

Drop-in Design Day works on changes for 2nd Avenue underpass

By Rosanna Herber
Viewpoint staff writer

Colorful balloons decorated both sides of the 2nd Avenue underpass on a late November Saturday morning when 50 neighbors gathered around design tables and exchanged ideas on how to celebrate and reconnect Curtis Park and Oak Park.

"Before Highway 99 came through town, Oak Park and Curtis Park were one community," said Katie Valenzuela Garcia, Oak Park resident and consultant for the Drop-in Design Day on the 2nd Avenue Underpass project. "The freeway broke up the neighborhoods. We want to take back the space from the freeway and unite these historic and glamorous neighborhoods."

Funding for the project's management is coming from the California Endowment. And businesses in both neighborhoods are raising \$20,000 for the first phase, which includes lighting, landscaping and bike lanes. The North Franklin Business District Association has agreed to fund an art installation in the triangle at 2nd Avenue and Franklin Boulevard to commemorate the boulevard as the Historic Monterey Trail of Alto California (from 1822-1848.) Artist Phil America has been hired to design the mural for the underpass, and he is seeking ideas for its design.

Many suggestions flowed from the participants. Oak Park neighbors Devon L'Ecluse of 2nd Avenue and Joany Titherington of 33rd Street want the bike lanes painted green and stop signs installed to make the underpass safer.

"I love the idea of using colorful lights and words on the underpass," said Nancy McKeever of Cutter Way in Curtis Park. Teens Nokawchee and Abby Weber of Oak Park agreed, saying they thought the rainbow LED lights and big bold, letters were "cool."

Neighbors also suggested words and phrases they'd like to see on the underpass or freeway walls. Among their suggestions: "We walk through life together." "Open your eyes." "The only way out is through." "We are one." "Wake Up!" "Love your Neighbor." "Peace and Love."

Sheri DeWeerd, who has lived in both neighborhoods, summed up her feelings with. "I love the shared aspirations of the two neighborhoods. I'd like neighbors to know that when they go through this underpass, they are all going to the same, special place: home."

Neighbors can submit further ideas and comments to 2ndAvenueUnderpass@gmail.com.

Tamales on the menu for First Friday Dec. 4

Traditional holiday Tamale Night returns to SCNA's First Friday Neighborhood Dinner from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 in Curtis Hall. Guests will feast on homemade pork, chicken or vegetarian tamales served with authentic rice and beans from local favorite Sacramento's Best Taco Catering. Meals are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Beverages will be sold separately.

No Viewpoint in January

The Viewpoint staff is taking December off, so there is no Viewpoint in January. The deadline for the February edition is Jan. 15.



Photo/Joan Cusick

City Councilmember Jay Schenirer, center, listens to testimony by developer Paul Petrovich, right at podium, concerning the proposed fuel center for Curtis Park Village. Schenirer said he has been involved with land-use issues regarding development in the railyard since he was elected five years ago, and he's intent on making good decisions.

City Council votes against gas station for Curtis Park Village development

By Dennis Cusick
Viewpoint staff writer

In city politics, five years can be an eternity. Developer Paul Petrovich suggested as much when he observed last month that only Mayor Kevin Johnson remained from the City Council of 2010, when Petrovich and SCNA reached agreement on plans for Curtis Park Village.

Those plans, Johnson noted, did not include a gas station.

For the Curtis Park neighborhood, its struggle for a positive relationship with the area on its southwest side goes back well before 2010, before Petrovich's acquisition of the property, even before the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad in the 1980s.

Indeed, the struggle that led City Council to defeat Petrovich's application to place a 16-nozzle gas station in the development goes back as far as the neighborhood association itself. Among its first decisions, in 1979, was to form a committee to address residents' complaints about dust, noise, truck traffic and night lighting from the

Western Pacific Railroad's trailer-on-flatcar-loading operation. Faced with neighborhood resistance, the railroad soon moved the operation to Stockton.

The main issues – then and now – involved public health and land use. Issues of jobs and community relations would come later.

By the time Petrovich entered the picture and started removing enough toxic soil from the former railroad yard that by his description would fill up Hughes Stadium several times, the cleanup had been going on for more than a decade.

Genevieve Shiroma, who spoke to City Council in opposition to the gas station last month, was telling the city 30 years ago, as an SCNA board member, that SCNA wanted comprehensive testing of the entire railroad site for hazardous or toxic compounds. That testing would show that 75 years of railroad use had left the site with troubling levels of arsenic, lead and petroleum hydrocarbons.

The railroad began the cleanup. It was completed after Petrovich acquired the land in 2003.

On Nov. 17, City Council devoted more than four hours to Petrovich's gas station proposal before voting 7-2 to reject it.

"I think this is a land-use issue," said Councilmember Jay Schenirer, before making the motion to reject a conditional use permit for the gas station. "We need to be planning for the future, which is why land use is so important."

Schenirer said there are two gas stations of the proposed size in Sacramento, both on four-lane roads. He said Petrovich's proposal was not consistent with smart growth, and was opposed by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and Regional Transit.

SACOG chief operating officer Kirk Trost said if the gas station proposal had been included in the 2010 agreement, a pedestrian bridge to Sacramento City College would not have received federal transportation funds.

Councilmember Eric Guerra agreed that council was making a land-use decision. He noted that

Please see Gas Station: page 3



Why is Fifi smiling?

The reason behind Fifi Zeff's glowing smile appears on page 7.

Notes from Nov. 4th meeting

Board to host 2016 candidate debate; Tech Lab to launch in spring 2016

The board members covered a lot of items, including plans for hosting a 2016 debate among the candidates for mayor and a financial report on the wine tasting. Neighborhood Concerns Committee chairman **John Mathews** asked for and received \$500 for his committee’s expenses to host the debate in conjunction with the League of Women Voters.

Executive Director **Terri Shettle** reported that this year’s wine tasting brought in \$52,000 gross for SCNA operations and that donations were made to three educational groups. They are Bret Harte’s sixth grade trip to Sly Park (\$2,000); McClatchy’s High School’s debate team (\$1,000); and its HISP program (\$1,000).

Board member **Dan Pskowski** updated the board on the city’s artificial turf ordinance. Details appear below under Neighborhood Concerns.

Tech Lab presentation

Director Shettle explained the proposed Tech Lab’s organizational structure and budget that had been approved by the board in June. The technology classes Sierra 2 expects to offer through the lab will enrich the center’s existing activities that stimulate the mind/body/spirit.

The \$20,000 budget for the Tech Lab includes \$15,000 for equipment,

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

including 10 laptops and a dedicated server. One future goal will be to purchase a 3D printer that could generate revenue. Consolidated Communications has partnered with Sierra 2 to provide technological assistance for the lab.

Sierra 2 now has high speed dedicated fiber with up to 150 gigabit speeds. This gives Sierra 2 the ability for live-streaming of events in the theater and elsewhere in the building. Sierra 2 now has the capability to host webinars.

The Tech Lab is expected to be launched in spring 2016.

President’s report and executive director’s report

At the time of the board meeting, the Crab Feed fundraiser was on hold because of a concern of toxins, but Sierra 2 has secured a crab supplier with sources in Alaska. The event will go on as planned Feb. 5. Last year the inaugural fundraiser brought in \$10,000.

Home Tour plans are under way, and one house has already been

secured for the tour. Board members have been asked to reach out to friends and neighbors in Curtis Park to see who would be willing to open their home. Members were reminded to withhold commitment until the committee can approve the prospective home.

Standing Committees

Financials: **Joe Eschelmann**, treasurer , was not available to update the board. Terri clarified repairs to the air-conditioning system totaled \$5,000.

The Senior Center currently has a positive income.

Facilities: **Kara Leong-Olkowski** said the city of Sacramento visited Sierra 2 and said the facility is well maintained and looking good. A liability issue is the swampy, muddy mess by the theater. A concrete sidewalk will cost \$40,000.

Development: **Larry Easterling** had no report.

Neighborhood Concerns Committee: Board member **Dan Pskowski** updated the board on the city’s artificial turf ordinance. In order to comply with state law, the city can no longer ban artificial turf in residential front and side yard setbacks. However, because artificial turf smothers root systems of trees, causes runoff with microbeads and prevents percolation into the water table, Pskowski asked the board

to sign a letter being drafted by Valley Water Conservation Advocates and other organizations encouraging the City Council to address the downside concerns of artificial turf. SCNA Executive Committee will review the letter and determine if SCNA will sign on.

Dan Pskowski reported that **Rosanna Herber** briefed the committee on the Oak Park meeting with the Curtis Park Village developer, Paul Petrovich. It was decided to hold off on the Curtis Park clean-up day until spring 2016. The 2nd Avenue underpass beautification project will meet at the site Nov. 21 to discuss lighting and design. Board members are encouraged to attend to strengthen the relationship with Oak Park residents.

Personnel: **Andrea Rosen** said they did not meet.

Principal committees

Senior Center Committee: **Angela Mia** reported that the Renaissance Society would like to take on the project of interviewing 20 past presidents for My Story, which is a great revenue generator.

A Holiday Craft Fair will be held Dec. 4.

Viewpoint: **Rosanna** confirmed no issue in January.
— *Kate Van Buren, Board secretary*

What’s new at Sierra 2

By Valerie Burrows
Facility Administrator

Is that old Roosevelt button worth anything?

Button collectors, political junkies, armchair historians and curiosity seekers can delve into their passions at a show of political memorabilia and pop culture from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13 in Curtis Hall. The gathering will offer thousands of Americana items. Attendees can also receive free appraisals by experts. Admission is \$3; children and students are admitted for free. Children receive free buttons from various dealers. The show is sponsored by the American Political Items Collectors. For information, call Adam Gottlieb, 956-2030.

Fun dance fitness workout

Chanthou Lam, dance instructor at American River College, will keep students on their toes in the Adult Move and Groove dance and fitness class from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Mondays in Studio 3. Emphasizing popular dance styles like hip-hop, jazz, and funk, the class provides a gently paced learning process for stretching limbs while strengthening muscles and getting funky. All levels are welcome. Class fees are \$15/drop-in or \$40/4 classes. For information, call Chanthou Lam at 296-1991.

And the beat goes on

Fenix Drum and Dance Company returns Jan. 15 to teach West African and Afro-Caribbean drum and dance classes on the third Friday of every month from 5:30-7 p.m. in Studio 3. The

class is open to adults and children. Students may use class drums if they call in advance. The fee is \$15 per class, with family rates available. For information, call Angela James at 205-3970 or email fenixdrumanddance@yahoo.com.

Reclaim your power

The Conscious Life Institute leads The Goddesses Within, a retreat from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Jan. 16 in Room 11. The retreat will explore the journey to wholeness and all phases of life. Participants will look at some of the driving forces within us and how we can get the most of this journey: Linking Universal Flow, Archetypes and Style. Participants will assess the archetypal goddesses within, do activities in groups and alone, hear about myths, do meditations and enjoy each other in a full day of activity. Participant guide included. Cost is \$50 early bird; \$75 after Jan. 1. For more information, call Shirley Ryan at 706-2287 or visit www.shirleyryan.net.

Bridge education

Do you have some bridge experience, perhaps years past, and would like to return to the game? Do you play now but are unfamiliar with modern bidding systems and would like to learn? The Bridge Education course is appropriate for players with some experience who want to improve their bidding skills. Each lesson includes discussion, handouts and exercises. Following each class, students may join the current Fun Bridge group that meets from 1-4 p.m. on Thursdays and either try playing or just observe. Call Steve Synhorst at 628-0075 or email ssynhorst@yahoo.com. Dates, times and fee to be determined based on interest.

VIEWPOINT	
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The *Viewpoint* appreciates neighbors who submit news about their babies, new neighbors, milestones and special events. This includes letters to the editor. Please send them by the 15th of the month and include contact information. Please send to jgscheible@hotmail.com with *Viewpoint* in the subject field.
For questions, please call the Sierra 2 office, 452-3005.

Join SCNA today!
Information at
www.sierra2.org

Gas Station: Oak Park neighborhood group backs SCNA’s position

(Continued from page one)
opponents of a gas station included two neighborhood associations – representing both Curtis Park and Oak Park -- and the councilmember for the district, Schenirer.

“For me, that really speaks volumes on the land-use decision,” Guerra said. “To me, a gas station doesn’t warrant going contrary to a land-use decision that could have 30-, 40-year impacts.”

Petrovich disagreed. “From a land-use perspective, there’s no defect here. This is a political issue,” he said. “You can’t vote to deny it because there are no findings of fact sufficient to deny it.”

City Council was reviewing an 8-3 vote by the city planning commission in June to grant the permit. SCNA had appealed the planning commission decision.

After the June vote, Petrovich introduced the jobs issue by reaching out to Kevin Brown, pastor of Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Lemon Hill. At Petrovich’s behest, Brown organized a meeting on Oct. 22 at the Oak Park Community Center, billed as a discussion of more than 225 jobs at Safeway with hiring preferences for Oak Park residents.

“We have a bona fide pathway to careers,” Brown told the 150 attendees at the October meeting, according to the Sacramento Observer. “I put special emphasis on careers because they are union jobs that create life-changing careers with a grocer. But this seems to have fallen on deaf ears amidst the noise surrounding a fuel center.”

Petrovich spoke at the Oak Park meeting. He was quoted by one attendee as saying “those people don’t want you in their neighborhood,” a reference to the supposed attitude of Curtis Park residents. Afterward, a Sacramento Bee editorial called Petrovich’s tactic “shameful” and an “ugly attempt to imply racist motives.”

The theme of pitting one neighborhood against another continued into the City Council meeting last month. Of the hundreds of people who attended the meeting, about three dozen wore blue T-shirts with the slogan “Our Lives Matter — Represent All of District 5,” a message essentially accusing Schenirer of not representing his constituents in Oak Park.



SCNA President Eric Johnson spoke for the appellants: “We have to take a stand and say a gas station is not right for here for right now.”



Photos/Joan Cusick

Tamika L'Ecluse, president of Oak Park Neighborhood Association, said her organization supported SCNA: “Curtis Park doesn’t want a fuel station. That should weigh heaviest — it’s their neighborhood.”

Several Oak Park pastors spoke in favor of the gas station.

Larry Meeks, pastor of Williams Memorial Church of God in Christ, said he has been in Oak Park for more than 50 years. “I’ve been told they’re not going to build it without a gas station,” Meeks said. “It’s a NIMBY issue — they don’t want ‘those people in our neighborhood.’ ... It is a NIMBY issue for the people of Curtis Park. It’s a salvation issue for the people of Oak Park.”

But, if Petrovich was attempting to divide the neighborhoods along racial and economic lines, he wasn’t entirely successful. The gas station had some

support — but also opposition — from residents of both neighborhoods.

Joany Titherington, organizer of the Oak Park Farmers’ Market, spoke up against the gas station. “I’m disappointed that in meeting after meeting, folks pitted one community against another about jobs,” she said. “There is no contract that guarantees Oak Park any jobs. ... I do not support the gas station, and I hope the City Council votes against it.”

Tamika L'Ecluse, president of the Oak Park Neighborhood Association, said her board supported the position of SCNA opposing the gas station. “No

one’s saying that Safeway shouldn’t be here,” L'Ecluse said. “Curtis Park doesn’t want a fuel station. That should weigh heaviest — it’s their neighborhood.”

Before calling for a vote, the mayor called Petrovich, Safeway spokesman Todd Paradis and Pastor Brown to the podium. Explaining that “the votes aren’t there — that’s clear,” Johnson asked Brown if he would be satisfied if a Safeway were built without a gas station. Brown replied: “Absolutely.”

Johnson asked Paradis if he was willing to share with Safeway corporate executives the view that the community wants Safeway, but not a gas station. Paradis said he would.

Johnson asked Petrovich if he would go to Boise, Idaho, with the mayor to talk to Safeway corporate executives about reconsidering the decision not to build a store without a gas station. Petrovich said he would.

Johnson called for a vote. Seven voted against the gas station, two in favor — Councilmembers Allen Warren and Larry Carr.

Johnson summarized: “Right now we’re on the record without a gas station, but we’re going to keep talking.”

The next day, Petrovich talked with the Business Journal and KCRA-3 — but not about Safeway. Instead, he told reporters he had a letter of intent from the discount chain Grocery Outlet to place a store in Curtis Park Village.

And, rather than the high-end businesses that were promised to share the shopping center with Safeway, the center would likely have stores such as a take-and-bake pizza shop, auto parts store and check-cashing outlet.


KCRA quoted Petrovich as saying, “The quality of the homes that would be built in this project are going to be

**Johnson summarized:
“Right now we’re on the record without a gas station, but we’re going to keep talking.”**

far less than they would have been, so it’s a big loss for everybody.”

The fight may not be over, but SCNA had prevailed again. There would be no gas station in Curtis Park Village.

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Info: YoungActorsStage.com

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Thursday, Dec. 10

Doors: 6:30 p.m./Show: 7 p.m.

FREE admission all ages.

Info: hannahjanekile.com

This record release/showcase for "Little Blue Heron" will feature recording artist Hannah Jane Kile with her bandmates Barry Prior and Corey Morgan Strange.

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Ovations Dance Studio

Showtimes: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11

Saturday, 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Dec. 12

Tickets: \$12 advance; \$15 at the door.

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Dancehall PowerUp

Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 p.m., Studio 3

LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.com

Essentrics

Sunday 10-11 a.m., Studio 1

Emily Wishman, (510) 299-1066

Motivational Aerobic Dance Exercise

Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.,
Room 10

Kia: keynorrisfitness@gmail.com

Zumba

Friday, 6-7 p.m. & Sunday, 11-noon. Studio 2

Abraham Contreras, pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

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SPIRITUAL SERVICES

Bethlehem Baptist Church

Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Room 12

Pastor Benson, 230-8069

Midtown Community Church

Mondays, 7 p.m., Curtis Hall

www.midtowncc.net

New Destiny Ministries

Sundays, 12:45-2:15 p.m., Room 9

Pastor Singleton, 532-5581

Sacramento Native American

Believers Fellowship

Sundays, 10:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m., Room 10

Lee Aviles, 203-6461

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Tuesday, 10-11 a.m. • Studio 1

Gladys Callander: 382-9943

Art of Living Foundation

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Wednesday, 6-7 p.m. 441-7215

Saturday, 12:30-2 p.m., Studio 2

Sacramento Bushido Kai

Japanese Martial Arts for ages 4-Adult

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Wednesday, 6-7 p.m., Studio 1

For schedule, Michael Mason: 616-5452

Sacramento Sword School

Martial Sword Arts of Europe

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Maestro Eric Myers: 276-2247

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For schedule, e-mail Shifu Byron at
Lohan36@sbcglobal.net

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www.artistmichael.com

DANCE

Fenix Drum & Dance

3rd Fridays, 5:30-7 p.m., Studio 3

Angela James, 205-3970

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Mondays, 8:30-9:30 p.m., Studio 3

Chanthou Lam, 296-1991

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Marta Santos, 833-9724

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Irish American Ceili Dancers

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Helen Healy: 444-8051

Manasa Tribal Dance

Sundays, 2-3:30 p.m., Studio 1

Patrice Norris: 736-1730

River City Taps — Tap Dance

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Thursday, 10 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Studio 3

www.rivercitytaps.com

Polynesian Dance

Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.

Studio 2 • alohatyra@aol.com

West African Dance

2nd & 4th Fridays, 5:30-7 p.m., Studio 1

Jessa Cruz: 365-3721

Auntie Amy's Hula

Thursdays, 3-4 p.m., Studio 1

Amy Cornellier, 792-5561

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Krystyna Taylor, 216-0429

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kristyoshiro@gmail.com

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3rd Saturday, Room 12, 1-5 p.m.

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Looking for Santas to brighten the holidays

There's still time to cheer up a child this holiday season by taking part in Sierra 2's Angel Tree program. Organizers at the Sierra 2 Center hope to double the number of young angels this year by serving 200 Sacramento children who receive a gift from adopting Santas in Curtis Park.

Here's how it works: Adopting Santas go to the Sierra 2 Center and select a child's tag (or two) from the Christmas tree in the lobby. Each tag represents a specific

child who has been registered at the Salvation Army. Adopting Santas go shopping and take their gifts, unwrapped, to Sierra 2 by Dec. 15. The gifts will be picked up by the Salvation Army that week and prepared for distribution to the families at Cal Expo the following week along with a holiday dinner.

Online shoppers can use the code SALVATION ARMY to get a 25 percent discount at mattelshop.com and fisherprice.com .

For more information, contact Faith Johnstone at 452-3005.

Crab Feed a go

Sierra 2's Crab Feed is on for Feb. 5. Tickets go on sale Dec. 1. Neighbors are reminded that these tickets go fast. Last year's event sold out.

For a while this year's event was in doubt because of the potent neurotoxins in the algae off California's coast. The state has canceled crab season in California.

Sierra 2 was able to secure a crab provider who has sources in Alaska, according to Faith Johnstone at Sierra 2.

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus will again entertain crab diners and host the popular Dessert Dash. For more information, call the Sierra 2 office, 452-3005.



Schenirer's message

Divergent interests demand a balancing act

Our world environment is a more dynamic than ever. Competing and divergent interests are prevalent on the international, national and local stages. Mostly, they demand a balancing act. Security vs. privacy. The environment vs. energy. How do we decide? How do we balance the needs of today against the potential of tomorrow? How do we ensure that we are doing the right thing for our communities and our world, so that our children and grandchildren will be successful?

As an elected official, both on the Sacramento City Unified School Board and the City Council, I have wrestled with many of these decisions. Whether it was designating Sacramento High School as a charter school or raising the minimum wage, I know that my decisions and leadership can have significant impacts on the people I represent. I take none of these decisions lightly.

As many of you may know,

the deliberative process over whether to permit a fuel center in Curtis Park Village took place. For two years, I have listened to hundreds of hours of arguments from both sides of the issue. It became more complicated by the recent promise of well-paying union jobs for residents of Oak Park, if Safeway were allowed to have a fuel center with its proposed market in our neighborhood. During this time I have rarely had a day when I was not asked about this issue while walking my dog in Curtis Park, having coffee at Old Soul in Oak Park or reading email and text messages.

At the end of the day, I followed my core convictions, thinking about the world I want to leave for my children and their children. I made my decision knowing that no matter which conclusion I came to, there



Jay Schenirer
City Councilmember

would always be those who would have hoped for a different outcome. There have been a number of constituents in the district who have let me know that I would never receive their support again if I voted one way or the other. I understand and respect their position.

Ultimately, my point is that, as your representative, I will continue to do what I believe is right on behalf of our community, our district and our city. In this case, it resulted in a zero-sum solution. However, I want to thank all of you for your engagement on this issue, and for each of you who have reached out to share your convictions with me. Your civic engagement was felt deeply by my colleagues and me, and I am proud to live in a neighborhood that cares so deeply.

See you in the park.

Sierra 2 Senior Center

Senior Center to launch Wellness Program in January

The Sierra 2 Center is introducing the Wellness Program through the Senior Center. Beginning in January the program will offer classes focused on managing and enriching fitness and health.

New activities in the pilot program will include a stress management class and chair massage sessions. These will be in addition to the current classes in tai chi and yoga. As attendance and interest in the program increases, the program will add classes on fitness, health, nutrition and general wellness.

Sierra 2 Senior Center

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 calendar.

Participants can take part by paying a \$10 drop-in fee per activity or by purchasing a 10-class punch card for \$60. The new punch card system allows participants the flexibility to attend classes that best suit their schedule. Wellness Program classes will begin Monday, Jan. 4. Punch cards can be purchased in the Sierra 2 office starting Dec. 1. The Sierra 2 Center expects to have the Wellness Program class schedule ready at that time.

For more information, call the office at 452-3005.

— Katie Byram,
Sierra 2 staff

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

SIERRA 2 SENIOR CENTER
Room 12
455-6339 or seniorcenter@sierra2.org
Everyone is welcome.
Activities are free except where noted. (Donations appreciated.)
NOTE: The Senior Center is closed from Dec. 21-Jan. 1

FITNESS
Gentle Yoga
10-11 a.m., Wednesday & Friday
Rm. 12
\$10/Drop-in; \$40/6 classes
Pat Shaw: 856-0136

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

Tai Chi
10:30-11:15 a.m., Thursdays
\$40 per month

Walking & Polewalking Clinic
9 a.m., Thursdays
One-time instruction fee \$5

LIESURE
Book Club
Dec 14: "The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy" by Rachel Joyce
Jan 11: "The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin

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

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

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

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

EDUCATION
Garden Club
For schedule, call 455-6339, Rm. 9

Beginning Drawing
9-10:15 a.m., Thursdays
4 classes: \$48 [No December classes]
Patris: 397-8958

CARDS & GAMES
Ginasta
9:30-11:30 a.m., Mondays

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

Fun Bridge
1-4 p.m., Thursdays

Pinochle
1-3 p.m., Fridays

EVENTS
Free Chair Massage
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Dec. 9
Sam Soun, CMT

Holiday Craft Faire
10 a.m.-6 p.m., Dec. 4

Fraud Targeted Towards Seniors Free Presentation
9:30-11 a.m., Dec. 8

Holiday Potluck
Dec. 18, Room 12

Senior Committee Meeting
3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 1

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Heritage Matters

Curtis Park schools coordinated Christmas programs in the 1950s

By Erik Fay
Viewpoint staff writer

Elementary school Christmas programs were long standing traditions throughout the country for many years. In the early 1950s in Sacramento’s Bret Harte School and the Sierra School produced many fun, colorful and original programs for the school communities. Two Curtis Park parent teacher associations (PTAs) actively supported, sometimes developed, and sponsored these events. Students, parents, and teachers all had roles in what were true neighborhood holiday events reported in The Sacramento Bee and The Union.

“Each year the two schools usually coordinated their Christmas programs to avoid scheduling on the same day so families, friends and neighbors could attend both events. However, in 1952 the two schools found themselves in a bit of

a muddle when both scheduled their Christmas programs for 1 p.m. Dec. 17. The joint time and date were of enough “neighborhood concern” to be mentioned in the daily papers. Eventually the schools rescheduled their programs for different times on the designated day.

Dec. 17, 1952 was a bright and crisp day when Mrs. Gordon Stafford presided over a meeting of the Sierra School PTA in the auditorium. At 1:30 p.m., the Sierra Christmas program, “A Little Child,” was presented by children and teachers from each grade in the school. Hostesses for the event were mothers of the Sierra School second graders.

An hour later that day the Bret Harte PTA met to help present the school’s program, “Christmas and Your School.” It was a large scale event with several themed skits and short stories written and performed by students. There was also music by the school chorus, a



Girls practice their part for the school performance.

holiday presentation titled “Parties on Parade,” and a Christmas giving presentation by Curtis Park-based Brownie Troop 220. Interestingly, a group of fathers sponsored a Christmas cookie tea. The program was presided over by Mrs. Lyle Basset, and the tea hosted by Mrs.

Paul Mohr, Mrs. John Davy, Mrs. John Gilroy, and Mrs. Fred Mullinex. The programs and activities seem to have been fun for all concerned. These events no doubt required plenty of work. It would be interesting to know if any current Curtis Park residents attended these events.

Program teaches tax codes to volunteers who then aid seniors

People with an interest in helping seniors prepare their taxes can get valuable training in a free AARP program that starts in January. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome in the Tax-Aide program. Sierra-Curtis Park neighbor Cindy Whitcher of Third Avenue is a Tax-Aide and can answer questions about the program.

The training, in classes and online, is comparable to that given by professional tax preparers such as H&R Block. Tax-aides assist low and middle income taxpayers with their federal and state taxes. Special attention is given to taxpayers over 60.

Volunteers work one-on-one with seniors to prepare their returns on an IRS program. The client provides the information. The volunteers keep no paper work.

The training is in January and the tax preparation is from Feb. 1 to April 15. Volunteers do not need experience but they must pass a certifying exam after training.

For more information on joining the AARP Tax-Aide team in Northern California, contact District Coordinator, at taxaidesosac@hotmail.com. To chat with Cindy, call her at 456-6047.

Evaluating city ordinance

SCNA to consider the effects of artificial turf

By Dan Pskowski
Viewpoint staff writer

Artificial turf has been around for decades, mostly on sports fields. However, with California’s drought, the use of artificial turf for residential yards will increase.

Currently the City of Sacramento Planning and Development Code prohibits the use of artificial turf in front and street side yard setbacks. However, this will change as a result of AB -1164 Water Conservation: Drought Tolerant Landscaping, which Gov. Brown signed into law in October. The law prohibits a local jurisdiction from enacting or enforcing an ordinance or regulation that would prohibit the installation of drought tolerant landscaping, artificial turf or synthetic grass on residential property.

As an arborist I have concerns about the use of artificial turf around trees. The soil is a living organism made up of earthworms, soil microorganisms, bacteria and fungi. Artificial turf would drive away the earthworms, which feed on live and dead organic matter. Earthworm activity aerates and mixes the soil and facilitates mineralization of nutrients and their uptake by trees and vegetation.

Charles Darwin wrote in 1881 “It may be doubted whether there are any other animals which

have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly creatures”.

The surface temperature of artificial turf can exceed 150 degrees Fahrenheit on a hot summer day. The turf also increases the soil temperature, which has a detrimental effect on mycorrhizae, which are soil fungi that colonize the tree’s absorbing roots. The mycorrhizae help the tree with mineral absorption and play a protective role in keeping harmful pathogens away. Certain tree species — oak, pine, & beech require mycorrhizae, and any soil conditions that disrupt these fungi will cause a decline in the tree’s health.

The base material used for artificial turf in residential installations must be compacted to 90 percent. This prevents water percolation and oxygen exchange for the absorbing roots of trees. On most trees the roots extend way beyond the outer most tips of the branches. This lack of water and oxygen could cause the tree to die. If you have a mature tree in your front yard or in the City park strip, you should not install artificial turf.

In addition to the tree concerns, there are storm water run-off/pollution issues with the use of artificial turf. The product has a life span of 10 – 15 years and artificial turf requires water to clean it in and chemicals to clean animals urinating on it. Residents who are contemplating artificial turf should consider the impacts of this product before purchasing it.

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COMMUNITY CORNER

State Bar honors Fifi Zeff

The State Bar of California selected Curtis Park’s Ofelia “Fifi” Zeff, an employment lawyer, for a 2015 President’s Pro Bono Service Award. She was one of five attorneys who received the award.

California Supreme Court’s Chief Justice, Tami G. Cantil-Sakauye, presented the awards in October at a reception during the State Bar’s annual meeting.

The award acknowledges Zeff’s 15 years of work with the Voluntary Legal Services Program of Northern California in Sacramento. Zeff volunteers her services in the



Photo courtesy of The State Bar
Fifi Zeff, long-time Curtis Park activist and SCNA volunteer, receives her pro bono service award from Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, with State Bar President Craig Holden.

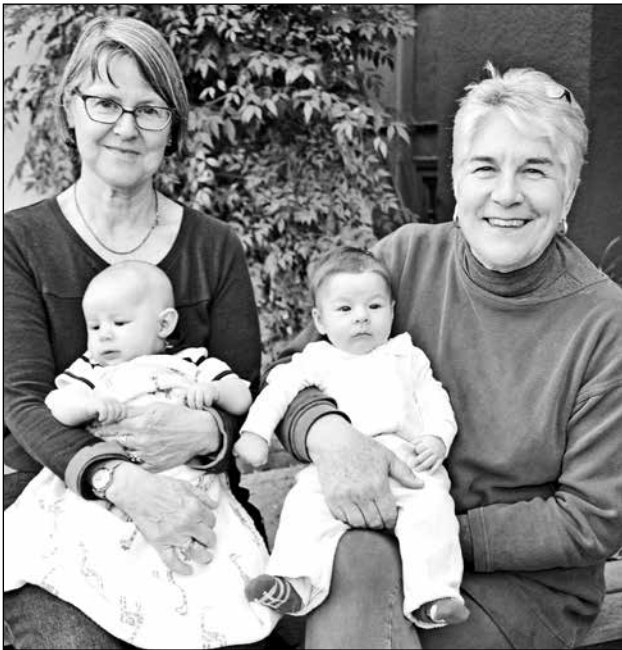
Employment Law Clinic. She mentors law students and represents clients at administrative hearings before the Employment Development Department and the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.

— Susan MacCulloch

August babies with Third Avenue grandmas

Third Avenue grandmas Fleurette Kersey and Judy Brush hold their newest grands. Fleurette’s grandson, Neville Kersey, was born Aug. 19 to Fleurette’s son Adrian, a teacher at Cal Middle School, and his wife, Rose, who is a fulltime mom to Neville and his sister Pippa. They live on Third Avenue.

Judy’s granddaughter, Florence Eleanor Brownsey, was born Aug. 16. Her parents are Judy’s daughter, Rachel, who is a botanist, and her



Photo/Judy Harper

Fleurette Kersey, left, with her grandson, Neville and neighbor Judy Brush with her granddaughter, Florence.

husband, Philip Brownsey, who is a rangeland restoration ecologist. They live just south of Sutterville Road. The grandpas, Charles Kersey and John Brush, were out and about when the Viewpoint arrived.

New neighbors jump into the Curtis Park scene

After living for 26 years in Rocklin, Geno and Lani Delyon moved in August to Rochon Way. Their friend Angela Mia, a realtor and SCNA board member, had been searching for a project/house for them for two years. Geno says, “We fell in love with our little one-block street, and we enjoy the lovely Sierra 2 community center.”

They have completed a renovation project, adding an upstairs and updating the home’s wiring and plumbing while keeping the look they loved.

Geno’s past includes a short stint with the San Diego Padres. After an



Photo/Carol Blackman
Geno and Lani Delyon enjoyed this year’s wine tasting event.

injury, he developed a financial advisory business. Lani is an accountant. They have two children and two grandsons.

Lani says that she enjoys, “the friendly neighbors, big trees, great vibe and, of course, the community events.” Her pastimes include yoga, gardening and book clubs. Geno spends time on his golf game. He also paints and works on his 1950 Chris Craft.



Street cleaners are, from left, Owen and Olivia Correia of Coleman Way and Grady and Annabelle Kludt of Cutter Way.

Kids tidy up neighborhood

The day after these four trick-or-treaters got their bags full of candy they spent nearly 90 minutes walking around their neighborhood picking up candy wrappers left strewn about by costumed visitors on Cutter Way, Coleman Way, East Curtis Drive and 10th Street. All four

children attend Leonardo da Vinci school. They are siblings Owen, 8, and Olivia, 11, Correia of Coleman Way and siblings Grady, 6, and Annabelle Kludt, 8, of Cutter Way. Olivia sparked her friends into action, according to her father, Jay.

— Judy Scheible

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Neighbors hear updates on bike lanes and Sierra 2 finances and elect board members

By Rosanna Herber,
Viewpoint staff writer

About 70 neighbors gathered in Curtis Hall Nov. 18 for SCNA's annual meeting. It was an evening of bike lanes, an election, finances and an unexpected standing ovation.

Eric Johnson, president of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association, opened by introducing Adam Randolph, the city engineer who's leading the Freeport Bike Lane project. He talked about design elements and the construction schedule that will take place when City College and McClatchy High School are out for the summer of 2016.

Randolph said the bike lane plan calls for sections to be painted green, explaining that those sections were for the high-conflict areas. When asked if the entire lanes in the project section could be painted green, he agreed to ask.

Following Randolph, President Johnson introduced the candidates for the SCNA board election. All were incumbents and all were unanimously re-elected. They are Jonathan La Turner, John Mathews, Angelia Mia, Bruce Pierini, Nicole Quinonez, Patrick Soluri, and Andrea Rosen. There are now a total of 16 SCNA board members.

Terri Shettle, executive director of the Sierra 2 Center, gave an overview of how the finances of the two arms of the neighborhood association are working (SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts). Shettle introduced the Sierra 2 staff, and complimented them on how well they ran the building this past year. Income was \$17,000 more than budgeted. A new marketing and outreach coordinator has been hired, and the rental income is growing by 2.5 percent each year.

Shettle reported that the Senior Center and the Viewpoint continue to run at a deficit, and several SCNA events don't pay for themselves. They include the Music in the Park, the Egg Hunt and First Fridays. These events are supported by SCNA memberships and events like the Wine Tasting and Home Tour. Shettle said the year ended with a \$30,000 deficit in the budget, but it was planned.

"We needed to update the building infrastructure, revise the Personnel Handbook, and hire additional staff," said Shettle. "The

Board intentionally decided to use some of the Reserve Fund to pay for these projects this year. We are striving to build and create a regional artistic community, and these improvements will help us get there."

Shettle assured neighbors that the Crab Feed is still on for Friday, Feb. 5 at the Sierra 2 Center. While many crab feeds are being cancelled due to the algae problem along the California coastline, Shettle said SCNA has secured a crab vendor who flies in crab from Alaska. Near the end of the meeting, Councilmember Jay Schenirer showed up and received a standing ovation.

"Thank you Councilmember Schenirer for representing our neighborhood," SCNA President Johnson said, referring to Schenirer's vote on the gas station proposal for Curtis Park Village. Schenirer shared a few words, and the meeting came to a close.

McClatchy concert set for Dec. 16

By Susan MacCulloch
Viewpoint staff writer

McClatchy High School's music department will present an evening of instrumental and choral music at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 16 in the school's auditorium. The winter concert of classics, entitled "Sounds of the Season," will feature performances by the school's concert band, jazz band, orchestra and choir.

According to Jorge Munoz, director of the Music Department, about 170 students are in the program. "Where many high school music programs place their emphasis and resources into a marching band, McClatchy's program instead shifts its priority to the growth of the individual student," Munoz said. The winter concert is a fundraiser for the school's music program. The Music Boosters will host a reception immediately after the concert.

Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children. Doors to the auditorium will open at 6:30 p.m. The school is at 3066 Freeport Blvd. For more information, call Susan Veazey, 346-9370 or email ssveazey@gmail.com.



How to find updates on the water meter installation

Neighbors anticipating torn up streets for water meter installation can find out what's happening each week on the Sierra 2 website, www.sierra2.org. The weekly update on the Curtis Park Water Meter Phase 2 project is expected to be refreshed each Monday.

To find the updates, neighbors at the website can click on the box at the top of the page labeled "Curtis Park Community" and then highlight (not click) the "Advocacy" box and scroll down to the Curtis Park Water Meter Project. Neighbors with Chrome or Firefox programs may have better access than those with Explore, which sometimes displays the list with overprints.

Questions about the updates should be directed to the Sierra 2 office, 452-3005.

Viewpoint distributor needed

The Viewpoint runs on volunteer power, most importantly that of its distributors. For six years the main distributor for Area 2 has made sure his six block captains got their allotment for "home delivery." Now he needs a break.

We are looking for someone to step into these big shoes.

Here's what we're asking. Each month (except January and August) you will receive 325 Viewpoints to divide and distribute to 10 block distributors. Area 2 covers 2nd Avenue to 4th Avenue between 24th Street and Franklin Boulevard.

If this is something you could do, call Gerre Buehler at 451-9610.

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