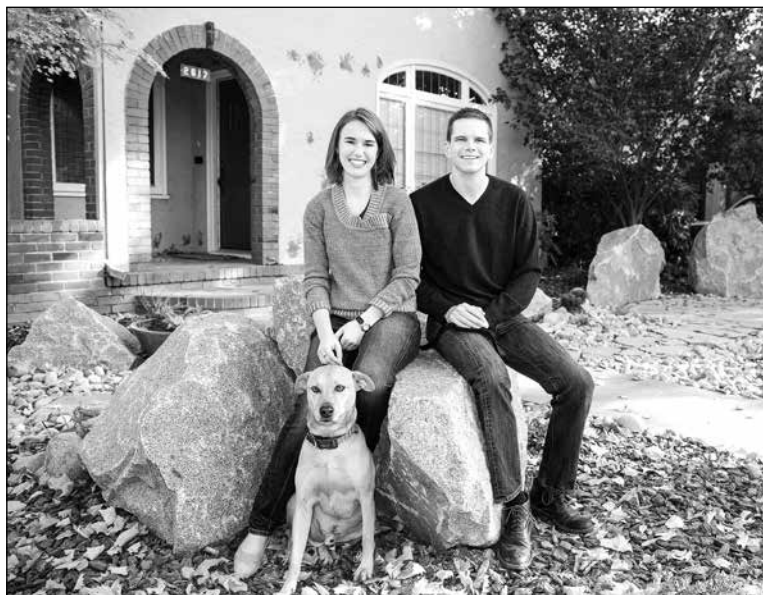
By Susan MacCulloch  
Viewpoint staff writer

Winning a silent auction bid for landscape design services pushed a Rochon Way couple to turn their front yard into a drought tolerant landscape. The conversion had been on Mark and Alisha Wenzel's to-do list since they bought the home in 2009. They made their bid at last year's SCNA wine tasting.

Lucky timing followed. The City of Sacramento offers a River Friendly Landscaping Program with a rebate for grass removal.

"I read in *The Sacramento Bee* on a Wednesday morning that the City Council had approved additional funding for it, and called that morning to put our names on the list," Mark said.

Before the project could start, the Wenzels completed an application and awaited an inspection of their lawn and proposal. The program's website explains the procedure, what type of landscaping qualifies, and the anticipated



Photo/Joan Cusick

Alisha and Mark Wenzel, with their dog Cole, in their "grassless" front yard on Rochon Way.

water conservation benefits.

When fully mature, the new plants must cover at least 50 percent of the converted area. The new River-Friendly landscape must be maintained for at least five years. The program's suggested list of drought tolerant and native species is at [www.sparesacwater.org](http://www.sparesacwater.org).

The rebate also applies to walkways or patios if a permeable product — gravel, brick, flagstone — is used. The website emphasizes the conversion area must still meet the 50 percent living plant coverage requirement. The program requires — and encourages — the use of water efficient landscaping plants as a way to demonstrate the attractive use of trees, shrubs and groundcovers for their environmental benefits.

Neighbors who convert their lawns to vegetable gardens may wish to take advantage of this program; however, this landscaping conversion is not eligible for a rebate at this time.

Mark and Alisha stopped irrigating their lawn  
(Please see Landscape, page 8)



## First Crab Feed at Sierra 2 Curtis Hall replaces First Friday

SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center will bust out the 2015 event season with a new fundraising event. For the First Friday, Feb. 6, the neighborhood dinner will be replaced by the SCNA's first Crab Feed. While details are still being finalized, it's time to save the date for a night designed to showcase another reason Curtis Park is a great place to live.

Tickets are \$50, and advanced purchase is required. Dinner will include plenty of delicious seasonal crab and will be accompanied by mixed green salad, savory penne pasta with marinara sauce, and savory garlic bread prepared by La Famiglia Catering. The dinner also includes a beverage ticket, and additional beer, wine, and soda tickets will be available for purchase.

Groups will be able to reserve seating by the table. Online ticketing and further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Volunteer/sponsorship opportunities are available. Interested parties may contact Events Coordinator Faith Johnstone at [faith@sierra2.org](mailto:faith@sierra2.org) or 452-3005.

### No Viewpoint in January

Every January the *Viewpoint* staff takes its winter break, so there is no edition in January. Our deadline for the February issue is Jan. 15. Neighbors can keep in touch with neighborhood events at [www.sierra2.org](http://www.sierra2.org).



Notes from November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting

# Board votes to help fund Curtis Park Character Advocates and sends letter to City opposing gas station in Curtis Park Village

SCNA helps local Partners

Curtis Park neighbors received a passport in their *Viewpoint* last month in anticipation of Small Business Saturday, Nov. 29. The month long campaign seeks to support local Curtis Park and neighboring small businesses. It was to culminate with a party from 3 to 5 p.m. Nov. 29 at Pangaea Bier Café and Gunther’s Ice Cream at Third Avenue and Franklin Boulevard.

The Board voted to make a financial contribution of \$500 to support this effort sponsored by the Curtis Park Character Advocates.

The contribution fits with work the SCNA Development Committee has been doing to build a new Business Partnership

Next meeting

The SCNA Board will not meet in December. The Board’s next meeting will at 7 p.m. Jan. 14 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2. For more information, call the Sierra 2 office at 452-3005.

Program for local commerce. As SCNA continues to develop this program, the hope is that Small Business Saturday will invigorate local businesses, get them more involved with SCNA and introduce neighbors to local businesses.

A helping hand for the holidays

The Board also approved a charitable donation of \$500 to

Francis House, a Sacramento charity that serves the homeless community. The charity is experiencing financial hardship, and the Board approved a donation to help Francis House during the holiday season. The charity is at 1422 C St.

Board opposes gas station proposal

SCNA board members voted to oppose the proposed fueling station in Curtis Park Village (CPV). The board also approved a letter of opposition to be sent to the City of Sacramento expressing concerns about the proposal. It states that the planned station does not conform to the guidelines approved for CPV. The Board noted inconsistencies between the approved design guidelines and the nature of a gas

station in a walkable, pedestrian and bike friendly development.

It remains unclear what type of environmental review the City will require for the proposal.

A copy of the letter appears on the Sierra 2 website.

Switching it up at First Friday

The Board decided to switch things up for First Friday in February 2015. We are planning our inaugural Crab Feed for Feb. 6. Details are still being finalized, but tickets will be sold in advance and proceeds will benefit SCNA. (See Page 1 for details.)

Note: There is no First Friday in January.

— Submitted by Cara Martinson, Board Secretary

## SCNA board explains why it opposes gas station proposal

Last month’s Viewpoint described the application to the City by Petrovich Development Company to build a 24-hour fuel center inside Curtis Park Village and the City’s decision-making path forward. At its November meeting, the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) Board voted to submit a letter to the City opposing this development. The full letter is posted on the SCNA website at: [www.sierra2.org/SCNA/Advocacy/CPV](http://www.sierra2.org/SCNA/Advocacy/CPV). The following are excerpts from the letter.

“... this project is fundamentally inconsistent with most of the Curtis Park Village Development Guidelines (P04-109), and the use itself is counter to the overall thrust of the Guidelines which envision an infill project serving largely the surrounding neighborhoods. A gas station was not one of the uses considered during the environmental review and the PUD zoning process that was completed in 2010. The Curtis Park neighborhood does not contain a gas station currently; instead neighbors use the many gas stations located on the major transportation corridors around our neighborhood including Sutterville, Broadway, Franklin and Freeport. We firmly believe that our neighborhood has more than enough gas stations in close proximity and we don’t need another one, especially not in this location.

The overall purpose of the Guidelines is to ensure that the proposed uses of this infill development blend with and enhance the quality of life and charm of the existing Curtis Park neighborhood. Compatibility with the existing neighborhood has been the watchword for a long time. The proposed gas station works against this general purpose. Section 1.2 outlines the goals and objectives of this PUD; goal #4 is to “maximize opportunities for efficient transit provided by the public transportation and roadway corridors serving the site of the PUD.” One of the objectives for this goal is to encourage the use of public transportation and to develop appropriate linkages to surrounding neighborhoods, including pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle and alternative transportation modes. A gas station in this location frustrates this goal.

The gas station is proposed for the corner of Crocker Drive and the shopping center access road, which was intended to be the “Main Street” for the commercial area (see 2.2 of the PUD Guidelines). This “Main Street” will be the primary pedestrian and bike route to access the bridge to the City College light rail station and builds on the already popular bike lane on Crocker Drive. It will also provide the primary pedestrian and bike access to the stores in the shopping center as well as adjacent housing. We see the construction of a major auto-attracting use on a key corner of this Traditional Shopping Center as inimical to the goals of this infill project. See 2.2 SC-PUD Zone which states: “The character of the commercial area is to be sensitively informed by the adjacent pedestrian and bicycle friendly, urban-forested neighborhoods.”

Section 2.2 also notes that the location of the Shopping Center “provides a unique opportunity for the commercial area of CPV to be both economically successful and an active buffer between both the new and existing residential neighborhoods and these large transportation corridors”. The placement of a gas station as part of the CPV commercial area would not provide a buffer but would instead draw (heavy) traffic from the adjacent major transportation corridors into the neighborhood.

Section 3.1 Site Design and Building Orientation lists the features that are to be encouraged for the arrangement and siting of buildings. The proposed gas station site design violates virtually every single one of these provisions.

Section 3.2 describes the building design principles and building forms for CPV’s buildings. Again, the gas station use conflicts with the key concepts stated in this section.: “Key concepts direct the feel of a neighborhood and determine community identity, economic vitality and levels of activity and use. Individual building forms and facades influence cohesiveness, comfort and aesthetic pride and at the same time invite usage, increase a sense of security and generate

pedestrian activity.” Building a gas station use at the key entry point to the traditional shopping center reduces aesthetics and decreases security for pedestrians and cyclists wishing to access the shopping center.

The mass and scale of this project also violate the CPV PUD guidelines in Section 3.2.

Section 4.1 addresses Streetscape and Circulation which notes “Curtis Park Village will have an intimacy of scale and a sense of community that will invite pedestrian use and interaction.” The proposed gas station would work against this type of circulation by introducing a large number of automobiles entering and exiting the main street of the traditional shopping center with the sole purpose of purchasing gas.

Section 4.2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation correctly notes that the “success of Curtis Park Village as a community will be strongly linked to its success as a pedestrian and bicycle friendly community. Creative design solutions that further enhance the walkability and connectivity of the area are strongly encouraged.” This section goes on to require that pedestrians and bicyclists be given the same importance as motor vehicles and buffer them from the street where possible. Placing a large gas station at a central point of the new neighborhood actively discourages pedestrians and bicyclists in Curtis Park Village and violates the intent of the CPV Development Guidelines.

Furthermore, this project is not consistent with the General Plan definition of a Traditional Center. The Traditional Center designation emphasizes walkable neighborhoods; people don’t walk to a gas station. Gas stations are, by definition, designed to attract motor vehicles, which degrade the pedestrian experience and contravene the goal of a walkable neighborhood. The combination of the Safeway loyalty discount program and the lack of nearby Safeway gas stations will result in this station attracting thousands of vehicles into the Village making this use a major regional traffic draw. We note that this gas station can service 16 cars at once and is proposed to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.”



# What's new at Sierra 2

By Valerie Burrows  
Facility Administrator

## Artisan market

TUBE., a community of artists and musicians, is hosting The Market, a free artisans market from noon-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6 in Room 10. As well as selling handmade goods, visitors can also enjoy live music, beer and wine.

Founded in 2012, TUBE. produces art and music shows monthly at locally owned venues and galleries throughout Sacramento. Members

of the group support one another by donating time and creativity to keeping the arts alive.

TUBE. also publishes an online magazine that celebrates visual and performing arts worldwide. Soon the group expects to publish its first print magazine. For info, visit TUBEmag.com or contact Melissa Uroff at 213-9968 or TUBEmag@gmail.com.

## Unlock your body

Essentrics is a low impact class that draws on the flowing movements of tai chi, the strengthening theories

of ballet, the flexibility of muscles developed in Pilates and yoga, and the healing principles of physiotherapy to create a pain free body.

The class is taught by Emily Wishman, Sacramento's first certified Essentrics instructor. The class meets from 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays in Studio 1. The first class is free. Class rates are \$10 drop in; \$45 for 5 pack (no expiration); \$80 for a 10 pack (no expiration); \$5 drop in for students/seniors 65+ /military /veterans.

Students get a free class for each friend they bring to try the class. Students need to bring a yoga mat and small towel, wear comfortable clothes and go barefoot. Contact emilyKwishman@gmail.com or (510) 299-1066 with questions or for more info.

## Japanese drumming class

Novices can learn the Japanese art of Taiko drumming in a three-week beginners class from 3-5 p.m. Sundays, beginning Dec. 7 in Studio 2.

Taiko combines music with elements of martial arts, dance, teamwork, and the Japanese language and culture. Youth and adults ages 9 and up are welcome. Professional instructor Kristy Oshiro has more

than 22 years of Taiko experience. The cost is \$75. To register, email: kristyoshiro@gmail.com.

## Japanese drumming workshop

Kristy Oshiro will also teach a Katugi Okedo Taiko workshop from 8:30-10 p.m. Dec. 9 in Studio 3. The class will focus on a style of Japanese drumming where the drum is worn and played while moving and dancing. No experience necessary. Youth and adults ages 13 and up are welcome. Cost of the class is \$20. For registration and info email: kristyoshiro@gmail.com.

## Happiness program

The Art of Living is hosting a Happiness Course from 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. weekdays and noon-5 p.m. weekends, Dec. 4-8, in Room 11. Through the teachings of Sudarshan Kriya, a technique based on Vedic knowledge, students learn to create a joyous and fulfilling life with the confidence to grow beyond limiting beliefs and to master several practical and powerful tools to benefit them for life. The course includes stretching, low-impact yoga, guided meditation and breathing techniques. Registration and info: [www.artofliving.org/us-en/program/131405](http://www.artofliving.org/us-en/program/131405).



Photo/Joan Cusick

# Irish dancing at Sierra 2

The Sacramento Irish-American Ceili Dancers practice from 7- 9 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month in Studio 1 at Sierra 2. They enjoy low-impact dancing to live music. The group welcomes newcomers. The cost is free for the first visit and \$5 for each visit afterward. For more information, call Cailin Pulskamp, 916-233-6962 or [www.sacramentoceilidancers.com](http://www.sacramentoceilidancers.com).

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Dan Pskowski is so right about banning gas-engine leaf blowers (a.k.a. dirt blasters). When used near Curtis Park, they echo throughout the open space, tormenting residents and park visitors in the many ways he described....

Banning dirt blasters (and all unnecessary engines and motors) is also a great opportunity to start reversing climate change, because any downside is only cosmetic, and it would probably even create more jobs. See <http://motherearthhome.blogspot.com/>

— Muriel Strand, Norton Way

## VIEWPOINT

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Ad Manager	Fran Coletti		
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FOR SALE: Four-foot silver, aluminum Xmas tree. Good shape w/light that shines on tree in different colors. \$100. Call Cathi at 451-4009.

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.

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

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

DISNEY’S MULAN JR.

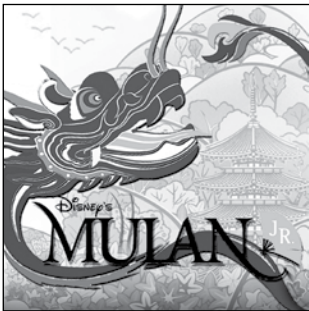
Young Actor’s Stage

Showtimes:

7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5  
1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6  
1 p.m. and 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7  
**Tickets:** \$10; Children: \$7 (12 & under)  
**Info:** www.youngactorsstage.com

This action-packed stage adaptation of Disney’s animated film takes viewers back to ancient China. Mulan defies the village matchmaker, disguises herself as a boy and takes up arms in order to spare her father from having to serve in the army. The Huns have invaded, and it is up to Mulan and her mischievous sidekick Mushu to save the Emperor.

Disney’s Mulan Jr. is a heartwarming celebration of culture, honor and the fighting spirit. The score includes favorites like “Reflection,” “Honor to Us All” and “I’ll Make a Man Out of You,” as well as new songs that will have playgoers dancing in their chairs.



THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Runaway Stage Productions

Jan. 2–25

**Showtimes:** 8 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays  
**Tickets & Info:** (916) 207-1226 or www.runawaystage.com

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DISNEY’S THE ARISTOCATS KIDS

Runaway Stage Productions  
Storybook Theater

Jan. 10, 17, 24

**Showtimes:** Noon. and 2 p.m. Saturdays  
**Tickets:** General: \$8; Children \$6 kids (12 & under)  
**Info:** (916) 207-1226 or www.runawaystage.com

What’s a cat to do? In Disney’s The AristoCats Kids, Madame’s jealous butler Edgar cat-naps Duchess and her Aristokittens and abandons them in the Parisian countryside. Luckily, Thomas O’Malley and his rag-tag bunch of alley cats come to their rescue. This feline adventure, based on the Disney film, is sure to get audiences tapping their feet to its upbeat, jazzy sound with a score that includes the Disney favorites “The Aristocats,” “Scales and Arpeggios” and “Ev’rybody Wants To Be a Cat.”



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www.capitalcitymusictogether.com

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Room 10 and Studio 3  
www.riovalley.org

OTHER

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6:30-8 p.m. • Room 9  
CenterForSoulHealing.com

**Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation**  
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knowthyselfassoul.org

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

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

**Awakening Bellydance**  
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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

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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

**West African Dance**  
Fridays, 6–7 p.m., Studio 1  
Jessa Cruz: jessakaycruz@gmail.com

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

MARTIAL ARTS

**Eagle Claw Kung Fu Academy of Sacramento**  
Wednesday, 6–7 p.m. 441-7215  
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**Sacramento Bushido Kai**  
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Wednesday, 6-7 p.m., Studio 1  
For schedule, Michael Mason: 616-5452

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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

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karenssharp51@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

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John Macdonell, Pastor: 595-5622

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

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Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 p.m., Studio 1  
Kia: keynorrisfitness@gmail.com

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Tuesday, 7-8 p.m., Studio 1  
Annalisa Brown, (530) 513-0768

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

**Art of Living Foundation**  
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# Seniors share views on book group and helping

By Phoebe Celestin  
Senior Center Program Coordinator

As the holiday season arrives, I reflect on life. When my husband I were married, our theme song was “Give a Little Bit” by the 1970s English group Supertramp. The song expressed our gratitude for having found a kindred spirit. The art of gratitude. Gratitude can be a feeling or attitude acknowledging a benefit one has received or will receive.

In my ninth months as the program coordinator for the Sierra 2 Senior Center, I have deep gratitude for the many experiences I have had. As I write this, the music “Bésame Mucho” from Frank Gaviolas’ Tai Chi class is drifting through the door.

Random acts of kindness occur often. Yesterday, Caroline Carroll helped make clear the wishes of the Life History Writing group about a Writer’s Conference next fall by whipping up a survey to provide planning information.

SCNA SENIOR CENTER  
Book Club  
2nd Monday at 11:30 a.m. • Rm. 12

**Dec. 8.....** “Orphan Train” a novel by Christine Baker Kline

**Jan. 12.....** “Under the Wide and Starry Sky”  
by Nancy Horan

**Feb. 9 .....** “This is the Story of a Happy Marriage”  
by Ann Patchett

**March 9 ..** “A Confederacy of Dunces”  
by John Kennedy Toole

In asking Senior Center participants what they are grateful for, Bob Ralston said with his characteristic humor, “It keeps me off the streets. Keeps me involved in my technical interests, provides me with the opportunity to do service and with social activities.”

Other members of the My Story group spoke about “how much fun it is to be involved with others on projects like My Story and the monthly potluck.

Our cameraman for My Story, Craig McCulloch, enjoys filming our friends and families. He said, “Everyone has a great story to tell. I wish I had a video to watch of my grandfather’s stories.”

Our Hatha Yoga and Meditation, Movement and Verse instructor Alexa Mergen spoke about her gratitude for “conversation, poetry, writing in community, coming home to our bodies through movement, creating a rhythm for her and her students by meeting regularly.”

A member of the Book Club, which meets monthly, said, “I am grateful for having found a book group that truly discusses books!”

All of us at the Senior Center would like to express our gratitude to the staff of Sierra 2 Center and our executive director, Terri Shettle. We would also like to wish Season’s Greetings to the *Viewpoint* staff and the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association board of directors. We wish you all a safe, healthy and joyous holiday season.

**Sierra 2 Senior Center**  
*The Senior Center is open to all seniors (age 55 and up). The center provides opportunities to keep learning, exercise, meet new people and be actively involved with neighbors.*

## Schenirer’s message

# Creating a great city and leaving no one behind

Sacramento is a great city with a progressive history. The next five to 10 years could be the most exciting yet, with a recovering economy, a revitalized downtown and a sense of pride reflected in a can-do attitude not seen since the Gold Rush days. New and significant investment will mean new jobs across all sectors. The city’s investments in the last two years have catalyzed some of this progress to the point that I believe our economic momentum will continue to carry us forward.

However, as a great and compassionate city, we should do what is necessary to ensure that this tide lifts all boats. Done properly, an increase to the minimum wage will strengthen the economy, benefit the entire community, and help create the Sacramento we all want.

Raising the minimum wage and making Sacramento a better place to do business are not mutually exclusive goals. I have been a business owner for over 25 years. It is a big part of what shapes my thinking and my approach to problem solving. My current business, which I have had for nearly 10 years, is a consulting company with over 15 employees. I have also owned a restaurant and catering company with as many as 100 employees. As an owner with a responsibility to both investors and employees to keep the business afloat and successful, my first priority is to ensure solvency, so I understand the impact of changes in labor costs.



Jay Schenirer  
City Councilmember

As of July 1 this year, California’s minimum wage is \$9 an hour. Working full-time, that equates to an annual pre-tax income of \$19,440. According to the federal government, the poverty line for a family of four is \$23,850 – nearly 23 percent above the minimum wage. When we talk about the “working poor,” we are talking about full-time employees who are working hard, but still not making enough to support their families. We can do better.

Other cities, including Seattle and San Francisco, have not waited for the state or federal government but have chosen to take care of their own. Sacramento should do the same. I am not sure what the right dollar amount for Sacramento’s minimum wage is, and there are a multitude of factors that need to be taken into account. My hope is that we can have a thoughtful discussion as a community about an increase in Sacramento’s minimum wage. To that end, I will request the Mayor and Council appoint a working group including representatives from business, labor and others, and charge them with developing a set of recommendations for the Council’s consideration. With time and opportunity for extensive public input, I believe we can bring this matter to the Council next spring for implementation in the coming year.

I believe that Sacramento needs a healthy business environment that creates jobs. However, a healthy community also needs jobs that allow working families to meet their basic needs. We can and should have both.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

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SENIOR CENTER  
Room 12**

**455-6339 or seniorcenter@sierra2.org**  
Everyone is welcome.

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

Senior Center is on Facebook.  
Please “like” us!

**FITNESS**  
**Community Acupuncture Clinic**  
10–11 a.m. (\$15)  
Jan. 6 & 20; Feb. 3 & 17 • Rm. 12  
Zoë Griffin: 212-2170  
**Meditation/Movement/Verse**  
**Instructor: Alexa Mergen**  
9:45–11 a.m. Fridays  
Rm. 12 • \$30 for 4 sessions  
**Hatha Yoga**  
**Instructor: Alexa Mergen**  
9:45–11 a.m. Jan. 13 & 27; Feb. 10 & 24  
\$30 for 4 sessions  
**Gentle Yoga**  
**Instructor: Pat Shaw**  
10–11 a.m. Wednesdays  
**Fall Prevention**  
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Tuesdays/Thursdays  
(4 classes \$20; 8 classes \$35)  
Pat Shaw: 856-0136  
**Tai Chi**  
**Instructor: Frank Gaviola**  
10:30–11:15 a.m. Thursdays  
Rm. 12 • \$40 per month  
**Walking and Polewalking Clinic**  
9 a.m. Thursdays  
One time instruction fee \$5

**LEISURE**  
**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  
**Dec. 8:** “Orphan Train”  
by Christine Baker Kline • Rm. 12  
**Travel Writing**  
**Facilitator: Phoebe Celestin**  
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Wednesdays  
Rm. 12. Fee: \$3 per class  
**My Story Project meeting**  
1–3 p.m. 1st Monday of the month  
**Everyone Can Drum**  
1–2 p.m. Tuesdays (\$5) Studio 1  
**Sierra 2 Jewels & Crafts and Conversation**  
**Open Art Studio**  
11 a.m.–3 p.m. Fridays  
(except last Friday)  
**Life History Writing**  
1–3 p.m. Wednesdays

**EDUCATION**  
**Beginning Drawing by Patris**  
9–10:15 a.m. Thursdays

**CARDS AND GAMES**  
**Monday Morning Games**  
**Ginasta, Mahjongg & More**  
9:30 a.m.–noon  
**Fun Bridge**  
1–4 p.m. Thursdays  
**Pinochle**  
1–3 p.m. Fridays

**EVENTS**  
**Potluck**  
Noon–2 p.m. Dec, 19  
Location to be decided  
**Senior Committee Meeting**  
3 – 5 p.m. • Dec. 1  
First Monday of the Month  
Location to be announced  
**Quarterly All Senior Center Meeting**  
3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17 • Rm. 12

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# SCNA announces beneficiaries from the Wine Tasting event



The crowd sips, tastes and chats at Wine Tasting 2014. Photo/Judy Harper

The 2014 Wine Tasting & Silent Auction event committee is happy to announce the beneficiaries of SCNA’s largest fundraising event. This year’s record profit lets us continue our work in the community and assist our young people. This year’s beneficiaries of the event are Bret Harte’s 6th Grade Sly Park Environmental Education trip, McClatchy High School’s Debate Club and its HISP students. Students and parents from these three groups volunteered at the event to support us while we rallied financial support for them.

The 6th Graders at Bret Harte are receiving \$2,000 toward their trip to the Sly Park Environmental Education Center, a multi-day experience that has changed many lives. The Center is an accredited California residential outdoor science school. It combines outdoor activities with lessons in science and ecology. Recent studies show that not only does outdoor environmental education build life skills and teach young people about the natural world, it enhances performance in all academic subjects.

Returning for the second year as

beneficiary is the McClatchy Debate Club, receiving \$1,000. The team is a small group of motivated and hard-working students who aim to become world class debaters and public speakers through research, practice, and participation in the best tournaments the nation offers. Members of the team participate in the Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Congress and Parliamentary forms of debate, and in speech events such as Extemporaneous and Dramatic Interpretation. Through the program, they develop the critical thinking skills and habits they need to excel in college and beyond.

Finally, the McClatchy HISP students will receive \$1,000 toward their field trips and extra-curricular activities. HISP, Humanities & International Studies Program, is a rigorous honors program that provides a global perspective on learning and understanding, expanding their view of the world and preparing students for college.

Attendees, sponsors and donors are the true heroes for the winetasting event. Their contributions have rippling effects as these young people grow into our leaders.



## Curtis Park votes in key races

By Mike Scheible  
Special to the Viewpoint

Sixty-two percent of the Curtis Park neighborhood’s almost 3,700 registered voters cast ballots in November’s election, significantly better than the County 47 percent turnout. A large majority of locals (67 percent) opposed Measure “L,” and 85 percent voted to re-elect Governor Jerry Brown. SCNA area voters also backed winning Propositions 1, 2 and 47, all by greater than 2 to 1 margins.

In the State Senate race 60 percent of local voters supported Roger Dickinson while 40 percent backed the winner, Dr. Richard Pan. In the race for State Assembly Kevin McCarty garnered 62 percent of the neighborhood’s votes in his successful bid to defeat fellow Democrat Steven

Cohn, who was supported by 38 percent.

City School Board race winner Jay Hansen gained 41 percent of local votes versus 39 percent for Anna Molander and 20 percent for Kate Woolley. (The final results of all races may differ somewhat as ballot counting was not finished when this article was written on Nov. 15.)

More detail on the results is provided in the Table. Complete results, including precinct level tallies, are available at the Sacramento County election Website [www.elections.saccounty.net](http://www.elections.saccounty.net). (The results by map feature is most user friendly.) The SCNA area has three voting precincts, identified as 41892, 44318 and 44348 for those voting in person (48% of locals), and 8041892, 8044318 and 8044348 for those voting by mail (52%).

November 2014 Election Results Based on Vote Counting as of Nov. 15			
RACE	CURTIS PARK VOTE		COUNTYWIDE VOTE
Governor	Brown - 85%	Kaskari - 15%	62-48
State Senate	Dickinson - 60%	Pan - 40%	46-54
State Assembly	McCarty -- 62%	Cohn - 38%	59-41
Measure L Strong Mayor	Yes - 33%	No - 67%	41-54
Proposition 1 Water Bonds	Yes - 73%	No - 27%	6 -34
Proposition 2 State Budget Reserve	Yes - 77%	No - 23%	71-29
Proposition 47 Criminal Sentencing	Yes - 71%	No - 29%	53-47
SCUSD Board Area1	Hansen - 41% Wooley - 20%	Molander - 39%	47-38-15
Voter Turnout	62%	(2,286 of 3,692)	47%



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# COMMUNITY CORNER

## Oak Park Brewing company opens with capacity crowd

By Craig McCulloch  
Viewpoint staff writer

The long awaited Oak Park Brewery opened in November near the corner of Broadway and 35th Street. It's in a 1925 brick building that was used as a market until the 1950s. Although its opening was planned for early spring, it was delayed by the city's seismic renovation requirements for the 90-year-old structure. The owners also decided to totally gut and remodel.

The building's interior brick walls, open rafters and heavy beams, and large duct work create an industrial look. Large shining copper barrels for beer brewing and stainless steel kettles sit in a side room open to view. The full open kitchen also features an abundance of stainless steel with many large kitchen utensils.

At the bar, tap handles fashioned from pipes and pressure valves provide a retro atmosphere some call "steampunk." Adjacent to the building is a spacious concrete patio with many wrought iron tables and chairs.

The brewery's founders and co-owners, Tom Karvonen and David Estis, have more than 15 years of brewing experience between them. They have won many awards in home brewing, including



Photo/Joan Cusick  
**Oak Park Brewing Company founders, from left, Shannon and Tom Karvonen, Bonnie Peterson and Dave Estis.**

a second place ribbon at the 2012 State Fair competition.

The initial "preview" opening weekend drew a capacity crowd with standing room only. A subsequent visit had a smaller number of customers.

The brewery opened with seven beers available. They rounded out the total of 16 taps with two flavors of a local cider, and guest beers from other local craft breweries.

Tom Karvonen called their style of beer "a mix of British and Belgian ales with a west coast edge." The initial offerings include a 35th Street Robust Porter, Belgian Bliss Monk's Brown Ale, an Extra Special Bitter (ESB), "Joyland" Imperial Red, and a Rye IPA (India Pale Ale). Wine is also available.

A significant distinction that sets Oak Park Brewery apart from many other craft brew-pubs is the full kitchen and menu service. It goes far beyond the typical "pub-grub" of tacos and burgers. Often breweries rely on food trucks parked nearby.

They are following the popular "farm-to-fork" trend by using locally sourced food and pairing it with their unique beers. The opening menu included small plates of mussels steamed in dark English ale, house-made sausage with German style potato salad, a bison meatloaf sandwich, and grilled quail, all accompanied by seasonal vegetables. Vegetarian dishes were also available.

The Brewery plans to be open 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, closing at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. They will be closed on Monday.

Both food menus and beers will rotate with the seasons. The menus and current hours are posted on their web site [www.opbrewco.com](http://www.opbrewco.com). It's at 3514 Broadway; 660-2723.

## Gone too soon

Juliet Miller grew up on Highland Avenue in her family's home just a few doors south of Sierra 2 school yard. Friends and neighbors recall her playing happily in the neighborhood as a child. Sadly, on Oct. 14, Juliet passed away after a two-week struggle with aggressive pneumonia. She was 31.



Juliet Mary Miller

living in Midtown, composing music, singing and playing electronic keyboard. She loved cooking, baking and searching garage sales and vintage stores for faded treasures.

She is survived by her parents, Robert and Gail Miller, her sister, Sarah, and brother, Ryan Mckenna, and her cat, Mishka.

A memorial service was held for Juliet in mid-November at Verge Center for the Arts. Donations can be made in her name to the non-profit National Alliance on Mental Illness at [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).

## Meeting: New board installed

(Continued from page 1)

"I don't think a gas station fits in with what was originally proposed," Schenirer said. He said he has had discussions with Safeway officials about possibly building a supermarket without a gas station, and he has approached other grocery chains about possible interest in the location. However, he said officials of the Nugget chain indicated the site doesn't work for financial reasons, and Trader Joe's doesn't appear to be in expansion mode at present.

Schenirer said Petrovich submitted a proposal in early November for a six-acre park and floodwater retention basin large enough to hold two soccer fields. The proposed park, which Schenirer described as "shaped like Idaho," would extend from the wall near the railroad tracks to Crocker Drive.

"I don't have a problem with the park where it is, to be honest," Schenirer said.

SCNA Executive Director Terri Shettle gave a report on the association's financial condition. She said it ended the 2014 fiscal year with about a \$15,000 surplus on total revenues of about \$737,000. The revenue, she said, "is largely attributable to the people in this room, from your memberships, attendance, donations and sponsorships."

Rosanna Herber, a former SCNA board president, was elected to return to the board after a four-year absence. Nine incumbents were re-elected: current SCNA President Eric Johnson and board members Larry Easterling, Joseph Eschleman, Robert Giblin, Kara Leong-Olkowski, Cara Martinson, Angela Mia, Dan Pskowski and Patrick Soluri.

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**Bret Harte News**

# The promise of a holiday food basket boosts student success

By Char Klassen  
Viewpoint Staff Writer

Last month the *Viewpoint* reported on the Vanir Foundation's involvement in donating gift baskets to promote parent volunteerism.



In October the Vanir Foundation held a benefit to raise funds that the group donates to partner schools. Bret Harte parent **Leticia Charles** spoke briefly at the event about the impact a simple food basket made on her family.

Charles said she had been that parent who dropped her child off in the morning and left. Then she heard how her family could receive a holiday food basket if she volunteered a few hours and went to her child's teacher/parent conference. As Charles volunteered, she learned the importance of being part of her child's education. She saw her son start to apply himself. The food basket was a small reward. The big one came when her son was recognized as one of Bret Harte's top students.

Now Leticia helps with traffic patrol and yard duty. She also



Photo/ Char Klassen

**Three generations catch the volunteer bug: All star volunteers Sonia Carrillo with mother Leticia Charles and granddaughter Angelique Carrillo. Leticia volunteers often as traffic patrol.**

volunteers at school fundraisers. The motto of the Vanir Foundation is, "Creating Pathways to Success—One School at a Time." The Charles family discovered the path to success involves showing up, working hard and giving back.

The Vanir Foundation was formed in memory of H. Frank Dominquez, who once said, "I think the only way you are going to make this world a

better place is to give back."

A good chunk from the October event has been earmarked for Bret Harte programs this year. The overall focus is on programs that engage students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (S.T.E.A.M.). The school will send students on science-focused field trips to either the San Jose Tech Museum or the Berkeley Hall of Science.

## Mark Your Calendar

Last year the WINTER PROGRAM was so packed that not everyone could get in to see it. This year the program will be on two consecutive nights:  
**Wednesday, Dec. 17 for grades K-3 & Thursday, Dec. 18 for grades 4-6 (Mrs. Gray's split 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> will perform on Thursday).**  
**WINTER BREAK**  
**Dec. 20 to Jan. 4**  
♦  
**SCHOOL RESUMES**  
**Jan. 5**

Engineering is Elementary will return for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to learn 16 different engineering concepts through project-based learning.

Literacy Intervention through Reading Partners will continue to provide one-on-one tutoring. In line with California Common Core Standards in English Language Arts, the school will buy more class sets that allow students to read a wider range of literature for comparative study. Certificates of excellence and cash awards of \$100 will again be given to outstanding graduating 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

This holiday season the Foundation will again use gift food baskets to provide incentives for parent involvement in education.

## Landscape: Homeowners took advantage of City's River Friendly program

(Continued from page 1)

last spring and then solarized it with a plastic layer during the hottest part of summer. They tried avoiding chemical use but did resort to Roundup for a few stubborn areas of crabgrass.

Landscape designer Kara Leong, a Curtis Park resident and SCNA board member, created the landscape with strong input from Mark and Alisha. "One of the things Kara brought that we couldn't have done ourselves was to see the house and yard with a structural eye," Mark said. "I don't know if she knew what she was getting into with the rocks. We were both trained as geologists, so we had strong opinions."

Mark is a climate change adviser for the California Environmental

Protection Agency, and Alisha is a geologist with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The yard features several large boulders that provide seating and add structure to the design. "We chose granite boulders that remind us of our favorite hikes in the Sierra, as well as American River cobble," Alisha said. There are more than 20 different plants, including some natives and other drought tolerant perennials.

The couple hired Nathan Johnson of Roo Landscaping, an Australian native now living in Curtis Park. "He understood and bought into the vision and Kara's design right away," Mark said. He and Alisha celebrated their landscape's completion with a "yard

warming" party in mid-November.

They await the final inspection before their rebate is approved. The rebate is 50 cents per square foot of removed lawn — every bit of grass must be removed — plus up to \$250 for a "smart" irrigation controller, for a maximum of \$1,000. Mark anticipates a rebate in the range of \$600.

Information about the city's River Friendly Landscaping program is at <http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/Utilities/Conservation/Rebates/River-Friendly-Landscape-Rebate>.



Photo/Alisha Wenzel

**The "before" view of the Wenzels' front yard shows its thirsty lawn landscape.**

Kara Leong: [www.localcolorlandscapes.com/about-local-color.html](http://www.localcolorlandscapes.com/about-local-color.html). Nathan Johnson: [www.roolandscaping.com](http://www.roolandscaping.com).

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