

Neighbor works through city process to restrict alley access

By Craig McCulloch
Viewpoint staff writer

Our neighborhood has a significant number of alleys. Some neighbors want to restrict public access to their alley in order to reduce crimes such as burglary, drug use, prostitution and trash dumping. Such restrictions are possible through procedures developed by the City of Sacramento Department of Public Works.

The City can either restrict public access to the alley by a gate at one end or by gates at both ends. In certain cases, other options such as posts or bollards that only restrict

vehicles may work. In any case, the city police, fire department, garbage, and traffic departments must approve of the restriction and always have access. The City's guidelines require a majority of property owners on either side of the alley must approve the closure; all affected neighbors receive a key to the gate. Neighbors must pay for one-half of the gate costs while the city pays the other half.

A neighbor on Portola Way, Hilary Egan, has tried to get access restricted to the alley between Portola Way and Fifth Avenue and between 24th and 25th Streets. She has worked for almost two years on this project, but

has yet to complete the process. The city estimates the process should take five to six months.

A 17-year resident of Curtis Park, Egan said, "I recommend meeting with the neighbors directly affected before making the request to the city in order to get consensus in advance."

At least 50 percent of the neighbors must agree to the alley access restriction when polled by the city. Egan also pointed out the neighbors must pay for their share of the gate costs before the final approval is submitted to the City Council. On her alley, the individual

homeowner one-time cost was about \$90. Electric gates that work with a garage opener-type device is another option.

Egan said she has enough neighbors agreeing to the closure but only three, including her, have submitted their \$90 checks to the city, so the project is in limbo.

Inquiries about alley closures can be made to Thomas Adams, Dept. of Public Works, 808-7929, or by email to TAdams@cityofsacramento.org.

Other concerns about alleys such as trash dumping, abandoned vehicles, excessive weeds, or repairs can be directed by phone to 311.

Sierra School student returned as a kindergarten teacher

By Susan MacCulloch
Viewpoint staff writer

Teaching the first wave of Curtis Park's Baby Boomers produced many happy memories for "Miss Joeann" a.k.a. Joeann Diepenbrock-Nelson. She began her first teaching job in 1949 at Sierra School, where she taught kindergarten for 10 years.

Joeann's connection to the school began in the 1930's when she attended kindergarten through sixth grade. She grew up on 22nd Street between Second Avenue and Castro Way. It was an easy walk to Sierra School. She recalled a circus parade during those years, complete with animals marching down 24th Street in front of the school on their way to the circus entrance at Portola Alley and 24th Street.

"I always wanted to teach kindergarten," Joeann tells the Viewpoint from the living room of her Land Park home. She initially taught a double session of morning and afternoon kindergarten classes, with about 30 students per session. As the baby boom demographic grew in the neighborhood, another kindergarten teacher was added in the 1950's.

The original kindergarten was in what is now Room 10 of Sierra 2.

Joeann recalls the room had a mural based on nursery rhymes and story excerpts, including Jack and the Beanstalk. There was a separate entrance into the playground -- now the patio adjacent to Curtis Hall. The students would line up and march into the classroom. And, no, the room's fireplace was not used during her tenure.

In those days kindergarten was

considered a playground with a focus on preparing youngsters for school. Preschools did not exist in that era, so kindergarten was her students' first school experience.

"There was lots of time for artwork, music, and stories," Joeann recalls. She taught colors, counting and the alphabet. On rainy days Joeann used Sierra School's Auditorium (now the 24th Street Theatre) for musical games. Curtis Park neighbor Ginger Rutland of Donner Way, her twin sister and older brother were among Joeann's pupils. Students from Camp Beale (now Beale Air Force Base) also attended Sierra School. Each Sacramento city school would make room for a specified number, about 10 students at Sierra School, who were bused in daily.

"Miss Joeann" appears with her class on page 116 in Dan Murphy's neighborhood history book "Sacramento's Curtis Park." "I was so excited to be a kindergarten teacher. It was so much fun, the parents were so cooperative, and it was a lovely experience."



Photo/Judy Harper

Curtis Park neighbors who had Joeann Nelson as their first teacher include Ginger Rutland.



Music in the Park regulars are anticipating another grand show from On Air in August.

Concerts swing into high gear

Fusion jazz and two food trucks will highlight the neighborhood's second Music in the Park concert Sunday, July 27. That evening the sounds of frolicking children and laughing adults will ring out before the music starts at 6 p.m. at the north end of the park.

First up will be the children's program featuring the interactive performance of Music Mike, the musician often referred to as the "Raffi of Sacramento."

Immediately following will be the energetic, eclectic sounds of West of Next. These musicians boldly apply jazz ideas to roots music. They combine classic and original compositions featuring American, Celtic, Latin, Western Swing, and Rock music.

Neighbors are encouraged to come early, bring a picnic dinner or take advantage of the food from El Matador and Fuzion Eats trucks on site.

First Fridays Aug. 1 and Sept. 5

The next two First Friday dinners at Sierra 2 will be Aug. 1 and Sept. 5. There will be no First Friday dinner this month because it falls on the Fourth of July.

Dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1 will be served from the Slightly Skewed Food Truck.

Dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 5

Summer's final concert

On Sunday, Aug. 24, the grand finale takes place with On Air and Music Matt. Starting at 6 p.m., Music Matt will take time out from his private parties and preschool programs to entertain children of all ages.

Then, On Air blows on to the stage with their premier rock band and sizzling horn section. Their top-drawer choreography and tight vocal harmonies create a fantastic show. Neighbors eagerly anticipate their ballads, '90s swing, Motown gold and white-hot rock.

Serving up the food truck meals that evening will be Papa Dale's Diner and Ciao Chow.

Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available at both concerts in the SCNA beer garden. The Department of Parks and Recreation reminds everyone that consumption of alcohol outside designated areas is prohibited.

Editor's note: Please notice the concerts are on Sundays, not Saturdays as incorrectly stated in the June Viewpoint.

will be served from the Game Day Grill Food Truck.

On both occasions dinners will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. The menus were not available before publication. The food trucks will set up behind Curtis Hall.

For more information, check the Sierra 2 web site at www.sierra2.org.

No Viewpoint in August

Every July the Viewpoint staff takes its summer break, so there is no edition in August. Our deadline for the September issue is Aug. 15. You can keep in touch with neighborhood events at www.sierra2.org.

Notes from June 11th meeting

With financing worked out, Curtis Park Village senior housing moves forward; board unanimously approved SCNA 2015 budget

The meeting was dedicated to the memory of **Michael Zito**, a tireless advocate for Curtis Park who passed away in early June.

Councilmember **Jay Schenirer** gave a brief update on the status of the financing of the senior housing in Curtis Park Village. He reported that things had been worked out and the project would be moving forward.

The fiscal year 2015 budget was approved unanimously. It projects continued growth in revenue, and also expenditures on capital projects to ensure we continue to carry out our mission as a non-profit to serve the neighborhood.

The Board voted to write a letter of non-support for the draft proposed changes to the park in Curtis Park Village as presented.

The principal issues were public access and using the railroad sound wall/fence as a boundary for the park. The general draft feeling of the documents made it difficult to discern details. The final proposal has not been submitted to the City; and meetings on the proposed changes will continue with Jay Schenirer, Petrovich Development and the City of Sacramento.

Board member **Nicole Quinonez** will serve as SCNA’s representative on the Sacramento Department of Utilities Rate Structuring group.

Next meeting

The SCNA Board meets at 7 p.m. in the Garden Room on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is July 9. For more information, call the Sierra 2 office at 452-3005.

Sierra 2 Executive Director **Terri Shettle** gave an update on the Big Day of Giving. Due to an entry error, SCNA’s total donations were less than initially reported, as a donor who had intended to give \$300 gave

\$4,300. The donor’s money has been returned, and total receipts modified.

— Submitted by Eric Johnson, Board President



Wine tasting group seeks volunteers for Oct. 4 event

It’s time for neighbors to step up to help support our biggest fundraiser of the year, the annual wine tasting event. This spectacular food and wine feast runs on volunteer power.

For more than 25 years neighbors have teamed up to comb the community for major sponsors and donations and to schedule volunteers to sell tickets and staff the event.

The 2014 Curtis Park Wine Tasting and Silent Auction will take place Oct. 4 at the Sierra 2 center.

The steering committee wants to recruit volunteers who can help round up sponsors, restaurants, auction and raffle items, and volunteer workers. The event’s reputation for fun and delicious tastings eases the job because so many businesses in the community are eager to take part.

Interested volunteers may contact event chair Cari Anderson at car Anderson Consulting@gmail.com or Sierra 2 Executive Director Terri Shettle at 452-3005.

Executive Director’s report

Sierra 2 Center has a new resident tenant... Well, not really

As spring came into full bloom recently, wildlife in the neighborhood was doing what wildlife does—nesting, having babies, coming to life. Generally, I am highly appreciative of this life cycle. This spring, however, was not so cute and sweet at Sierra 2 Center.

One midday facility monitor Dale Stebbins entered Room 10 to clean and set up for a renter. What he encountered is still somewhat mind-boggling. A mama raccoon decided to raise her babies in the attic above the former kindergarten room. We were unaware of the situation until the day Dale entered the room and discovered they had fallen through a ceiling tile. There was evidence of

TERRI SHETTLE
Sierra 2 Executive Director



a mad scramble to find their way back to the attic — many paw prints on the floor, window sills and walls by the doors. We know there were babies because of the paw prints. They broke some blinds climbing back up into the attic. Were it not for the paw prints and other raccoon evidence, one might have thought a party of rockers had busted up the place.

Efforts to trap these new “tenants” were unsuccessful. As quickly and quietly as they moved in, they left, re-opening a patched hole under Room 10.

Unfortunately, wildlife in our attics and on the property has been a fairly frequent occurrence over the past year. My guess is the drought will continue to drive animals inside in search of food and water. There are fewer people attempting gardens this year, and plant life as a whole will suffer with less water. Animals will be forced to seek alternatives to their natural habitat. That, compounded with the

removal of the habitats in the Curtis Park Village area, will lead to more wild urban encounters.

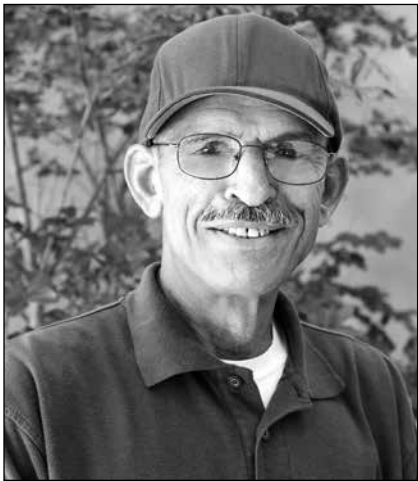
We are especially mindful of food and trash these days. We are applying extra scrutiny to small cracks, holes and potential openings that give rodents, squirrels, raccoons, and other wildlife access to the attic or basements. Our wildlife issues have led to expensive repairs.

As a simple reminder, these mitigation measures apply to homes as well as properties such as Sierra 2 Center. Pet food should not be left on porches and patios, especially at night. Trash should be kept in closed containers. Dark spaces such as attics and basements should be inspected for any openings sufficient for “breaking and entering” by these animals. We all need to work together on this issue.

Facility Monitor Joe retires this month

After more than eight years of service at Sierra 2 Center, Facility Monitor Joe Stanley has decided to retire. Joe started his stint here in January 2006 as a part-time monitor, working mostly evenings and weekends.

In recent years, Joe has been the daytime monitor, making sure the center is in the best shape possible for



Photo/Joan Cusick
Joe Stanley retires this month to enjoy relaxing with his family.

our tenants, renters and guests.

Joe is best known for his whistling and happy demeanor. We wish Joe all the best as he moves on to enjoy relaxing with his family. Joe’s last day will be Friday, July 25.

NOTE: With Joe’s departure, we are looking for a full time facility monitor. For job information: www.sierra2.org or call 452-3005.

— Terri Shettle

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

City staff: No new regulation pushing change in Village plan

By Valerie Burrows
Facility Administrator

Baby-signing classes

American Sign Language classes will be taught from 10–10:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from July 7–16 in Room 11. The class is for children ages 3 months to 3 years old along with a parent/ caregiver to foster bonding and interaction.

This class incorporates story time, music and activities to teach and practice signs. Two-way communication through signs lessens frustration as children learn to express themselves before they can speak.

Post-verbal children improve their spoken vocabulary by associating a sign with the written word, real object or a picture.

The class fee is \$55 per four class sessions or \$20 per class for drop-ins. For information and registration, contact instructor Christie O'Neill at coneill@signingtimeacademy.com.

Signing for everyone

Children ages 4-12 years old can learn American Sign Language in this Signing Time Academy class from 11–11:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from July 7–16 in Room 11. This class incorporates story time, music and games to teach signs. Children can expect to learn at least a dozen new signs every class.

Benefits for children and families

who use sign language include enhanced communication skills, reduced frustration, improved reading skills, empowerment for individuals with special needs and reduced communication barriers.

The class fee is \$55 for four classes or \$20 per class for drop-ins. For info and registration contact, instructor Christie O'Neill at coneill@signingtimeacademy.com .

Pain-free for life

This 90-minute MELT Introductory Workshop, to be held from 9–10:30 a.m. July 26 in Room 12, aims to teach simple, self-treatments that help students remain active, healthy and pain-free for life. This all-levels class uses specialized soft body rollers and small MELT Hand and Foot Balls to relieve aches and pains brought on by aging and active living.

MELT participants must be able to get on and off the floor and roller, and must be able to lie on their backs on the floor for a short time. If pain or restricted movement makes this too difficult, a private introductory session is recommended.

Class fee is \$20 pre-paid or \$25 at the door. A yoga mat is recommended. Drink water before class and also bring water. Tools will be supplied for class use and also available for purchase. RSVP or questions to Vanessa at meltwithvanessa@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.vanessalight.com.

By Patrick Soluri,
SCNA board member

I want to provide some historical perspective on the recent proposed changes to the Curtis Park Village project, especially for the park and storm water detention feature. There was a question raised about whether the new changes are necessitated by any new City changes to storm-water detention requirements.

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association was first made aware of revised storm-water calculations in 2012. We (the SCNA Board and me as president) were informed that the 2010 City Council project approvals had under-estimated the required storm-water detention capacity. We were also informed that construction-level detail revealed that grading at the north end of the property prevented adequate gravity drainage to the main Donnor trunk line.

To address both concerns, it was proposed to build an additional, triangular-shaped storm-water detention basin at the northwest corner of the development site. This proposed solution did not include converting the “dry” detention basin to a “wet” detention basin.

This second detention basin

solution was combined with other requested changes by Petrovich Development in late 2012.

SCNA was asked to consider, and possibly support, these proposals. At a public meeting on November 28, 2012, the SCNA Board voted to support the proposed storm-water project revision along with the other changes requested by Petrovich Development. Thus, as of the end of 2012, the storm water detention issue had been addressed.

Then, in early 2014, the SCNA Board learned of a new proposal from the developer that included significant revisions to the location, size and shape of the proposed park as well as converting the larger “dry” detention basin to a “wet” basin, with a significantly smaller footprint.

To learn more, SCNA sponsored a public meeting in February. At that meeting, it was suggested that the change to a “wet” detention basin was driven by revised City storm-water mandates. However, City staff explained that no new City requirements had occurred after 2012 that would require the developer to make the proposed revisions to the park.

This short history should make it clear that City storm-water requirements are not the driving force behind the latest revisions for Curtis Park Village.

Dance group advances animal event at Best Friend Friday

Sacramento Area Dance Alliance will host Best Friend Friday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. July 11 to promote their SSPCA fundraiser in August.

During the Aug. 2 fundraiser at Sierra 2, donors can bring an item from the SSPCA's wish list to the Sierra 2 Studios and participate in a master dance class for free.

Guests at Best Friend Friday can also bring their donation and register in advance for the class. Admission to the July 11 event is \$5 and includes appetizers. Beer, wine and soft drinks available for purchase. Silent auction and raffle on site.

For more information, call the Sierra 2 office at 452-3005.



Saddle up July 25 for dinner and a movie

This month's Dinner and a Movie will be a “blazing” good time with the showing of Mel Brook's film, “Blazing Saddles.” Touted as the ultimate Western parody, this classic comedy stars Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder, and a host of characters that have kept audiences laughing for years.

The movie begins at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, July 25 in the 24th Street Theatre after guests gather at 6:30 p.m. in Curtis Hall to enjoy a delicious meal from Texas West Bar-B-Que. Participants can choose from smoked chicken, pork or beef brisket, corn, potato salad, rolls and, of course, beans.

Beer, wine, and soft drinks are included with dinner. Tickets are \$30 for dinner and the movie and are available at www.brownpapertickets.com. Movie only tickets are \$5 at the door.

For more information, call the Sierra 2 office at 452-3005.

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JULY & AUGUST AT SIERRA 2

AT THE 24TH STREET THEATRE

Redemption
A Nathan Winograd documentary film presented by Front Street Animal Shelter
Thursday, July 10
“Redemption” portrays animal sheltering in the United States, a movement that was born of compassion and then lost its way. It’s the story of the ‘No Kill’ movement, which says we can and must stop the killing. Most of all, it is a story about believing in the community and trusting in the power of compassion. All proceeds benefit the animals at the Front Street Shelter.
Doors: 6:30 p.m.
Film and Q&A: 7–10 p.m.
Tickets: \$10 general
Info and tickets online: www.eventbrite.com/e/redemption-screening-for-front-street-tickets-10968572295?aff

The Music Man Jr.
Presented by Young Actors Stage
Aug. 8–10
Based on the timeless Broadway classic that won five Tony awards, “The Music Man Jr.” is an adaptation for young audiences. It’s family entertainment at its best. The story follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys band he vows to organize. The catch? He doesn’t know a trombone from clarinet. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the librarian, whose belief in Harold’s powers just might help him succeed in spite of himself.
Performances: Friday, Aug. 8, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 9, 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m.
Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 children (12 and under)
To purchase tickets online: www.YoungActorsStage.com
Box office: 1 hour prior to show time

Little Women
Red Bench Entertainment
Aug. 15, 16, and 17
Under the guidance of their beloved mother, the four young March sisters — tempestuous Jo, motherly Meg, shy Beth, and spoiled baby Amy — struggle to keep their family going while Father’s away in the Civil War. Privation, illness, and sibling rivalry cast their shadows, each girl strives to find her true self. This drama is based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott.
Shows: Friday, August 15 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Saturday, August 16 at 7 p.m. - VIP/GALA NIGHT (5 p.m. VIP reception) (doors open at 6:30 p.m. for regular ticket holders), and Sunday, August 17 at 2 p.m. (doors open at 1:30 p.m.)
Tickets: \$20 general, \$10 students w/ID, \$5 kids (12 and under), \$40 VIP*
*VIP tickets include VIP reception (appetizers, silent auction, raffles, and entertainment) and reserved seating.
Info: (916) 872-7697, (916) 599-2651, or www.redbenchentertainment.com

You Follow:
A Search for One’s Past
Pre-screening film
Aug. 22
In 2009 Nisha Grayson packed her bags and set out on a journey with four friends from the Sacramento home she had known for 28 years to her birthplace in Goa, India. It was a quest for her birth mother and a search for answers to her true identity. “You Follow” chronicles the experiences of an adoptee with a heart full of determination. When steps in the right direction lead to forks in the road, when loyalty and commitment come from unlikely strangers, Nisha faces an emotional series of unexpected challenges and tests of her character. Nisha and the director will answer questions after the screening.
Doors: 7:30 p.m.
Film: 8 p.m. **Tickets:** \$7
Ticket purchasing: www.eventbrite.com
Info: www.youfollowthefilm.com or nishagrayson@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES AT SIERRA 2

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

SPIRITUAL SERVICES
Baha’is Call for schedule: 491-5871

Bethlehem Baptist Church
4th Sunday, 12:30-2 p.m., Room 9
Pastor Willie Benson: 688-8818

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

The Vibe Church of Sacramento
Sunday Services : 10-11:30 a.m., Garden Rm.
Bible Study: 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Room 11
John Macdonell, Pastor: 595-5622

New Destiny Ministries
Sundays, 12:45-2:15 p.m., Room 11
Pastor Singleton, 532-5581

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.
Tues: Tues./Thurs 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Studio 3
www.rivercitytaps.com

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

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

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

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

Zumba
Friday, 6-7 p.m. • 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

Gokhale Method
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or for schedule, Robyn Penwell: 812-2607

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

Zumba
Thursday, 6 p.m. • Studio 1
Natalie, (917) 501-0206

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



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

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

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

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Poetry class will make the brain do push-ups

Meet Alexa Mergen. She will be teaching Meditation, Movement and Verse from 9:45 to 11 a.m. Fridays starting July 11 in Room 12 at Sierra 2 Senior Center. This class will include breath meditation and visualization with gentle movement. Reading a poem before and after the breath meditation provides an opportunity to compare how the poem “lands in us” before and after. The class will close with a simple prompt so students can write and share in their own voices. The themes are often tied to seasons. This class calls upon your mind, emotions and body. Expect to be surprised. Students will want to wear comfortable clothes and bring a journal.

Alexa will also teach Poetry by Heart from 10 to 11 a.m. every other Tuesday beginning July 22. Memorizing poems stimulates the heart and mind and may improve memory function. Think of it as exercising the grey matter. You’ll receive instruction on how to memorize a poem, suggestions of poems to choose, as well as recitation tips. The class includes reflective journaling and poetry writing.



Alexa Mergen

Alexa has taught people of all ages and experiences in myriad settings for 22 years. She is also a writer, editor and translator. Alexa believes creative expression, physically and artistically, are essential for individual and community health. Originally from Washington, D.C., Alexa has lived in California for 25. This is her 10th year in Sacramento. Alexa has an About page on yogastanza.org, and her publications are listed on alexamergen.com. For class fees, please contact the senior center at 455-6339.

Tai Chi

Frank Gaviola is teaching the Tai Chi class from 11:30-12:30 a.m. Wednesdays through the summer. You can sign up when you come to class. The cost is \$40 a month.

Computer basics

Marganne Meyers has begun teaching a second class in computer basics from 9-10 a.m. Wednesdays in Room 12. The fee is \$40 for six classes. For details, call the Sierra 2 Senior Center, 455-6339.

— Phoebe Celestin, Senior Center Director

Schenirer’s message

Neighborhood petition raises questions for all of us

As many of you know, the Character Advocates working group of Curtis Park residents is circulating a petition asking the City Council to pass an ordinance banning chain stores from opening in a specific geographic area surrounding the neighborhood. This includes Freeport Boulevard to the west, the W-X Freeway to the north, Highway 99 to the east, and Sutterville Road to the south.

Specifically, the ordinance would “prohibit any new or expanded formula business establishments, which are defined as businesses that operate 10 or more other similar establishments worldwide, and maintain two or more of the following standardized features: array of merchandise, façade, signage, décor and color scheme, a uniform apparel, or a trademark or service mark.”

According to the working group, the ordinance’s goal would be to “open doors for independent, locally owned small businesses — both those we have and those we can attract.”

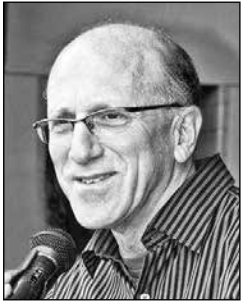
This is a worthy goal. How we reach that goal requires a thoughtful discussion. In moving forward, a number of questions must be answered.

Does our neighborhood, as represented by SCNA, support the goal and the proposed ordinance?

Is there support among our neighbor organizations — including the Franklin Boulevard Business Improvement District, the Land Park Neighborhood Association, and the Broadway Partnership?

What would be the impact on current businesses in the proposed area, and are those businesses supportive?

What are the legal ramifications and potential liabilities of such an ordinance?



Jay Schenirer
City Councilmember

How important is the quality of the employer and how do they treat their employees? Do they pay a living wage? Do they provide health care and other benefits for their employees?

Does the City currently have the small business incentives to make this proposal successful?

How has this type of ordinance worked in other locations, and how do they compare to Curtis Park?

Over the past three and one-half years, I have worked to make Sacramento a more business friendly environment, particularly for small businesses that create jobs and give back to their neighborhoods. In the City budget just passed, I was successful in getting a position within our economic development department that will serve and support small business development.

As a small business person myself for over 20 years, I know the challenges in opening and operating a small business. While I have always provided 100percent paid health benefits to my employees, I also know how difficult it is to operate a successful enterprise while providing a living wage and quality benefits.

I think we can all agree on the value of locally owned businesses and the importance of quality employers. I also know there are many neighbors who have told me they would not support an ordinance prohibiting businesses such as Trader Joe’s and Peet’s Coffee. I am committed to collaborating with the working group to find solutions that support the goals as stated above.

Over the next few months, I plan to speak with and potentially visit some of the communities that have successfully — or not — implemented similar ordinances to see what lessons can be learned. I hope to do this in collaboration with the working group’s leadership. I invite your thoughts on this issue.

Are higher federal and California state taxes a concern?

Interested in learning more about ways to manage your portfolio’s tax burden? Call or e-mail me for a no-obligation report on strategies designed to help you reduce the taxes you owe on your investments.

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To view Joseph’s website, simply scan the code with your smartphone.

SIERRA 2 SENIOR CENTER

July/August 2014 Activities
Room 12
455-6339 or seniorcenter@sierra2.org
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

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

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FITNESS

Community Acupuncture Clinic
9:45–11:15 a.m. (\$15)
July 1 and July 15
Zoë Griffin: 212-2170

Meditation/Movement/Verse
Instructor: Alexa Mergen
New Class Begins
9:45-11 a.m. Friday, July 11

“Poetry by Heart”
Instructor: Alexa Mergen
New Class begins July 22
9:45-11 a.m. Every other Tuesday

Fall Prevention
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Tuesdays/Thursdays
(4 classes \$20; 8 classes \$35)
Pat Shaw: 856-0136

Gentle Yoga
Instructor: Pat Shaw
10:15–11:15 a.m. Wednesdays

Tai Chi
Instructor: Frank Gaviola
Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Rm. 12. \$40 per month

Walking and Polewalking Clinic
9 a.m. Thursdays
One time instruction fee \$5

LEISURE

Arts & Music Lecture Series
Instructor: Robert Coleman
3–4 p.m. Tuesdays Rm. 12.
To sign-up: 455-6339

Improvisation acting with Jetta
3–5 p.m. Last Friday of the month

Book Club
10:30–11:30 a.m. 2nd Monday
July: “A Tale for the Time Being”
by Ruth Ozeki
August: “A House in the Sky”
by Amanda Lindout

Travel Writing
Facilitator: Phoebe Celestin
11 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Fridays 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
1–3 p.m. Fridays (except last Friday)

Life History Writing
1–3 p.m. Wednesdays

EDUCATION

Make friends with your Computer, Computer and Internet Basics
Instructor: Marganne Meyer
9–10 a.m. Wednesdays. Rm. 12
For dates, call 455-6339
Fee: 6 classes/ \$40

AARP Drivers’ Safety Classes
9 a.m.–1 p.m. September 8 & 9
To register: Call Jim Finnegan
(916) 804-9777

Beginning Drawing by Patris
Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m.

CARDS AND GAMES

Monday Morning Games Ginasta, Mahjong & More 9–11:45 pm

Fun Bridge
1–4 p.m. Thursdays

Pinochle
12:30–3 p.m. Fridays

EVENTS

Potluck
Noon–2 p.m. Room 10
Last Friday of the month

Senior Committee Meeting
3–5 p.m. Monday, July 7

Quarterly All Senior Center Meeting: 3–4 p.m. Monday, July 21

Heritage Matters

In 1909, Western Pacific's vision included gardens and ballfields

By Erik Fay
Viewpoint staff writer

The Western Pacific Railroad in 1909, after three long years of working with local business

supporters and city officials, wanted their Sacramento railyard to be an industrial showpiece. It was to have the most

modern amenities, tools and industrial design. They reportedly spent over \$500,000 on machinery.

Construction started on the site in 1910. The primary shops were designed by renowned railroad architect W. H. Mohr. Employee safety was a priority and buildings were designed for fire safety, powered ventilation, and vast expanses of natural light. Medical treatment of some degree was available on site from a Western Pacific physician. The Western Pacific even lobbied the city to build a fire station adjacent to the property.

The buildings would eventually include: administrative offices, a powerhouse, a large supply shop, a machine and erecting shop, a boiler shop, a coach repair shop, a blacksmith shop, a paint shop, freight car repair sheds, and more. Cranes that could lift a locomotive were well documented in newspaper articles.

The property had an extensive water system with three mains and five miles of rail track. The property was fenced in and landscaped, much was made of its wide walkways,

planted grass, vines, and flowers.

The railyard opened with much celebration on July 12, 1913. The mayor, various Sacramento officials, Chamber of Commerce members, and Western Pacific executives from San

Francisco officially opened the yard with a full morning of ceremonies, an orchestra, and a public open house.

Free train rides were provided from the new Western Pacific Depot (now The Old Spaghetti Factory) at 19th and J Streets to transport people into the railyard center for the open house.

Sacramento residents of all types and skills were employed at the railyard. Initially, it employed 200 men but this number grew as some shops were expanded, new shops were built, and more agriculture refrigeration work was established. Newspaper reports note several subdivisions in the area were partially developed with the intent of supplying new homes for Western Pacific employees. A number of Curtis Park residents were employed by Western Pacific. The city directory of 1930 shows several administrators and an electrical shop foreman living in the South Curtis Oaks subdivision.

The 90 acres of the railyard property was never completely developed. The north area, closest to the Curtis Oaks subdivision, was left open and both a baseball field and soccer field were installed for worker teams.



The Western Pacific Railyard's 90-acres included a soccer field for the company's team. This is a 1929-'30 photo taken from the north end of the field.

The Western Pacific's Sacramento soccer team won the state soccer championship in 1935 and over 3,000 people came out to the field to watch the game. The Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus would set up its tents and exhibits in the north part of the property when it visited Sacramento in the 1930s.

The Western Pacific railyard had a significant role in the Sacramento economy. It quickly became a California center for shipping refrigerated agricultural products to the east and repairing refrigeration cars. It was a major land transport and repair center in World War I and World War II.

Unfortunately, the Western Pacific suffered in the late 1960s and 1970s due to cost increases and declining revenue from passenger service, which ceased in 1970.

The railroad was purchased by the Union Pacific Railroad in 1980. The railyard was dismantled in the mid-1980s but the shape of the property is unchanged.

History is repeating itself as the railyard property, in the form of Curtis Park Village, has again become a focal point for city planning, grand business visions, economic development, and lively conversation. The next chapter in this property's story, and our neighborhood's history, is just beginning!

Tree Care

Roots — For tree health, it's best to learn the underground story

By Dan Pskowski
Viewpoint staff writer

Roots play a key role. They contain the woody and non-woody tissues that absorb water, gases and nutrients from the soil and atmosphere, as well as support the crown. Roots grow where there is sufficient oxygen, water, minerals and where the soil is not too hard to penetrate. Roots extend way beyond the tree's drip line, which is the width of crown as measured by the lateral reach of the branches.

Most roots grow radially outward and horizontal to the surface. However, in the Sacramento neighborhoods close to the Sacramento and American rivers, trees usually have vertical growing roots. This is in response to the sandy loam soils that have excellent drainage. The availability of oxygen is the key to growing roots. This is why neighborhoods with clay soils have more of a challenge growing large canopy trees. Clay soils don't readily drain, which limits root growth. I see newly planted trees in clay soils die because of overwatering. I explain to the owner

that you can't teach the tree to swim.

Roots do not seek out and damage water or sewer lines as many people believe. The reason roots grow into a sewer line is that the pipe is cracked and leaking. The moisture provides a desirable environment for root growth. When the plumber clears the offending roots out of the sewer line the problem will keep reoccurring until the pipe is replaced. The same holds true for water lines that are strangled and broken by roots. It all started with a leak.

Unfortunately, some property owners unknowingly remove the tree believing this will solve their problem. But roots from a neighbor's tree, if not already there, may find their way to this leaking pipe.

However, removal is appropriate when a tree is planted on top or adjacent to the water or sewer line. In this situation roots can and will cause damage. This is why it's so important to locate underground utilities before you plant a tree. With these types of conflicts, tree preservation is possible but would require the relocation of the underground utility line.

What about roots that damage your home's foundation? When roots were found in contact with the foundation, I assumed they caused the damage. But I learned that only a structural engineer can make that determination. I have found with the use of a structural engineer that most foundation problems are not caused by tree roots. Therefore, with roots, remember not to jump to conclusions, because it's not always apparent what is happening underground.

Unique way to water young trees

A Sacramento Tree Foundation employee has a convenient technique for watering young trees. It's one she uses to care for the 17 youngsters planted in Curtis Park as part of the mitigation settlement for Curtis Park Village.

To give the trees a slow yet plentiful drink, she takes a couple of five-gallon buckets, punches a few small holes in the bottoms and fills them several times with water.

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THE GRADS!



Lindsay Bock

Lindsay Bock graduated from St. Francis High School and plans to attend UC Berkeley this fall and study political science. She is the daughter of Holly and Aaron Bock of Sutterville Road and the granddaughter of Lynn and John Pichinino of Fifth Avenue.



Jack Hughes

Jack Hughes graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School and plans to attend Sacramento City College in the fall after working this summer at Taylor's Market. He is the son of Hilary and Patrick Egan of Portola Way.



Marian Haarmeyer

Marian Haarmeyer graduated from Met Sacramento High School and plans to study nutrition and food science at California State University, Chico after a summer of working at Vic's Ice Cream. She is the daughter of Craig and Kelly Haarmeyer of Highland Avenue.

Lily Rushing graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School and plans to attend the Theatre School at DePaul University in Chicago in the fall. She is the daughter of Rocky Rushing and Janet Weeks of 23rd Street.



Lily Rushing

Matthew Wong graduated from Christian Brothers High School and plans to attend the University of Washington. He is the son of Patrick and Margaret Wong of Marshall Way.



Matthew Wong

Lucy Maloney graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School and plans to major in psychology at San Diego State University. She is the daughter of Leslie Goodbody and Nial Maloney of Third Avenue.



Lucy Maloney



Faith Estroff Bernstein

Faith Estroff Bernstein graduated from Whitman College with a bachelor of arts in environmental humanities. She is considering documentary film making and graduate school. Her parents live in Curtis Park.



Alexandria Landeros

Alexandria Landeros graduated from Christian Brothers High School and plans to study sports medicine at Arizona State University. She is the daughter of David and Rebecca Landeros of Franklin Boulevard.



Pablo Ortiz

Pablo Ortiz graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School and plans to attend Brown University in Rhode Island. He is the son of Edward Ortiz and Melissa Cirone of Curtis Way.

Rosaria Natura graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School and plans to take a break from studying to travel and work. She is the daughter of Paulette Johnson (Natura) and Muffet Wilkerson (Natura) of East Curtis Park Drive.



Rosaria Natura

Eleanor Hunts graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School and plans to attend UCLA. She is the daughter of Jeff Hunts and Karen Uyeno of Donner Way.



Eleanor Hunts

Elizabeth Pryor received her bachelors of science degree in nursing from the University of San Francisco and plans to start her career after traveling in Europe with her sister. She is the daughter of Crystal and John Pryor of Castro Way.

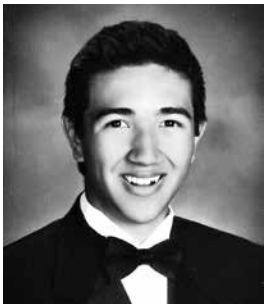


Elizabeth Pryor



Nina Culliver

Nina Culliver graduated from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in San Francisco. Following summer as head coach for the Park Terrace Penguin swim team, Nina plans to find a job in marketing or graphic design. She is the daughter of Bonnie Cornwall and Mitch Culliver of Castro Way.



Jordan Broadhead

Jordan Broadhead graduated from Christian Brothers High School and plans to study at Texas Christian University. He is the son of Joe Broadhead and Florian Tria of 4th Avenue.



Madeline Neville

Madeline Neville graduated from C.K. McClatchy and plans to attend Sacramento City College in the fall. She is the daughter of Becca Gonzales and Scott Neville of 6th Avenue.

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Tom Ellington was known for his generosity and old blue truck

Tom Ellington of 26th Street lost his 10-year battle with cancer on June 18. Friends always recognized Tom by his blue 1950 Chevy truck. Tom taught computer science at Elk Grove High for 35 years. A generous soul, Tom always helped anyone in need at anytime. His quick wit and dry sense of humor meant that friends needed to be ready with a quick reply.

He is survived by his wife, Cathi, daughter, Sarah, son-in-law, Nate Calvin, brother, Jerry, and three grandchildren.



Tom Ellington

Bret Harte News

Bret Harte students GOT
"Caught" attending school

By Char Klassen
Viewpoint Staff Writer

What's better than a picnic shared with family members, friends and teachers on a quilt under shady sycamore trees? And that's only the beginning of how Bret Harte students celebrated their last day of school. They earned a special party with a little kid-friendly hip-hop jams provided by KSFM 102.5. Adding to the fun were Hawaiian leis, grass skirts for the girls and sun glasses for the boys provided by the school's PTA. The "Dance Party Luau" on June 6 was awarded by KSFM 102.5 for having the highest attendance in the district the day after Memorial Day. The celebration vibrated with laughter, dance moves and happy farewells.

The party was just one aspect of a Sacramento City Unified School



District's attendance program called "I GOT Caught Attending School." The program was a collaborative creation put together by Kenneth McPeters, SCUSD Attendance, Dropout Prevention and Recovery coordinator; Stephan Brown, director of Student Hearing and Placement; and Dr. Sara Noguchi, interim SCUSD superintendent. The goal was to target students who would not normally get a perfect attendance award. The directors wanted to talk to elementary students about the importance of attending school.

"I GOT Caught Attending School" partnered with KSFM 102.5's Promotions Director Kimberly Piazza and the Natomas Walmart's Store Manager Franklin Jackson to help promote the attendance buzz. Visiting four schools each month and choosing three students from each school, students would be caught in class and receive a T-shirt saying "I GOT Caught Attending School" along with a certificate. Natomas Walmart would then give each student a bag full of



Photo/Kenneth McPeters

Bret Harte students enjoy a Dance Party on campus with KSFM 102.5. There were at least six KSFM employees on campus dancing with the kids and holding raffles every 20 minutes or so.

school supplies. In addition, each month one student chosen from these schools won a \$75 shopping spree at Natomas Walmart.

"To date the program has made a positive impact on the schools we visited," program creator Kenneth McPeters said. "We hope to continue this program and (these) partnerships for years to come,"

Vanir Foundation gives award

The Vanir Foundation was a strong Bret Harte Elementary partner this year. At graduation

Mark Your Calendar

SCHOOL RESUMES
Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014

the foundation awarded 18 cash scholarships and Certificates of Excellence. Two sixth graders, Alejandro Garcia and Tran Hoang, were singled out as the best all-around students. Each received \$50 cash. Sixteen \$25 awards were also handed out in five categories.



Third Avenue neighbors took time out from wedding events for a gondola ride through the canals of Venice. They are, from front to back, Charles and Fleurette Kersey, Sally and Jim Flynn and John and Judy Brush.

Love knows no borders

When it comes to a special foreign exchange student, friendship stretches half way around the world. In June nine Third Avenue neighbors flew to Venice, Italy for the wedding of Silvia Sartori, who once lived with Sally and Jim Flynn. Joining them for the two-week celebration were John and Judy Brush along with their daughter, Rachel, her husband Philip Brownsey and their 1-year-old son, Silas, and Fleurette and Charles Kersey.

— Judy Scheible

A little state fair magic with saws and paint

Whiffs of sawdust and paint fill the air at the workshops where Richard Bay of Sixth Avenue and Mark Baker of 24th Street are creating a little State Fair magic. Their talented crew of 30 saws, hammers, paints and sews in two spacious warehouses just south of Sutterville Road, close to Track 7 Brewery.

They're building plywood structures that will represent seven northern California counties. They're also making tall and short animated creatures for each booth.

The booth for Amador is a giant wine barrel, and the one for Sacramento is a nearly life-size food truck. The other counties taking shape here are Placer, San Joaquin, Tuolumne, Calaveras and Butte.

Every detail grew from Richard's imagination. After researching each county and conceptualizing a theme, Richard builds a white 3-D model that serves as a pattern for construction.

About Richard's role in the operation, Mark says, "Richard's still the puppet

master. He pulls all our strings."

By July 11, the wooden displays will be fully painted with their animated figures performing for visitors to the State Fair at Cal Expo.

Richard and Mark have created these county exhibits for three decades. Each year they start from scratch. Mark said his garage rafters are stuffed with old figures and bits.

Richard, known for his fantastic puppets on stage, is a retired art professor from Sacramento State. Mark remodels kitchens and baths when he's not working with Richard.

— Judy Scheible



Photo/Joan Cusick

Mark Baker and Richard Bay, with one of his county display paper models, have created state fair displays together for 30 years.



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