

Living with raccoons, skunks, opossums can be overwhelming

By Dennis Cusick
Viewpoint staff writer

They break into our houses. They eat our food. They torment our pets. They damage our property and tear up our gardens. They defy us to do anything about it.

And we put up with it all... because they're so darn cute.

These intruders, with masked faces like cartoon burglars, are raccoons. Hundreds of them, whole families, live among us, according to neighbors' reports.

Viewpoint posted a Nextdoor.com request last month for stories about wildlife in Curtis Park. More than two dozen neighbors shared stories about opossums, skunks, squirrels, rats, turkeys, herons and hawks — but mostly raccoons.

Melissa Nappan of 24th Street is on a first-name basis with her visitor.

"We have had a running battle going with a raccoon, who we have named Rocky," Nappan said. Rocky "decided to use the roof outside an upstairs bedroom window as his personal litter box. It's a mystery to me how he even got up to the second story, or why he would want to use a second-story roof as a bathroom."

Barbara Sena of Marshall Way said she had a test of wills with a "huge" raccoon that went on for several months. The raccoon would get in through the doggy door, sit atop the dryer, eat the pets'



Photo/Will Carlton

Neighbors report many varieties of critters that wreak havoc on their properties.

food and then depart. She finally devised a method of blocking the doggy door so the raccoon couldn't get in.

"I will say that I did contact people that would trap the raccoon and dispose of them," Sena said, "but I found out they kill them and I didn't want that. The raccoons are just trying to survive, like all of us."

A number of pest control companies offer to remove raccoons from Sacramento area homes. They warn residents not to approach raccoons, as they can carry potentially deadly diseases such as

Please see Critters, page 6

Freeport Bakery's annex will feature a decorating window

By Ariel Calvert
Viewpoint staff writer

We are very, very excited," says Marlene Goetzeler, owner with her husband, Walter, of Freeport Bakery. Their shop, which has baked and served tantalizing goods since 1987, is also known for crafting remarkable wedding cakes.

Now the bakery is opening a wedding cake annex two doors south of the bakery. Expected to open this month, the annex will be the new home for wedding cake consultations and decoration. Currently, the bakery crafts as many as 20 wedding cakes in one weekend; completion of the new annex will expand that capacity.

Marlene expects the highlight of the annex will be the cake decorating window at the front of the business. This will give passersby a chance to experience the theater that is wedding cake creation, which can include detailed fondant work and bring to life particularly elaborate themed cakes. Baking will still take place in the existing Freeport Bakery building.

The annex includes both a lovely space where the consultants will meet with clients and a larger space for creation, decoration and storage of wedding cakes.

Wedding cake consultation is done by appointment. Clients may call 916 442-4256 or send an email to wedding@freeportbakery.com. The bakery's website has information about designs, costs and appointments.



Curtis Park Court expects to open with full occupancy.

New senior housing to open April 1

The new senior housing complex in Curtis Park Village, a.k.a. Crocker Village, is expected to open April 1 with every apartment taken. Managers for the Domus Management Company told the Viewpoint they have received more than 200 applications for the 90 one- and two-bedroom units in the building.

Called Curtis Park Court, the new affordable senior housing complex has minimum and maximum income

levels for its residents. Designed for residents with fixed incomes, the rents will range from \$350 to about \$750 for a one-bedroom apartment and up to \$903 for a two-bedroom unit.

A grand opening for the property is expected to take place a few months after the occupants move in.

More information is available on the website at www.domusmc.com, by email info@domusmc.com or by calling 1-866-666-0350.

Curtis Park and Oak Park team up for the MLK March

By Rosanna Herber,
Viewpoint staff writer

On a cold and rainy Monday, the Curtis Park and Oak Park neighborhood presidents joined scores of their neighbors to march in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who preached the power of peace and nonviolence.

Eric Johnson, SCNA's president, wore a brown fedora to protect his head from the intermittent drizzle. Johnson chatted along the way with Tamika L'Ecluse, president of the Oak Park neighborhood, while she passed out homemade chocolate chip cookies. Both were pleased with the growing, jovial crowd gathering in front of the Oak Park Community Center.

"I thought it was important to come to show Curtis Park's solidarity with Oak Park and our surrounding neighborhoods," Johnson said.

Just months prior, the two neighborhoods went through a bruising process over whether the City Council should approve a special use permit for a 16-pump Fuel Center in Crocker Village, formerly known as Curtis Park Village. Safeway promised 200 union jobs for Oak Park residents, but only if the gas

station was approved. SCNA firmly opposed the Fuel Center, saying it didn't belong in a transit-oriented development. Tensions mounted as the developer worked with Oak Park Pastors who called on Oak Park neighbors to support the proposed Fuel Center, saying that the union jobs were more important than any previous agreement made with the neighborhood association. A Sacramento Bee editorial criticized the developer for pitting the needs of one neighborhood against the needs of another neighborhood.

Ultimately, the Council denied the permit. Mayor Johnson and Councilman Schenirer have promised to ask Safeway to reconsider, even as the developer has posted a sign announcing a Grocery Outlet Store.

"This march lets our neighborhoods come together in a peaceful and powerful way," said L'Ecluse.

"My mother and grandfather were at the March in Washington D.C. with Dr. Martin Luther King, and they taught me that There is no "us" and "them." There is only "we."

Councilmember Schenirer and Supervisor Serna encouraged residents from both neighborhoods

Please see March, page 8

Crab Feed tickets are hot items



CRAB FEED!

Sierra 2's smashing second annual Sing 'n' Serve Crab Feed is from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 5. The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus will again entertain crab diners and host the popular Dessert Dash.

These tickets go fast. Last year's event sold out. For ticket availability, call the Sierra 2 Office at 452-3005.

Notes from Jan. 6th meeting

Board to take action regarding City’s newly revised tree ordinance

Election to 2016 executive board
Congratulations to President **Eric Johnson**, Vice President **Robert Giblin**, Treasurer **Joseph Eschleman**, Secretary **Kate Van Buren**, and At Large member **Rosanna Herber**.

Goodbye
A warm thank you and goodbye to **Nicole Quinonez** for her work on the board.

Guest
Laurie Nelson, president of the Sacramento Philharmonic, informed SCNA that concerts are resuming with performances scheduled in January and February.

Tree ordinance update
Dan Pskowski reported the city has acted with too much bias toward tree removal. Sacramento’s tree canopy is receding at an alarming rate. The new ordinance favors tree removal.
Dan shared a letter signed by more than 20 environmental organizations asking for more transparency regarding tree removal

Next meeting
The next meeting of the SCNA Board will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2.
For more information, call the Sierra 2 office, 452-3005.

as well as a reconsideration from the current practice of “remove and replace” back to the historic “preserve and protect.”
SCNA will add its name to the group letter and also create its own one page letter with bullet points.

President’s report
Eric Johnson commented that he will reach out to Councilmember **Jay Schenirer** for an update on Curtis Park Village developments.

Executive Director’s report
Terri Shettle reminded the board that the Crab Feed is right around the corner and tickets are going quickly.
She also said one more home is needed for the 2016 Home Tour. Homes that were on the tour in

past years and have been updated recently are welcome.

Treasurer’s report
Joe Eschleman reported a strong financial liquidity position with a healthy, moderately conservative portfolio. With revenues and expenditures nearly balancing out, 2015 was a good year for Sierra 2.

Neighborhood Concerns Committee
John Mathews requested money to hire an independent arborist to assess the health of the remaining heritage oak trees in the railyard development. There is concern the trees are being slowly suffocated. The motion was approved.

NCC has asked the city to keep an eye on the metal bolts securing the plates on the street during the water meter installation. These bolts could become a hazard for cars and bicycles.
Two homes on 25th Street will be demolished now that the city has found them to have no historical significance. The new single family residence being built in their place will have a Mediterranean style.

NCC is now planning the mayoral candidate forum in May.

Committees
The Development Committee and Personnel Committee did not meet in December.

Facilities
Terri Shettle reported that repairs and deep cleaning of Sierra 2 are ongoing.

Senior Center
Angela Mia reported on a new program for purchase of a \$60 card good for 10 classes. The holiday craft fair did not net any additional income. She is working on the annual appeal letter.

Ad hoc committee
An ad hoc committee was formed to explore redrawing the boundaries of Curtis Park. Currently they include the railyard, but as the development organizes its own association, it will have different priorities and needs.
— *Kate Van Buren, Board secretary*

Sierra 2 plans to open Tech Lab to serve community’s needs

An exciting outcome of our evaluation process at SCNA and Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community is the prospect of creating a Tech Lab. We have an opportunity to fill a need here with a new program that would serve our neighborhood and the broader community in many ways. At the same time we could make more efficient use of our spaces.
As conceived, the technology program could advance SCNA’s community enrichment work by offering relevant programs that would complement our existing cultural incubator status, inspire personal and professional development, while opening doors to the community.
The Tech Lab would introduce digital world offerings to users of the Sierra 2 Center, providing opportunity and access to the community through an educational platform.
We plan to have the SCNA staff, with the help of third-party experts and local resources, organize

TERRI SHETTLE
Sierra 2 Executive Director



and schedule programs in the Tech Lab. These programs will include educational classes, workshops, and hourly-use activities.
In the short term, we plan to make the Tech Lab mobile, moving around the Sierra 2 Center to use available, underutilized spaces. Our ultimate goal is to establish it in

a permanent home with built-in equipment.
In addition to classes and workshops, the permanent home will serve as an after-school homework center for students, a space for conducting virtual meetings and social connections (via Skype), a place for individuals to use as their remote office, or to work on personal projects such as website design, graphic arts, or 3-D printing. The Lab could also serve as the home for the Senior Center’s My Story Project editing and production work.
Our plans include setting up regular, ongoing classes focused on introductory topics and how-to’s, learning through games and competitions, and

more advanced topics for the expert who wants to keep expanding their knowledge.
For now we are still working on funding for the Lab, anticipating we will start classes and activities by the beginning of summer.
Funding for the startup costs will come from fundraisers such as the Crab Feed (Feb. 5), donations from Big Day of Giving (May 3) as well as from business donors, individual donors and grants.
For information on ways to support the Tech Lab programs, to become an instructor, or to make a donation, please contact me at terri@sierra2.org or give me a call at 452-3005. Stay tuned for updates.

Sierra 2 staff help load gifts for children in the Salvation Army’s holiday program



Photo/Salvation Army truck driver
Sierra 2 staff loaded over 200 gifts, doubled from last year’s gift giving program.

Children in the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree program had a bright Christmas thanks in part to the generosity of neighbors in Curtis Park and nearby neighborhoods. According to staff at Sierra 2, neighbors doubled their gift giving for the third year in a row. This year participation surpassed the goal of 200 gifts. Some potential donors were even turned away after all the available “adoption” tags had been taken.
On Dec.16, Sierra 2 staff and tenants loaded up the gifts into the

Salvation Army truck for delivery to the distribution site at Cal Expo. Events Coordinator **Faith Johnstone** joined with hundreds of other volunteers on Dec. 21 to help distribute the Angel Tree presents to 5,050 families.
She reported that the joy and gratitude on the parents’ faces were beyond measure.
SCNA and the staff of the Sierra 2 Center thank all those who participated in making this a brighter holiday season for so many.
— *Faith Johnstone*

| VIEWPOINT | |
|---|--|
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| The <i>Viewpoint</i> 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 <i>Viewpoint</i> in the subject field. For questions, please call the Sierra 2 office, 452-3005. | |

Evaluating changes in city ordinance

Revised tree ordinance weakens protection of trees

By Dan Pskowski
Viewpoint staff writer

The city released its revised Tree Ordinance in early December for the 30 day public review and comment period. As a member of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee representing SCNA, I was disappointed that more of SCNA’s comments were not incorporated in response to the March 2015 released ordinance. Reviewing the revised ordinance is a challenge since the city repealed the entire ordinance, making it difficult to identify changes from the existing ordinance.

One example is the repeal of language requiring the city to maintain a city street tree. This is of great concern since all Sacramento residents are assessed for tree maintenance under the Landscape and Lighting Assessment program. Last year, Urban Forestry received \$4.8 million dollars from this program. City staff assured the Stakeholders Advisory Committee that the street trees would still be maintained by Urban Forestry. But with removal of this language from the ordinance, the city in

SCNA’s response
SCNA’s response to the city’s revised ordinance, which included review of the ordinance with strikeouts and additions highlighted in yellow and the Community Letter on Revising Sacramento’s Tree Ordinances, are available on the SCNA web page, Sierra2.org.

SCNA requests that the 30-day notice period be reinstated, with tree removals listed on the Urban Forestry web page and notices sent to requesting parties. This was the policy for over 25 years, but, since it wasn’t in the ordinance, the city was able to make the removal process less transparent. This easily allowed for tree removal, especially for development purposes.

As a professional arborist, I see too much latitude with a bias toward tree removal in the proposed ordinance. Following the revised ordinance, the private protected tree pictured here could be removed because the roots are threatening to cause damage to the main structure; because there is no adequate above and below ground space

future could decide against maintaining city street trees. The revised ordinance only addresses city street trees. Park and public trees are afforded no protection.

There is a lack of transparency with tree removal notification. Removal of a city street tree requires a sign posted on the tree for 10 days.



Photo/Dan Pskowski

This Markham Way oak tree could be removed because the roots are threatening to cause damage to the main structure and other details in the proposed ordinance.

for root and crown growth; and because removal of this tree will improve growing conditions of neighboring trees.

A Community Letter on Revising Sacramento’s Tree Ordinances addressing these and other concerns, which SCNA supports, was sent to the City Council Law and Legislation Committee and Chair, Jay Schenirer. This prompted postponement of the January 12 Law and Legislation hearing, which allows the city more time to consider incorporating community comments.

What’s new at Sierra 2

By Valerie Burrows
Facility Administrator

New evening Zumba classes

Mother and daughter duo Linda Taylor and Toya Bufford have team taught Zumba classes since 2010. No experience required — just come, move your body and enjoy your workout in their weekly Zumba class held from 7:30–8:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in Studio 2. \$5 Drop-in fee. Class cards available.

For information, toybufford15@yahoo.com.

Fundraiser for McClatchy baseball

McClatchy Baseball’s 8th annual Taste of McClatchy is from 6–9 p.m. Feb. 26 in Curtis Hall. Food, beer and wine tastings from local businesses are featured along with a raffle and silent auction.

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: Honest, dependable, reasonably priced, licensed, insured handyman/woman for my 80-year-old house and garage. Please call 916 452–2498.

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.

The cost is \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at www.mcclatchybaseball.com.

For information, call Mike de Necochea at 444–1414 or mike@mcclatchybaseball.com.

Earn a degree in theology

Empowerment Theological Seminary offers a time efficient and affordable way to earn the following seminary degrees: Certificates, Associates, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral. The school was approved by the State of California Private Post-secondary and Vocational Education in Aug. 2014 and became accredited in Feb. 2015. Classes meet from 6–9:55 p.m. on Mondays in Room 9.

For information about courses and registration, visit empowermenttheologicalseminary.com.

Early morning fitness class

People who’ve become bored with their home gym workouts or walking but still want to be fit can consider early morning sessions with fitness trainer Julian Anthony Van Dyk. His Body Sculpt class focuses on flexibility, balance and endurance.

Classes are held from 6:30-7:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Studio 3. Participants will learn to stretch muscles properly while improving body coordination, posture, mobility and energy level.

To register, antfarmvd@gmail.com or 470-8924.

Volunteers needed for Home Tour

By Lori Harder
Special to the Viewpoint

This year’s Home Tour on April 30 will mark the event’s 30th year. Homes lined up for viewing include the Tudor revival style and Craftsman. Neighbors and visitors can expect a fun day of touring, lunching in the park and seeing vintage cars roam the streets and park in front of open homes.

This popular event is a major fundraiser for the Sierra 2 Center and for nearby schools. Its grand success over the years has developed from an army of volunteers.

Here’s how to get involved.

Volunteers

- Docents take a two-hour shift in one of the homes.
- Helpers set up and take down tables and chairs in the park for the dining area.

To help, contact Lori Harder at 451-4661 or email lorikoi@sbcglobal.net.

Sponsors

Sponsorships range from \$100 to \$2,500. To sponsor, call Terri Shettle at 452-3005 or email terri@sierra2.org for more information.

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AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENING OF READINGS: A BENEFIT

Thursday, Feb. 4

Doors: Open: 6:30 p.m.

Reading Starts: 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 advance/ \$25 at the door
Brown Paper Tickets - <http://communityofwriters-2-4.bpt.me>

Contact: Brett Hall Jones 530 470-8440 or info@communityofwriters.org

Info: www.communityofwriters.org

An evening of readings by Community of Writers at Squaw Valley Alumni and faculty authors Natalie Baszile, Meg Waite Clayton, Marion Palaia, Josh Weil, to benefit the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley. Emcee: Capital Public Radio's Beth Ruyak. Reception with book sales and signings to follow.

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Sunday, Feb. 14

Doors: Open: 1 p.m.

Show: 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 General **Admission:** \$18

Senior/Military

<http://bpt.me/event/2483655>

Contact: Jennifer Teykaerts

Info: www.vdaysacramento.org



V-Day Sacramento, in partnership with Women's Health Specialists, will present a benefit production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." Since 2011, V-Day Sacramento

has raised over \$60,000 to support work to end violence against women and children in our community. This year, 100 percent of event proceeds will go to Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH), Sacramento Women Take Back the Night, and the Gender Health Center.



Photo/Shelby Wilson

Jack Gallagher and Tommy Dunbar

JACK GALLAGHER

March 4

Performances: 6:30 and 8:30 pm.

Tickets: \$27.50 advance

Info: www.swell-productions.com

Swell Productions: 457-7553

Jack Gallagher will perform his new show twice at Sierra 2 Theatre March 4. Entitled the 6th Sorta annual New, One Night Only Rock & Roll Concert Event, "The Joke's On Me," the show will also feature Gallagher's band and a special guest, comedian Geoff Bolt. Gallagher's previous shows have sold out.

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID JR.

Young Actors Stage

Showtimes:

Feb. 26, 7 p.m.

Feb. 27, 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Feb. 28, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$12 Adult; \$10 Children (12 and under)

Info: www.YoungActorsStage.com

Journey "under the sea" with Ariel and her aquatic friends. The beautiful young mermaid Ariel longs to leave her ocean home and live in the world above. But first she'll have to defy her father King Triton, make a deal with the evil sea witch Ursula, and convince the handsome Prince Eric that she's the girl whose enchanting voice he's been seeking.



ACTIVITIES AT SIERRA 2

FITNESS

Zumba with Toya & Linda

Monday/Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m.,

Studio 2

LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.com

Dancehall PowerUp

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

LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.com

Essentrics

Sunday 10-11 a.m., Studio 1

Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 p.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

Weight Watchers

Thursdays, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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

MUSIC

Nashville Songwriters Association

2nd Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 12,

Free • Gabrielle Kennedy: 476-5073

String orchestra lessons

Second and Fourth Wednesday

7:30-8:30 p.m., Room 9

Krystyna Taylor, 216-0429

Japanese Taiko drumming

For schedule: Kristy Oshiro,

kristyoshiro@gmail.com

YOGA

Iyengar Yoga

Tuesday, 10-11 a.m. • Studio 1

Gladys Callander: 743-0246

Art of Living Foundation

Yogic breathing/meditation

Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., Room 11 • 601-3101

MARTIAL ARTS

Eagle Claw Kung Fu Academy of Sacramento

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

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

Sacramento Bushido Kai

Japanese Martial Arts for ages 4-adult

Monday, 6-7 p.m., Studio 2

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

For schedule, Michael Mason: 616-5452

Sacramento Sword School

Martial Sword Arts of Europe

Thursday, 6:15-8:15 p.m., Studio 2

Maestro Eric Myers: 276-2247

Unified Chinese Martial Arts

For schedule, e-mail Shifu Byron at

Lohan36@sbcglobal.net

Typhoon Philippine School of Martial Arts

Tues./Fri, 8:30-9:30 p.m., Studio 2

Master Maurice Gatdula: 509-6671

OTHER

Center for Soul Healing

Tuesdays, Room 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

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

CenterForSoulHealing.com

Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation

1st Sunday of the month, 1 – 4 p.m. Curtis Hall

knowthyselfassoul.org

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799-1354, marxistschool.org

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Jennie Ribadeneira: 990-3222

www.capitalcitymusictogether.com

DANCE

Fenix Drum & Dance

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

Angela James, 205-3970

Brazilian Dance

8-9 p.m., Thursday, Studio 1

Marta Santos, 833-9724

Mexican Folk dancing

Wednesdays, Studio 1

7-8 p.m. (4 to 11 yrs); 8-9 p.m. (12 to adults)

764-9059, www.aztlandesac.org

Mindful Bellydance

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Thursdays, 7 p.m., Studio 1

Sawako Ama • lovebreath@infocircle.net

Awakening Bellydance

Cardio class to live music for all levels

Fourth Saturday, 11 a.m., Studio 1

Sawako Ama • lovebreath@infocircle.net

Irish American Ceili Dancers

1st and 3rd Monday, 7-9 p.m., Studio 1

Helen Healy: 444-8051

Manasa Tribal Dance

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

Patrice Norris: 736-1730

West African Dance

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

Jessa Cruz: 365-3721

River City Taps – Tap Dance

Monday–Thursday 5–8:30 p.m.

Thursday, 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Studio 3

www.rivercitytaps.com

Polynesian Dance

Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.

Studio 2 • alohatyra@aol.com

Auntie Amy's Hula

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

Amy Cornellier, 792-5561

ART

Glass mosaic classes

Tuesdays, Noon-3 p.m., Rm. 11

karenssharp51@gmail.com

Watercolor class

Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon, Room 11

Michael Mikolon, 730-9347

www.artistmichael.com

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

Bethlehem Baptist Church

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

Pastor Benson, 230-8069

Wings of Mercy & Grace Church

Saturdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Rm. 12

Pastors Dee & Eric Asbury: (209) 276-5340

wingsofmercyandgracefcf@gmail.com

New Destiny Ministries

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

Pastor Singleton, 532-5581

Sacramento Native American

Believers Fellowship

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

Lee Aviles, 203-6461

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Creative minds work in Tapigami art classes

For the first time artist Danny Scheible of Fourth Avenue is teaching his signature Tapigami art in weekend workshops at his studio on Sutterville Road. Participants ages 7 and up can learn the magic behind turning strips of sticky masking tape into all kinds of shapes, from flowers to monsters. The only limit is the imagination.

The fun, interactive workshops are from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at Sacramento Art Glass studio, 2500 Sutterville Road. Workshops are limited to 10. The cost is \$40. Signups are available at the website tapigami.com/workshop/. Tapigami is available for special events. Call 916 838-3132.



Photo/Bob Jew

Danny Scheible is teaching his Tapigami techniques in weekend classes at Sacramento Art Glass studio.

Schenirer's message

We're still searching for ways to end homelessness

There is perhaps no more a vexing issue in our community than homelessness. In 2006, we created a 10-year plan to end homelessness in our city. Yet, in recent months, it feels very much that the issue has gotten worse or that little progress has been made. Recently, small camps of homeless individuals have been seen in and around Curtis Park and the neighborhood. I share your concerns of safety and your desire to address the issue in a compassionate manner. However, despite the challenges that remain, the City has perhaps never been better positioned or committed to making significant progress around the systemic challenges of homelessness.

While the recent protests at City Hall and videos posted by Anonymous have made headlines in the media, the Council has been taking steps to meet head on the challenges of homelessness. For the first time in recent memory, a majority of the Council views homelessness as a priority issue. To that end the Mayor appointed Councilmembers Jeff Harris, Steve Hansen and myself to a sub-committee to make sure we, as a City, are doing all we can and that we are working efficiently and effectively with our community partners to create lasting solutions.

As chair of the sub-committee, I have provided direction to evaluate the best short, medium, and long-term solutions available. We plan to hold public meetings, dates to be determined, where we will evaluate best practices from around the country. The sub-committee will try to answer some difficult questions, including: defining the appropriate City role, how can we better collaborate with both public and private agencies as well as the business community, and how do we balance the immediate need of providing shelter to protect homeless individuals from the elements against investing in the long term solution of permanent housing? We will seek the help of Sacramento Steps Forward, the County of Sacramento and other government agencies that interact with individuals experiencing homelessness, such as SHRA and law enforcement.

If we are to have an honest conversation about the challenge, we must be open to ideas and suggestions that may be politically unpopular, including the notion of a Safeground type model. I have expressed support for Safeground



Jay Schenirer
City Councilmember

in the past and still think it may play a role in answering the question of where do we tell homeless individuals to go if there are no shelter beds available. In February I will be leading a delegation of City Council members and staff to learn about the experiences and best practices of Seattle.

The notion is a complicated and politically challenging one and if a Safeground type model is to work in Sacramento, one or more neighborhoods will have to allow it in their neighborhood. However, lifting the City's ban on overnight camping is not a solution to homelessness, so if we are to be honest and compassionate, we must be willing to look at every option.

Meeting the current challenge of homelessness will require help from a multitude of partners and support from the community. This is not a problem for someone else to solve; it is all of ours as a region and as a collective community. It will not be easy, but I remain eternally hopeful that we are not afraid of having the difficult conversations, making the difficult decisions and doing what is right for everyone in Sacramento.

Sierra 2 Senior Center

New yoga-inspired class aims to ease back pain

Living without back pain is the goal of a new class in the Wellness Program sponsored by Sierra 2 and the Senior Center. Launched in January, the Healthy Back sessions are designed for anyone wanting to maintain a healthy spine, recover from chronic back pain or injury and avoid future pain.

Certified yoga teacher Pat Shaw drew from her expertise and experience to develop a series of yoga-inspired stretches and movements targeting the upper and lower back. Pat believes yoga can keep a back healthy. She often says "A healthy and flexible spine equals a healthy body," a quote by B.K.S. Iyengar, one of yoga's foremost teachers.

Research supports yoga as a cure for back discomfort. In a 2013 study by Boston University School of Medicine, yoga participants with back pain found that attending a weekly yoga class for 12 weeks reduced their back pain by one-third. The study participants also reported an 80 percent drop in pain medication usage. Similar findings in

the U.K. led to the creation of the Yoga for Healthy Backs Institute, an organization specializing in yoga for chronic lower back pain.

Healthy Back students learn how to keep their backs healthy, release tension, gain flexibility and minimize discomfort. The class is suitable for most fitness levels. Participants should wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a mat and thick towel. During each class, students will be guided slowly and safely through the movements. Pat will modify stretches for students, and incorporate advanced movements as backs become stronger and more flexible.

The class meets at 4:30 p.m. on Monday evenings in the Garden Room. The drop-in fee is \$10 per class. A 10-class punch card is \$60 that can be purchased at the office prior to class.

For more information about Healthy Back class or the Wellness Program, call the Sierra 2 Center office at 452-3005.

— Katie Byram, Sierra 2 staff

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.)

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

Walking & Polewalking Clinic

9 a.m., Thursdays
One-time instruction fee \$5

LEISURE

Book Club

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 2nd Monday
Feb. 8: "My Hollywood" by Mona Simpson
Mar. 14: "The Husband's Secret" by Liane Moriarty

Popcorn & Movie

1:30-3:30 p.m., Third Tuesday
Donation: \$1-3 (includes popcorn)

My Story Project meeting

1-3 p.m., 2nd Monday of the month

Everyone Can Drum

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

Life History Writing

1-3 p.m., Wednesdays

Open Art

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

EDUCATION

Garden Club

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

Beginning Drawing

9-10:15 a.m., Thursdays
4 classes: \$48 Feb 4, 11 & 25
Patris: 397-8958

Hot Topic Tuesday

Free Telephone Access Program
10-11 a.m., Feb. 23, Free

CARDS & GAMES

Ginasta

9:30-11:30 a.m., Mondays

Mahjong

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

Fun Bridge

1-4 p.m., Thursdays

Pinochle

1-3 p.m., Fridays

WELLNESS PROGRAM

10-class punch card \$60; Drop-ins: \$10
Purchase cards at Senior Center office

Healthy Back

4:30-6 p.m., Mondays, Garden Room

Yoga + You

10:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesdays, Studio 3

Chair Massage

2:30-4:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Room 9

Tai Chi

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

EVENTS

AARP Driver Safety Program

9 a.m.-1 p.m., Mar. 7 & 8, Room 10
Fee: \$15 (AARP members) or \$20 (non-members)
Register: Jim Finnegan, 804-9777

Potluck

Noon-2, Last Friday, Room 12

Senior Committee Meeting

3 p.m., Call for date

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Colorful neon signs glowed in Curtis Park

By Erik Fay
Viewpoint staff writer

Neon signs are key to the historic imagery of American cities, streets and highways. First made in France, neon signs were constructed of bent glass tubes that circulated neon gas and were durable enough to withstand years of variable weather conditions.

The first neon sign in California was commissioned for a Los Angeles auto dealership in 1923. The sign stopped drivers and pedestrians alike and received lots of newspaper coverage. Neon signs soon began appearing across the country in large scale advertising. The signs eventually were used by all types of small businesses. Designs became increasingly fanciful or thematic and made use of around 20 neon available colors. The popularity of neon signs for advertising probably peaked between the mid-1930s and mid-1950s.

By the late 1940s, Sacramento shopping districts on K Street, J Street, Broadway and Stockton Boulevard were a showcase of intricately designed neon signs. Night-time scenes from the 1950 Chamber of Commerce film, “Life in Sacramento,” show our downtown vibrant and colorful with neon light.

Curtis Park had numerous neon signs within its boundaries. Six of these vintage neon signs remain, four are still operational and one is a protected city landmark. They include the now iconic neighborhood landmark Gunther’s at 2801 Franklin Blvd., Beauty Bank at 3631 Franklin Blvd. (Its sign is not operating and the tubing is missing.), Beauty Salon at 3440 24th St. (The sign is not operating but still has its stylized tubing.), College Cyclery at 2760



21st St., Trails at 2530 21st St., and Ring Up Rivett at 2300 Broadway.

By the 1950s, several companies in Sacramento sold, manufactured and serviced neon signs. The Electrical Products Corporation, at 2101 28th St., created the Gunther’s neon sign in 1949, the Trails sign in 1955, as well the dancing kids sign on the Tower Theater building. Electric Sign Service created the College Cyclery sign in 1945 and the Ring Up Rivett sign in 1947.

The Ring Up Rivett sign is one of a very few neon signs protected by the City of Sacramento because it is identified as a character defining feature of its building. Protection of historic neon signs is rare as there is no city ordinance that specifically protects just the signs. Our historic signs continue to disappear; the remaining neon signs are vulnerable until a specific ordinance protects them.

Fortunately, our historic neon signs are being documented. Curtis Park resident and Viewpoint photographer Joan Cusick has extensively photographed Sacramento’s neon signs and published a photo book on the “Mercury Cleaners” neon sign on 16th Street. There have been local presentations on the subject. There is an online Flickr group, “Signs of Sacramento,” with images of remaining and lost neon signs. Sacramento Modern (or Sac Mod) has extensive documentation and Joan Cusick’s photos



Photo/Joan Cusick
Electric Sign Service created the College Cyclery sign in 1945.



Photo/Erik Fay
The Electrical Products Corporation at 2101 28th St. created the Trails sign in 1955.

of local neon signs at Sacmod.org under “Neon Sign Preservation in Sacramento.”

The Viewpoint is grateful to Gretchen Steinberg of Sacramento Modern for her assistance with this article.

Critters: Neighbors offer stories and advice about dealing with local “wild” animals

(Continued from page one)
roundworm and rabies.

Last year, a 3-year-old Roseville boy was admitted to UC Davis Children’s Hospital with a life-threatening case of roundworm attributed to raccoon feces. Four years ago, city animal control officers shot and killed three raccoons after a woman and her dog were attacked at 21st and D streets, according to KOVR-13.

Critter Ridders, a pest control company, recommends several measures to combat raccoons:

- Eliminate food sources, by placing trash in secure bins, not leaving pet food outdoors overnight, fencing gardens and cleaning up after outdoor barbecues;
- Prevent raccoons from entering homes by placing guards on chimney openings and sealing all gaps in exterior walls and attics.

A number of neighbors discovered that raccoons are fearless, bold and persistent. Leslie Foree learned this after she put a bowl of cat food on her porch for a stray cat. One night she heard a scuffle on the porch, “looked out the window and there was a large family of raccoons eating the cat food,” Foree said. “I thought I would just step outside and shoo them away. I opened my front door and stepped out. The raccoons sat up and looked at me, and if they could speak they would have said, ‘What the hell do you want?’” She thought a moment, and wisely went back inside and shut her door.

As for Rocky, he seems to have found another litter box lately, much to Nappan’s relief. “He still comes by from time to time and scratches on the roof,” she said. “Just letting us know he’s still around, I guess.”

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James Ozanich, left, and Tom Erickson were married at Sea Ranch in September. Photo/Joan Cusick

Neighborhood cheers this duo

James Ozanich and Tom Erickson of Marshall Way were married last September on the beach at Sea Ranch. The weather was 72 degrees, and not a cloud in the sky! About 90 wedding guests threw mini beach balls, instead of rice, and cheered for the happy

couple who, combined, have lived in Curtis Park for 32 years. Both Tom and James work for local health insurance companies, and proudly carpool to work at least three days a week. The couple have been together for 11 years. — Rosanna Herber

COMMUNITY CORNER

Portola Way couple compete in national cyclo-cross



Photos/John Silva

Last year John and Linda Elgart of Portola Way were among the top winners in their respective masters categories in national cyclocross competition in North Carolina. This year Linda competed and said she was happy to finish in the middle on an extremely difficult course. She reports it was full of mud, steep climbs, descents and technically taxing terrain. A video of this year's event is at cxmagazine.com.

Neighbors will remember Don McNerny's spirit

Portola Way neighbors lost a longtime dear friend when Don McNerny died unexpectedly Jan. 1. His family and friends remember that no matter what came toward Don, he managed to smile and make the best of it. The twinkle in his eyes flickered most brightly for his children, Mike and Shannon, and his six grandchildren.

Nearly 100 friends and family gathered in Curtis Hall Jan. 17 to

celebrate Don's exuberant spirit. Some came from as far away as Minnesota and Texas.

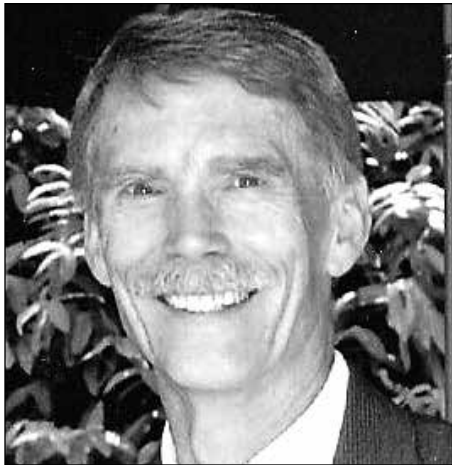
Neighbors will remember Don taking his kids to and from preschool in the bicycle trailer. He also commuted to work on his bicycle.

Don worked for 30 years at the State Air Resources Board, where he retired in 2002 as chief of air quality modeling and meteorology. Much of his work went toward improving the

air quality in the Los Angeles basin and the San Joaquin Valley.

Outside of his family, Don's loves encompassed birdwatching, sailing and world travel. He climbed Kilimanjaro and visited Machu Pichu. He was also a regular at bridge tables and poker night.

Don had lived on Portola for 36 year. Neighbors can find photos of Don on the website for the Nauman Funeral Home. — Judy Green Scheible



Don McNerny

JoJo Mojo at Gunther's

Josephine, 9, Joe Eschelman's daughter, created the flavor of the month with Brad Realmuto, Gunther's ice cream maker. "JoJo Mojo" is a unique ice cream recipe (vanilla swirl, with cookie dough and chocolate chips). The Eschelmans won this opportunity at the wine tasting's silent auction last year. Photo/Joe Eschelman



Fourth Avenue gains a neighbor

Marco Guizar and Katelyn O'Neil of Fourth Avenue welcomed Jax Alexander just three months ago. Marco and Katelyn are partners in life and in the Fitsom Studios on Franklin Boulevard. Fitsom helps people develop better posture and move with ease.

Photo/Judy Harper

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Local restaurant review

Authentic Thai dishes turn house on 24th Street into neighborhood gem

By Aerial Calvert
Viewpoint staff writer

Noodles To Thai For is a neighborhood gem. Located at 2675 24th St. (formerly Shoki Ramen House), the restaurant has been open nearly six months and is already receiving many complimentary reviews.

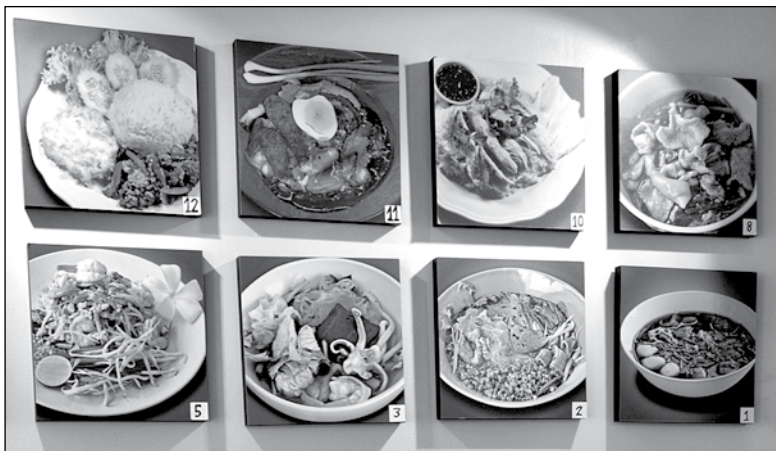
I visited Noodles To Thai For three times. On my first visit, I ordered the tom kha soup with pork and the pad kee-mow. The tom kha was flavorful and moderately spicy, with big hits of lemongrass and chili that played well with the coconut milk broth. The pork, broccoli, and green beans in the soup were well-seasoned and perfectly cooked. The pad kee-mow was my favorite dish. Its large, rice noodles are cooked with garlic, chili, tomatoes, Thai basil and eggs. As with most of the noodle and curry dishes here, the diner can choose beef, pork, chicken, or vegetarian.

During my next two visits, I sampled the yellow curry, which included potatoes, onions, vegetables

and tofu. I also ordered egg rolls, which are stuffed with ground chicken and taro root, and barbecued meatballs, which are small marinated pork meatballs, grilled and served with a sauce that is sweet, sour, and spicy.

The yellow curry was a bit sweet for me, but that's no fault of the dish and wasn't a problem because every table is stocked with four little jars of magic: pickled jalapeños, garlic-chili sauce, fish sauce, and red pepper flakes. The only miss was an egg roll that was served cooler than room temperature and quite dry inside. On my third visit, the egg rolls were cooked to order and much improved, but still needed the dipping sauce.

A nice option here is to make any dish a combination, which includes any drink on the menu and a side of an egg roll or cream cheese wontons, for a small additional cost. One of the drinks



Photos/Judy Harper
Wall art of some of the dishes shows patrons choices.



Owner Janet Pitak's favorite dish is the boat noodles, which includes beef broth, flank steak and meatballs.

on offer, blue pea juice, is getting attention from customers. According to Janet Pitak, the owner, blue pea juice is a tea brewed from the blue pea flower, pandan leaves, and sugar. It is popular in Thailand because it is sweet and is believed to have medicinal properties. The drink menu also includes Thai iced tea and coffee, lychee iced tea, coconut juice, and sodas.

During my visits, I chatted with Pitak. She said restaurants run in her family; her mother and aunt owned Thai Palace on J Street but sold it three years ago. They later decided to open another restaurant and found the little house on 24th Street.

Pitak's aunt and mother do all of the cooking at the restaurant. On my visits Pitak worked the dining room, assisting with excellent table service. During my third visit, I ordered

some items to go and received a complimentary cup of excellent hot tea for my brief wait.

Pitak notes that Noodles To Thai For differs from other Thai restaurants in Sacramento because its authentic Thai dishes aren't easily found anywhere else in Northern California. Her favorite item is the boat noodles, which includes beef broth, flank steak, and meatballs.

Noodles To Thai For also offers various desserts. The restaurant does not have a beer and wine license, but Pitak plans to obtain one by the time service can be expanded to the patio. The restaurant is often busy at lunch but quieter at dinner. This will change as neighbors discover this Southeast Asian gem in their midst.

Noodles to Thai for is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays, closed Sundays.

March: Neighbors build solidarity

(Continued from page one)
to meet at the Oak Park Community Center and walk together.

"We wanted to show the unity between the neighborhoods," said Schenirer. "Looking towards the future, we want to build on the great work these neighbors have already done together, like starting the Oak Park Farmer's Market and working on the 2nd Ave Underpass."

Katie Valenzuela, an Oak Park resident active in projects in both neighborhoods, said she came to renew her commitment to the non-violence message of Dr. King, and confirmed there is still much work to be done.

Nicoletta Anselmo, a Curtis Park

neighbor on Portola Way, said this was her first MLK March. "I've been alarmed at the number of young black men being killed by cops," said Anselmo. "I came out today to show my support for racial equality."

Other Curtis Park neighbors spotted in the crowd were elected officials.

Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones who lives on Cutter Way commented, "We can never forget how important it is to be inclusive of everyone when it's time for decision making."

"I march to sustain the spirit that we are all equal," said Genevieve Shiroma, SMUD Director who lives on Portola Way. "

First Friday meal March 4: Pizza!

There is no First Friday dinner in February. That day, Feb. 5, is the Crab Feed. The next First Friday Neighborhood Dinner will be from 6-8 p.m. March 4 in Curtis Hall. It will be Pizza Night by Smokin Hot Pizza.

Wood-fired pizzas choices feature

Pepperoni, The Big Pig (pepperoni, bacon, sausage), Classic Artie (bacon, chicken, artichoke), and Roasted Veggie.

Adult meals are \$8 for 3 slices and \$4 for one slice (both include mixed green salad). Beverages are available for purchase. — Faith Johnstone

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