

Construction begins on bridge to connect Curtis Park and City College

By Andrea Rosen
Viewpoint staff writer

More than 10 years ago, a few SCNA Board members urged then City Councilmember Lauren Hammond to obtain funding to build a foot bridge over the railroad tracks, which block access from Curtis Park to City College Light Rail station and Land Park. Construction of that bridge began Jan. 15.

Dismissed by some as too expensive and unnecessary, the bridge was supported by neighbors who saw it as an anchor to the proposed bike and pedestrian-friendly Curtis Park urban village concept.

Following the City's receipt of SACOG funding for the design, the



Photo/Joan Cusick

Construction began January 15 on the pedestrian bridge that will connect Curtis Park Village with the light rail station at Sacramento City College.

City applied for federal funds for construction. SACOG awarded \$6.9 million in Federal Transportation Enhancement funds. The City kicked in some Proposition 1B funds and local funds to put together \$10.2 million to finance the construction.

Drake Haglan designed the tied-arch bridge. Viking Construction is the contractor. Completion is expected in spring 2016. The bridge will feature a precast cored slab structure connecting the Light Rail Station at City College with Curtis Park (see drawing on page 3). The

project also includes ramps, stairs, lighting, underground utilities, landscaping and irrigation facilities.

Many neighbors feel this overcrossing is badly needed as there are few safe choices for east-west cyclists and pedestrians between Sutterville Road and Freeport Boulevard. The bridge will dramatically improve bicycle and pedestrian safety by providing a superior safe and beautiful east west connection between Curtis Park/Oak Park and neighborhoods to the west of City College.

Safeway executive says it can't compete without gas station

By Dennis Cusick
Viewpoint staff writer

Hundreds of neighborhood residents crowded Curtis Hall to overflowing Wednesday, Jan. 28, to ask questions and express mostly negative opinions of the proposed gas station that Safeway says is crucial to locating a store in Curtis Park Village.

"In order for us to compete in Sacramento, we do need fuel," said Steve Berndt, Safeway's vice president for western real estate, who noted that the turnout for the meeting "says a lot about your devotion to your neighborhood." Berndt said the Raley's supermarket chain plans to build a new flagship store on the Capital Nursery property on Freeport Boulevard "and will probably have fuel. We can't compete with Raley's and not have fuel."

Berndt said Safeway's lease with Curtis Park Village developer Paul Petrovich calls for a "fuel center." If the lease goes away, he said, "it's back to Square One."

Speakers at the meeting included city staff, representatives of the developer, of homebuilder BlackPine Communities, and of New Evolution Ventures, which has a lease to place a high-end fitness center in the commercial complex, conditioned on Safeway's presence. NEV vice president Bill Oughton said if Safeway pulls out, there's a "99 percent chance" that NEV also will pull out.

City Senior Planner Lindsey Alagozian told the audience that Petrovich submitted a request in 2014 for a conditional use permit to allow a gas station in the commercial area of the development. She said city staff is analyzing the overall layout of the proposed gas station,

Please see Gas Station, page 8

Neighborhood survey supports design controls, rejects gas stations; meeting Feb. 17 to hear results

By Viewpoint staff

Results of the neighborhood survey distributed in September will be presented by Sac State sociology students at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 17 in Curtis Hall. The students analyzed the results for their statistics class taught by sociology Professor Jennifer Murphy. After the students' presentation, the Curtis Park Character Advocates will lead an open discussion about the results.

The survey was drafted by the Character Advocates and then reviewed for bias by two sociology professors with experience in survey research. The results will help the

Advocates group promote small, locally owned businesses in the neighborhood.

The surveys were delivered to 1,800 Curtis Park households via the *Viewpoint*. Professor Murphy said the 11.1 percent response rate (201 responses from all geographical areas in Curtis Park) is higher than the typical response rate the Institute of Social Research receives for community surveys.

In general terms, the survey results show the following:

- 78 percent of respondents support design controls for future commercial buildings to preserve the neighborhood's traditional character;

- Almost 92 percent say they don't want more fast food restaurants;
- 90 percent asked for new restaurants/bars, coffeehouses and specialty food shops;
- 82 percent oppose additional gas stations;
- More than 63 percent say they make an effort to shop locally but usually have to leave the neighborhood to find their most needed items and services.

"It's exciting to have specific data that show the neighborhood's preference to support small, local businesses," said Kathleen Ave, member of the Character Advocates.

Please see Survey, page 3

Last-minute Crab Feed tickets still available until Feb. 2

There are a few tickets left for the first SCNA Crab Feed Friday, Feb. 6. The fund-raising event is replacing First Friday for this month. Tickets are \$50, and advanced purchase is required. Ticket deadline is Monday, Feb. 2.

Dinner will be from 6 to 8 p.m. and will include plenty of delicious seasonal crab. Filling out the menu are a mixed green salad, savory penne pasta with marinara sauce, and savory garlic bread, all prepared by La Famiglia Catering. The dinner also includes a beverage ticket, and additional beer, wine, and soda tickets will be available for purchase.

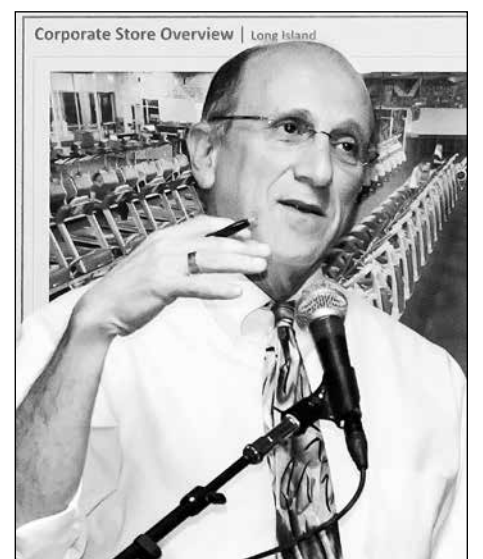
Diners can anticipate being serenaded by the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus. In addition diners will have a chance to bid on desserts gathered by members of the chorus and to bid on various items in a silent auction sponsored by Sierra 2. Proceeds from the event will help pay for a mobile children's art and exploration station that will be set up at various events to entertain and inform children.

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



Make a valentine for kids

Sierra 2 Center is collecting homemade valentine cards designed for children in area hospitals. The project is part of the Cards for Kids program sponsored by radio station Star 106.5. Neighbors who want to take part can bring their cards to Faith Johnstone at Sierra 2 by Monday, Feb. 9. The cards will be given to the radio station to distribute to the children. For more information contact Faith@sierra2.org or 452-3005.



Council member Jay Schenirer led the meeting.

Notes from January 14th meeting

SCNA welcomes new members and elects officers

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association Board of Directors welcomed two new members at their January meeting. **Kate Woolley** and **Rosanna Herber** attended their first board meeting of the year.

Kate Woolley, a Curtis Park resident and former school board candidate, is raising her children in the neighborhood and wanted to get more involved in the community. She expressed her delight to serve on the board. Rosanna Herber is a returning board member. She served one term as president of SCNA. Now

Next meeting

The SCNA Board's regular meeting is the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 11 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2. For more information, call the Sierra 2 office, 452-3005.

she is returning to take part in the many new and exciting things happening in the community.

The Board also elected its officers for the year. **Eric Johnson** was unanimously re-elected for a third term

as president, and **Robert Giblin** was elected vice president. Rounding out the slate of officers is **Joe Eschleman** as treasurer, **Cara Martinson** as secretary and **Kara Leong-Olkowski** as the member at large.

The Board plans to meet soon for its annual retreat to talk about priorities for the year.

Curtis Park Village community meeting and upcoming events

The Board discussed the Jan. 28th community meeting, which was to focus on the Curtis Park Village and updates concerning the proposed fueling station.

The goal of the meeting was to update neighbors on the project and hear representatives of the Development, the City and Community discuss issues concerning the proposal.

The board also discussed the Feb. 6 Crab Feed, which is shaping up to be a good fundraiser for Sierra 2. The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus will sing and serve at the event, and Boy Howdy, SGMC's small ensemble, will be entertaining throughout the evening. Tickets are going fast.

— Submitted by **Cara Martinson**,
Board Secretary

Executive Director's Report

Through the roof... Just another day at Sierra 2 Center

Over the past couple of weeks I have received a few visitors and calls inquiring about the blue tarp on the roof over the Garden Room and about the crew working on it. For us, it is just another day, another facility project at Sierra 2 Center.

TERRI SHETTLE

Sierra 2 Executive Director



plumbing and irrigation. Last summer, we replaced half of the concrete slab in the Curtis Hall courtyard due to safety issues, and recently we had to do a lot of work in one of the cottages.

It takes a lot of eyes and ears and people attuned to the nuances of the building to understand the difference between what is normal and what needs to be addressed. The staff, in particular **Valerie Burrows** and **Dale Stebbins**, are constantly working to keep us safe, functional, and aesthetically pleasing.

Of course, all of this takes financial resources. We have to keep a fairly hefty reserve fund for the type of unexpected spending as this roof repair. It challenges us to pay attention to our cash flow and operating income. Capital projects come in chunks of thousands of dollars at a time. Fundraising events such as the BIG Day of Giving (May 5th this year) are critical to overall financial stability of the organization. They provide the much-needed unrestricted funds to keep this historical landmark preserved and functioning and enable us to deliver the many events, activities and community gatherings that are the foundation of our work.

Your donations — big and small — ensure we have the financial resources to serve as a cultural incubator in the community. As we begin the new year, I hope you will consider Sierra 2 Center and SCNA in your charitable giving.

I am always thrilled to give tours of the facility; so please come visit and let me show you how special this place really is.



Photo/Joan Cusick
Workers repair the leaky roof from last December's rain.

Holiday generosity provides 2,000 gifts for kids

More than 80 Curtis Park residents stepped up for Christmas and helped lots of children receive the gifts they requested through the Angel Tree program sponsored by the Salvation Army. They purchased 101 gifts for the children.

On delivery day, Sierra 2 staffers who helped load and unload the gifts were, from left, **Jade Walker**, **Valerie Burrows**, **Tommy Garcia**, **Faith Johnstone**, **Sonny Ferrante** and **Katie Byram**. In all the program gathered 2,000 gifts for the children. Each family also received a meal box for a turkey dinner.



VIEWPOINT	
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Deadlines

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

What's new at Sierra 2

By Valerie Burrows
Facility Administrator

Exercise class with no pain, all gain

Gentle stretches, ones that let the muscles relax and extend, and balance exercises, ones used by physical therapists and neurologists, are what the **Bend, Breathe, & Balance** class is all about. Classes are from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesdays and from 11a.m. to noon Thursdays in Studio 1. Designed to serve all ages, this class offers a constantly changing combination of yoga, Pilates and strength training. If you've been meaning to resume exercising, are a beginner or just don't want to "pump and grind," this class is for you. The cost is \$48 per six sessions. For registration and information, contact Bobby Gladstein at 476-4460 or email bobbygladstein@aol.com.

Insulin pump therapy Q&A

Carb DM – Seize Diabetes presents Type 1 Topics with Erin Heiser, a registered nurse, and Alex Nella, a registered dietician at UC Davis Children's Hospital. They will talk about advanced pumping and answer all questions about insulin pump therapy from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10 in Room 10.

Carb DM's mission is to build a supportive community that improves the quality of life and health of all those affected by Type 1 diabetes. The Carb DM community fosters connections among people with diabetes, their loved ones, and medical professionals, and develops strategies for thriving with diabetes.

Refreshments will be served. A \$20 donation is suggested. To RSVP, visit: carbdm.org/sacramento/, email rsvp@carbdm.org or (650) 464-4236.



Photo/Joan Cusick

Figure 8 owner Alicia Stephens adds a second location to teach classes.

9th anniversary, new fitness studio for Figure 8 Women's Workout

By Susan MacCulloch
Viewpoint staff writer

Figure 8 Women's Workout at the corner of 24th Street and Second Avenue will celebrate its ninth anniversary this month. And in response to gym members' requests over the years, owner Alicia Stephens established a separate fitness class studio in early January.

Since the Second Avenue gym does not have space for classes, Stephens located another venue at the corner of 28th and S streets — close to the increasingly busy stretch of businesses with Temple Coffee, Revolution Wine, and the eventual new location of the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op.

"I chose this location because it's convenient for gym members who will be able to use the studio," said Stephens. Curtis Park residents are the majority of the gym's clients. Other members drive in from the Greenhaven and East Sacramento neighborhoods.

Classes at the new location are held Mondays through Saturdays. The studio features a wall-length

mirror, new hardwood flooring, and a separate changing room. A variety of workout tools are available for different classes. Street parking is easily available.

Class choices include Zumba, mat-based Pilates, sports core and more, kickboxing, boot camp, strength training, and a 6 a.m. early morning or noon express circuit workout. For a limited time, all classes until 1:00 p.m. are \$5 per session. After-work classes are also available. Figure 8 gym members receive a discount for unlimited classes with their monthly membership.

Stephens will host an Open House at the new fitness studio from 5:30-7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7. Friends and family are welcome. She asks visitors to bring a non-perishable food donation for the River City Food Bank. A raffle ticket will be exchanged for each donation. Prizes include one month of unlimited classes, a one month gym membership, a 60-minute massage and aesthetician services.

The Figure 8 fitness studio is at 1900 S Street at the corner of 28th Street. For more info, visit www.figure8ww.com or call 451-8688.



Design sketch of bike/pedestrian bridge now under construction

Survey: Support for small business

(Continued from page one)

"Neighbors said they don't want more gas stations, instead they want more specialty food shops, coffeehouses, new restaurants and bars."

Other business categories receiving more than 70 percent approval included grocery stores, shoe repair and retail stores. Support for gyms or fitness studios was 64 percent, salons was 58 percent and office services was 48 percent. There was little support for wine and liquor stores (26 percent), financial services (30 percent) or pharmacies (30 percent).

"The survey results shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone who has lived in this neighborhood as long as I have," said Bruce Pierini, a Character Advocate and 25th Street resident for 18 years. "It just confirms the tremendous amount of support for small and independent businesses.

And, it's striking the depth of opposition to the gas station." Pierini said he was speaking as a Character Advocate and not representing any other organization.

The survey also asked what types of businesses should be developed in Curtis Park. Respondents said they want unique and artistic places, such as art galleries and boutique stores. They also desire a library and places that offer kids' activities, such as a public pool or tutoring services.

CSUS sociology professors Carole Barnes and Rodney Kingsnorth volunteered their expertise to ensure the survey didn't show bias and the results would be valid. About the survey's results, their colleague Murphy wrote, "These results are as meaningful as a traditional random sampling because all households were provided with an opportunity to participate."

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR CLASSIFIEDS

SHORT-TERM RENTAL: Curtis Park home. 3-bedroom. Fully furnished. May–Sept. 315-730-0207.

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

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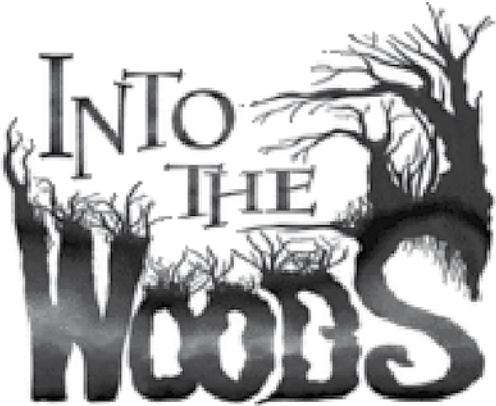
INTO THE WOODS

Flying Monkey Productions

Showtimes:

7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6
7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7
2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8
7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13
2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14
7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14

Tickets: General: \$18; Student: \$15
Info: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/854225



“Into the Woods” combines the well-known fairy tales of Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Little Red Riding Hood with the story of the Baker and his Wife who desperately want a child. Unfortunately, the Baker and his Wife have been cursed with childlessness by a witch. To break the spell they must perform various missions involving characters in the other fairy tales. The Baker and his Wife must bring the witch a cow as white as milk, a cape

as red as blood, hair as yellow as corn, and a slipper as pure as gold. After a series of failed attempts, the Baker and his Wife are finally able to perform the tasks necessary to break the spell. However, once the characters have accomplished their goals, they learn about the pitfalls of greed and gluttony. Finally, they learn about the need for community and family when they must unite to fight against the wife of the giant Jack killed. She has decided to return for revenge.

DISNEY’S MULAN JR.

Young Actors Stage

Showtimes:

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27.
1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28
4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28
7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28
1 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 1
4 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 1
1 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 1
4 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 1

Tickets: General: \$10;
Children: \$7 (12 & under)
Info: www.YoungActorsStage.com

Travel back to ancient China with this action-packed stage adaptation of Disney’s animated film. Defying the village matchmaker, Mulan takes up arms and disguises herself as a boy in order to spare her father from having to serve in the army. The Huns have invaded, and it is up to the misfit 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 get you up on your feet.



ACTIVITIES AT SIERRA 2



CHILDREN

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

Rio Valley Charter School Arts Guild: K-12
Monday/Wednesday, 9 a.m.–noon
Room 10 and Studio 3
www.riovalley.org

OTHER

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

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

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

DANCE

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

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

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

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

River City Taps – Tap Dance
Monday–Thursday 5–8:30 p.m.
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
Saturday, 12:30-2 p.m., Studio 2

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

Sacramento Sword School
Martial Sword Arts of Europe
Thursday, 6:15-8:15 p.m., Studio 2
Maestro Eric Myers: 276-2247

Unified Chinese Martial Arts
For schedule, e-mail Shifu Byron at Lohan36@sbcglobal.net

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

YOGA

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

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

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

The Vibe Church of Sacramento
Sunday Services : 10-11:30 a.m., Garden Rm.
Bible Study: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
1st & 3rd Wednesdays, Room 11
John Macdonell, Pastor: 595-5622

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

FITNESS

Essentrics
Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.
Studio 1
Emily Wishman, (510) 299-1066

Motivational Aerobic Dance Exercise
Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Room 10
Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 p.m., Studio 1
Kia: keynorrisfitness@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

ART

Awaken My Art Collective
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karensarp51@gmail.com

MUSIC

Nashville Songwriters Association
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Free • Gabrielle Kennedy: 476-5073

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Krystyna Taylor, 216-0429



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Three new Senior Center activities in February

By Phoebe Celestin
Senior Center Program Coordinator

Finding the keys to making music

Land Park resident Dane Andrus is a Simply Music teacher who was one of the first trained by Simply Music founder Neil Moore.



Dane’s workshop will teach you piano with a simplified approach, allowing complete beginners to play “mature sounding” music right from the beginning. Traditional piano lessons typically start students with reading notes, deciphering rhythm, and practicing drills and scales. Instead, this workshop teaches students to play songs from the start. At least two musical pieces will be learned during these workshops.

Attendees must have a piano or keyboard at home. For info, visit www.pianolandpark.com or call Dane at 447-7150 to register for individual sessions. The next free workshop will be in April.

Chair yoga

Alexa Mergen offers Chair Yoga from 3:15 to 4 p.m. Fridays. Alexa has taught people of all ages and experiences for 22 years. She is also a writer, editor and translator. Alexa believes creative expressions — physically and artistically — are essential for individual and community health. This is her 10th year in Sacramento.

In Chair Yoga, traditional yoga poses are modified as students use a chair for support, either while seated or

standing. There are no pretzel poses or dramatic breathing techniques. Students leave class feeling relaxed and energized. Alexa’s Web page is yogastanza.org.

Popcorn and a Movie 1:30-3:30 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month

This month it’s Feb. 17. This activity provides educational documentaries on how to perform all of a film crew’s necessary functions for the MyStory Project. These include interviewing, coaching, editing and camera work, set-up and design. There is always something to learn. Some of the movies this year are:

Side By Side: Through juxtaposing interviews with today’s leading filmmakers with a fascinating history of image-capture technology, Side By Side provides a holistic and balanced look at the film vs. digital debate.

Video + Photo Mojo: TED Talks This roundup of video/photo-centric TED Talks is no different. Featuring filmmakers such as James Cameron and Jeff Skoll, this collection of talks has something for every image-making enthusiast.

Great Directors: This understated documentary provides a striking look at what makes some of the most influential directors in the independent world cinema tick.

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 more transparent and effective government

Our goal is continuous improvement. Measure L, the “Strong Mayor Initiative,” failed this past November. However, many of the changes proposed in the initiative related to good governance are moving forward. Among them are, specifically, an independent budget analyst; improvements to transparency and ethics; an independent redistricting commission; and the creation of a neighborhood advisory committee.



Jay Schenirer
City Councilmember

I supported Measure L, in part, because I thought it would bring greater accountability to the Mayor’s office, but also for many of the proposed governance improvements. I’m pleased the City Council is unanimously moving forward with many of the provisions included in the measure. Last month, the Mayor appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee — including myself — to accelerate the process. Rather than bringing forward proscribed proposals, the Committee felt it was important to include the community in the design of these initiatives. To that end, the Committee made a series of recommendations that outline a process for making these good governance improvements. In the coming weeks and months, the Council will begin implementing this process.

As part of the mid-year budget review, the Council will consider funding the Independent Budget Analyst. This position was created several years ago by a previous Council but was never funded. The analyst will support the Council’s newly formed Budget and Audit Committee and provide an independent perspective on the City

Manager’s proposed budget as well as support for Council initiatives.

The formation of a Neighborhood Advisory Committee is also moving forward. Adding this body to Measure L was my suggestion, and I’m happy the Council has decided to adopt the idea. In the coming months, the Council and City staff will develop and begin implementing a community outreach plan to assess and design the Neighborhood Advisory Committee in partnership with neighborhood associations, community leaders and residents. SCNA will be asked to provide input to this process. It is

my hope that this body, when implemented, will bolster neighborhood voices and be a significant venue for problem solving.

Improvements to the Council’s transparency and ethics are also under review. City staff is assembling all of the existing ethics and transparency measures and requirements. The Sacramento City Council currently exceeds all state and federal standards. Believing that Sacramento should reach for the highest of standards, staff has begun talks with the Fair Political Practices Commission, the Government Department at California State University, Sacramento and McGeorge School of Law to help the Council evaluate its current practices and recommend improvements.

I look forward to the recommendations that will be developed through the various processes. I hope each of you will participate and add your valued insights to the process.

As always, if you have questions or ideas about this or anything else, please feel free to contact me directly at jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

SIERRA 2 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)
Feb. 3 & 17; March 3, 17 & 31 • Rm. 12

Zoë Griffin: 212-2170

Meditation/Movement/Verse

Instructor: Alexa Mergen

9:45-11 a.m. Fridays
Rm. 12 • \$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. 2nd Monday

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

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

April 13: “Where’d You Go Bernadette?” by Maria Semple

(Book club participants read the book of the month prior to each meeting.)

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

Popcorn and a Movie

3rd Tuesday of the month 1:30-4 p.m.
Donation requested \$2. FREE popcorn

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. Feb. 27

Senior Committee Meeting

3-5 p.m. • Feb. 10


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Heritage Matters

It's a generational thing...

By Erik Fay
Viewpoint staff writer

The history of Curtis Park includes architecture, economic conditions, new industries, developers, early 20th century automobile suburbs, local politicians, and prominent citizens. Ultimately, the most important part of this history is the people who have lived in our neighborhood since its development in the 1920s. The Minasian family has been a part of the neighborhood for more than 70 years. Karen Minasian-Hill, along her husband, Brian Hill, is the third generation of her family to live in Curtis Park.

Brian and Karen are “new neighbors” as they recently moved into an English Revival style home on Sixth Avenue. Karen could also be called a “heritage neighbor” because she was born while her family lived on 10th Avenue and lived there until she left for college. Her mother, Billie Minasian, still lives in the family’s 10th Avenue home.

Built in 1938, the 10th Avenue house was the last house built on the block. It was sold to Karen’s grandparents, Yervant and Rebecca Minasian, circa 1942. Yervant was



Photo/Erik Fay

New/Heritage neighbors Karen Minasian-Hill and Brian Hill

a physician, and the couple, along with Yervant’s mother, had recently moved to Sacramento from Berkeley. Their son Edmond, also a physician, married Billie, a nurse, in the 10th Avenue house in 1951. Edmond and Billie purchased the house from his parents in 1957.

Karen has many memories of growing up on 10th Avenue. The meeting place for the neighborhood’s children was the streetlight in the center of the block. Curfew was 10 p.m. in the summer so independence, “self-supervision” and fun were the norm. Karen and her siblings lived close to Bret Harte School and were allowed to



The Minasian family and their 10th Avenue house in 1947

walk home for lunch each day.

Karen left Curtis Park for Occidental College — where she met Brian. History repeated itself in 1983, when she and Brian, like her parents, were married in the 10th Avenue house. They went on to live in Southern California, Alabama and Virginia.

While visiting Billie in 2013, the couple visited an open house on Sixth Avenue “just for fun.” Brian, who was to retire soon and had said many times he would never live in Sacramento, was the first to say “Let’s buy it and move here!”

He and Karen enjoy living close

to the park due to all the activities that take place there, its walkability, and the opportunity to socialize with neighbors and their dogs. Karen thinks the park is much busier now than when she was growing up due to Seventh and Ninth Streets no longer cutting through the park and the added running/walking path. Brian and Karen have two daughters, but neither lives in Sacramento. Maybe one of them will visit, visit an open house “just for fun” and think “Curtis Park would be a great place to live.” Three generations of Minasians can’t be wrong.

Beer Week is on tap for Bike Dog Brewing

By Craig McCulloch
Viewpoint staff writer

As part of the rapidly expanding craft brewery business in the region, Sage Smith, who lives near Castro and Markham ways, opened Bike Dog Brewing in West Sacramento in October 2013. Now he’s getting new brews ready for Beer Week, Feb. 28–March 8. These will include a stout being aged in a whiskey barrel.

As with many West Coast craft breweries, Bike Dog specializes in hoppy IPAs (India Pale Ales) with rotating varieties on tap. The pub

also usually has a Milk Stout and a Pale Ale available for customers who prefer a malty flavored brew.

Sage and his three partners share a passion for bicycles, dogs and craft beer, hence the pub’s name, Bike Dog Brewing. The tap room has several bikes on display, including a tricycle with a beer keg in the rear basket.

Occasionally the owners have rescue dogs for adoption in the tasting room. Dogs from customers are welcome. A bike rack outside the front door accommodates cyclists. When Sage’s schedule allows, he bikes to the brewery, a six-mile trek. He and his

two dogs also participate in the dog park at Sierra 2.

The brewery and tasting room is at 2534 Industrial Blvd #110, West Sacramento (across from the Port of Sacramento). Pint glasses are \$5 and growlers (a \$6, 64-ounce bottle) \$15 to fill. Small one-ounce beer tastes are free, and 4 oz. samplers are \$2.

No food is prepared on the premises, but food trucks are typically close by. The pub is open 5–9 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 2–9 p.m. Saturdays, and noon to 6 p.m. Sundays. For more information, www.bikedogbrewing.com or 572-0788.



Bike Dog Brewing owner and Curtis Park resident Sage Smith and his three partners share a passion for bicycles, dogs and craft beer.

Photo/Joan Cusick



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A trio of homeowners

Portola Way residents **Cara Arndorfer**, left, **Anne-Christin Trost** and **Madeleine Lohman** were all smiles at their house-warming party last month. Cara is a clinical psychologist with offices in Sacramento and Davis. Anne-Christin is a certified massage therapist, with an office above Pangaea on Third Avenue. Madeleine is a yoga instructor at It's All Yoga, 2405 21st Street. Together the three purchased their house in the 2600 block of Portola. Cara and Anne-Christin were married in October. —*Dennis Cusick*



Photo/Joan Cusick

Bakery employee runs to stay fit

By *Judy Scheible*
Viewpoint staff writer

Ann Mueller says her launch into mini-fame was serendipitous. It happened in December 2014 when she crossed the finish line for the California International Marathon. Her flash of fame was not from her time in the race (4:45:56), but from her place. She was the 100,000th person to cross the finish line in the history of the race.

Every December for the last 32 years, the race has started in Folsom and wound through Sacramento's suburbs and into downtown. It's a major event that draws 9,000 runners, and it's a qualifier for the Boston Marathon.

Ann is an unlikely candidate for footrace fame. More likely she would be known for her talent as an artist or for her skill as operations manager for Freeport Bakery.

"I'm not a runner," Ann told the *Viewpoint* while sitting in her cozy Curtis Park home. She says she started running in her 40s to keep fit. "I couldn't go far." Now, at 53, she trains at a pace of a 12-minute mile.

She ran her first CIM in 2011 and had enough fun to return each year since. "I'm not a pro. I just run to stay in shape."

For the last two decades Ann has



Photo/Joan Cusick

Ann Mueller sits on a box near the front door of her Castro Way home to put on her running shoes.

worked at Freeport Bakery, a real threat to some people's waistslines, but not to Ann's. She has no ounce of fat on her tiny frame. Amazing, considering she has favorites among from the temptations that surround her, starting with the Seville Grand Marnier cake, plain biscotti and pretzels.

Ann's boss, bakery owner Marlene Goetzeler, said she hired Ann as a manager 23 years ago with the understanding that Ann might leave at any time to return to her art. "Now she is like family. She is totally my sister," Marlene said.

Ann and her husband, Gordon Goodban, have lived in north Curtis Park for 10 years. He teaches art in the Elk Grove schools, and she still thinks about returning to her art when she's on her way to the bakery at 6 a.m.



Photo/Janice Calpo

Rudy Calpo spells their names for curious students at the ashram school.

Couple travels through India

Rudy and Janice Calpo's latest overseas adventure took them to North West India for a month, traveling mostly via the country's extensive rail system. A highlight for Janice was returning to the school at Anand Niketan Ashram, where she volunteered 25 years ago through Servas, a global cultural exchange organization.

The school is part of a program for residents of remote villages in Gujarat

State. It was founded by Harivallabh "Bhaiji" Parikh, a follower of Gandhi's teachings. The Life Education School boards students from the villages during the academic year.

The Donner Way couple also visited the Taj Majal, Varanasi, on the banks of the holy Ganges River, Rajasthan, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, and the Dalai Lama's home away from home in Dharamsala in the Himalaya. —*Susan MacCulloch*

First grandchild in the family



Craig Ottersen and Nancy Shea of Highland Avenue entered the world of grandparenthood on Dec. 19 with the birth of **Emerson Delilah Grose**. She was born to Nancy and Craig's daughter, **Laura**, and her husband **Josh Grose**. They live in Campbell. Laura works for Tesla, the electric car company, and Josh works in the computer industry. —*Judy Scheible*

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Bret Harte News

Kindness Action Team brings cheer to sick children

By Char Klassen
Viewpoint staff writer

The new after-school club called Kindness Action Team works to spread empathy and kindness across campus and the community. Over winter break, the student group created more than three dozen handmade cards and delivered recently collected gifts to young patients in the Child Life program at the UC Davis Children's Hospital. The group started as the Senior Project created by Adriana Herrera from Hiram Johnson High School. The Student Support Center plans to continue the program and open the group to more children.



The Kindness Team delivering cards, gifts and joy over the holiday break.

Students empowered to take the lead in Bully prevention

This month Bret Harte will participate in the nationally acclaimed Safe School Ambassadors program. It is a SCUSD initiative focused on efforts at continued cultivation of a positive, thriving learning environment. It responds to a national focus on bullying prevention and intervention.

Bret Harte is working with the Safe School Ambassadors program to implement a peer-led behavior modeling initiative. The aim is to empower students to be "up standers" rather than "bystanders" when they witness potentially inappropriate behavior.

Thirty students in third through sixth grade, along with seven teachers, parents and Student Support Center staff, will take part in a two-day training in late February. The program will roll out the following week.

Gas station: Instant poll showed 73 percent 'strongly opposed'

(Continued from page 1)

location of the pumps and refueling tanks, impact on traffic and on other businesses, and compatibility with previously approved plans. Alagozian said the city is in ongoing discussions with the developer. She said she anticipates modifications in the plans, and consequently it is premature to schedule a public hearing on the proposal.

City Councilmember Jay Schenirer organized the meeting. Schenirer said he couldn't take a position on the merits of the gas station proposal "because I need to be able to talk to my colleagues and vote on the issue

when it comes to City Council."

Schenirer's aides passed out 200 electronic devices that were used to poll the audience at the end of the meeting. Schenirer read the instant poll questions, which were shown on a screen in Curtis Hall:

- Would they shop at a Safeway in Curtis Park Village? Sixty-eight percent said yes.
- Would they shop at a discount grocery in Curtis Park Village, such as Winco or Grocery Outlet? Fifty-seven percent said no.
- Would they use a Curtis Park Village gas station? Seventy-five percent said no.
- Overall opinion of the gas station proposal? Strong support, 6 percent; support, 5 percent; neutral, 4 percent; opposed, 12 percent; strongly opposed, 73 percent.

SCNA President Eric Johnson moderated the meeting. He said 175 seats were set up in Curtis Hall with another 100 seats on the patio outside where loud speakers had been set up. Estimates of those standing both inside and outside pushed the total crowd to more than 300 people.



Photo/Joan Cusick

Safeway Vice President of Real Estate Steve Berndt addresses an overflow crowd at Curtis Hall, insisting that a gas station is required for the grocery chain to lease retail space in Curtis Park Village.

Bus route discontinued

By John Mathews
Special to the Viewpoint

Regional Transit has permanently discontinued the bus route on 24th Street between Sutterville Road and Broadway. There are no plans to add a bus stop in Curtis Park Village or to restart the route when the

development builds out. The bus lines on Freeport Boulevard and Franklin Boulevard will continue to run every 30 minutes.

Light rail will be accessible by crossing the planned bridge over the tracks to City College or by walking to the 4th Ave / Wayne Hultgren station across from Taylor's Market.

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