

## Revised Curtis Park Village proposal increases single family homes

By Sue Staats and Rosanna Herber  
Viewpoint staff writers

For nearly two years now, Curtis Park Village has been little more than a graded, empty site, filled with knee-high weeds, wildflowers and bordered with a scattering of oak trees. Optimistic signs promised new streets, shops and homes. But where

were the trucks? The construction crews? Neighbors wondered when, if ever, those long-promised roads, shops and homes would appear.

It's clear from the report given at the Neighborhood Concerns meeting April 24 that plenty has been going on behind the scenes. Construction activity will soon begin at the site. At the meeting Paul Petrovich and Phil Harvey of

the Petrovich Development Company unveiled the revised development plan and answered questions from about 50 neighbors. Petrovich reported these activities are under way:

- A re-zoning and General Plan Amendment request to the City would increase the number of single-family homes from 193 to 268 and reduce the

*Please see Village, page 2*

## Neighbors discuss what it means to become a historic district

By Susan MacCulloch  
Viewpoint staff writer

The teardown of the vintage home at 2601 Portola Way earlier this year lit up the neighborhood email network. Many residents were dismayed that the property's owners – an investment group – demolished the structure without oversight. Neighbors' concerns that this situation could occur more frequently prompted the exploration of creating a historic district within Curtis Park.

More than 20 people met informally in early April to talk about historic district potential for Curtis Park. Heritage Committee member Janice Calpo gave a Power Point presentation about historic district designation. It was followed by a lively discussion about how Curtis Park may benefit from and/or be limited by such a designation.

Teardowns often occur when there is minimal ordinance protection.

*Please see District, page 8*



Photo/Joan Cusick

Mark Wenzel collects his food truck order at April's First Friday gathering.

## Taco menu for First Friday May 3

Local chef Ame Harrington is behind the menu choices for First Friday dinner May 3 in Curtis Hall at Sierra 2. Her catering outfit Ame Mean Eats will provide a taco bar with a vegetarian bean option. Dinner is from 6 to 9 p.m., and the cost is \$8 per serving.

The food truck option tried in April was a big success, and it will be repeated in August, according to Terri Shettle, executive director of Sierra 2.

SCNA will again host the drinks and the s'mores on the patio.

This month the servers will be a team put together by the Three Judys: Judy Brush of 3rd Avenue, Judy Harper of Portola Way and Judy Scheible of 4th Avenue.

Servers are needed for June, so interested neighbors may email Gwynne Byrd, the volunteer coordinator for the First Friday events, gwynnaeb@gmail.com or 452-3005.

## Senior Center director resigns

Much to the surprise of participants at Sierra 2's Senior Center, its relatively new director, Karen Oosterman, announced her resignation in mid-April. She told the Viewpoint she made the difficult decision because she wanted to spend time with her daughter who is a high school senior.

"In the short time, I have become very attached to the staff, so it was a tough decision," Oosterman said.

SCNA President Eric Johnson said he was sorry to see Karen go. "She has been a great asset to Sierra 2," Johnson said. "I also understand her desire to spend more time with her family.

"The Senior Center is a very important part of Sierra 2, and we will be evaluating its operations to make sure it continues to serve the needs of Curtis Park's vibrant senior community."



Photo/Joan Cusick  
Karen Oosterman leaves senior center.

## Special needs kids to get a boost from May 10 event

Children with special needs will benefit from the Best Friends Friday event from 6 to 7:30 p.m. May 10 in Curtis Hall at Sierra 2. It's hosted by the WarmLine Family Resource Center, which provides free resources, support and education to families of children with special needs, from birth to age 22. Organized in 1993, the group is staffed by parents who share the common experience of parenting their uniquely wonderful children.

Admission is \$5 and includes appetizers. Beer, wine and soft drinks are available at a nominal charge. Information, call the Sierra 2 office at 452-3005.



## Art Show May 18 will benefit Sierra 2 Center

By Rosanna Herber,  
Viewpoint Staff Writer

For months eight local artists have been focusing on Curtis Park's unique qualities. You can see what they discovered in their artwork on display from 6-9 p.m. May 18 in Curtis Hall during the third annual Art Show. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. The event will also feature catered food, wine, live music and a silent auction.

"These artists just participated in SCNA's Home Tour and saw the neighborhood at its finest," said Faith Johnstone, event coordinator for Sierra 2. "They each created several art pieces to capture the spirit of Curtis Park. They will also bring more of their artwork to this event."

The artists include Drew McSherry, Patris Miller, Nathan Myhre, Juan Pena, David Peterson, Stephanie Taylor, Andrew Tutschka and Abigail VanCannon. VanCannon, who lives on 2nd Avenue, is the only artist who lives in the neighborhood.

"I love the energy and support in this community for art," said VanCannon. "My favorite thing to do is Plein Air art. I like to get out and

paint unique spots that I can't see from my studio. It's beautiful the way the light, shadows and colors come together in the outdoors."

The annual art benefit is part of SCNA's commitment to foster art and art education programs in the neighborhood. Thirty-five percent of the artwork sold will go to the Sierra 2 Center. The benefit draws people from throughout the community. Last year, more than 150 people attended the event.

For tickets, contact www.sierra2.org.

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Notes from April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting

Board supports City’s two-tier approach to fixing the streetlights

City to refurbish streetlights

The City reported it will refurbish about 45 of the 90 streetlights included in the replacement project set to begin in April 2014. The lights marked for refurbishment are considered originals, while the others are replacements installed over the years. Once the project begins, the city will determine case by case whether a light is a candidate for refurbishing. The City agreed to continue to work with SCNA and the Heritage Committee to develop criteria for evaluating the lights. The board supported the project moving forward as presented by the City.

Senior Center relocation up for vote

In May the board will vote on whether to move the Senior Center

The SCNA Board meets at 7 p.m. in the Garden Room on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is May 8. For more information, call the Sierra 2 office at 452-3005.

to a different room at Sierra 2. Concerns over its current location first rose when bathrooms close to the center were closed last year. The relocation would place the center closer to ADA restrooms and in a higher traffic area, which could lead to more exposure. However, there are concerns that the proposed space is so limited it would move the senior coordinator to the main office instead of within the center.

Petrovich proposes changes to Curtis Park Village

Petrovich Development planned to present changes to use the current flex zone in the Curtis Park Village development for multi-family and senior housing and turn the area currently designated for multi-family housing into single family homes. The developer was to present the proposal in more detail at the April 24th Neighborhood Concerns Committee. (Story appears on page 1.)

Food Truck big hit at First Friday

April’s First Friday featured a new format for dinner, and so far it’s received rave reviews. Food was sold directly by Krush Burger food truck, and SCNA took care of the beverages. It was the highest beverage sales on record. The board

is looking to book another food truck for August’s First Friday.

Possessory Income Tax

Members of the SCNA Board met with Supervisor Phil Serna and his staff regarding the possessory interest issue (See President’s message in April edition of the Viewpoint).

Supervisor Serna directed his office to do some research regarding whether the tax had been levied on other organizations similar to SCNA. He also said he would set up a meeting between SCNA and the county assessor to discuss the matter. The assessor’s office told SCNA that we should expect retroactive tax bills for 2008-09 and 2009-10 shortly.

— Submitted by Nicole Quinonez, Board Secretary

Executive Director’s report

Appointment to Parks & Recreation Commission is an opportunity

Recently, I have been presented the honor of representing District 5 on the Parks & Recreation Commission. People who know me know how much I cherish the wonderful resources we have through our park systems. The ability to get outside to recreate, experience nature and wildlife, and gather with others is important to our mental and physical wellbeing.

As a city, we benefit from the founders’ vision to make parks central to our neighborhoods. The older neighborhoods in Sacramento, the City of Trees, were built around parks. These older neighborhoods, including ours, are extra special because the parks are in their social fabric. Each park is different, representing its neighborhood. Each needs resources to maintain it. Not surprisingly, the resources are spread thin these days, leading to challenges in

TERRI SHETTL  
Sierra 2 Executive Director



keeping the parks and facilities in prime condition.

SCNA and the residents of Curtis Park benefit from three assets: William Curtis Park, Sierra 2 Green and the Sierra 2 Center. Where we as a neighborhood have the greatest opportunity to impact these assets is in William Curtis Park. The neighborhood association

recognized this and recently adopted our park through the City’s Partners in Parks program. We had our first park clean-up day April 6. With funding limited and competition across the City, our ongoing volunteers’ efforts to maintain the park are essential to keeping the park in good condition so we can enjoy its grounds and it continues to be a shining star in Sacramento.

We have a vested interest in participating in the maintenance of the park. Not only do we want to see

it remain safe and open to all, but we need to keep it as a prime gathering place for our neighborhood activities. We use the park as the events center for the Home and Garden Tour. It’s home to three Music in the Park concerts and our annual CurtisFest Artisan festival. Neighbors gather along the path and in the shade to chat, walk their dogs and accompany their children to the playground.

In my new role as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, I will be lobbying Curtis Park residents and friends of the Sacramento parks and recreation system to lend a hand, a tool or financial support for these purposes. We’ll start with Curtis Park, but there’s no end to what we can accomplish if we band together, neighbors to neighbors, to boost our park system to an even higher level. It’s in our best interest as a neighborhood, and it’s in our best interest as humans.

If you are willing and able to support the Partners in Parks program, please contact me or ncc@sierra2.org.

Village: Federal funds get construction going on pedestrian bridge

Continued from page 1

multi-family units from 222 to 110. This would result in 37 fewer housing units. In addition, the senior housing and multi-family housing would be moved south, closer to the retail area. The move would limit the commercial space to about 180,000 square feet. These changes require approval by the Planning Commission and City Council.

- A contract for the construction of the major roads and utilities was released for bid in April. According to Harvey, construction of Roads A, B, C and D, and the accompanying infrastructure, should begin this summer. The project of installing the main roads with decorative lighting is expected to be completed by late November. Secondary streets should be finished by February 2014.
- An agreement with Michael Paris of BlackPine Communities, a Woodland-based niche builder of quality homes. Petrovich said that Paris will offer five housing designs for the 12 available lots that face 24th Street. He said Paris is known for using durable materials. Paris incorporates ironwork and multi-pitched roofs in his housing designs. Pricing has not yet been set for the homes. Paris said he has

built similar housing at 42nd and P streets and at 44th and H streets.

- An agreement with Domus Development to develop the senior housing closer to the retail area and the pedestrian bridge. According to Meea Kang of Domus Development, this placement will allow more eyes on the overcrossing and give seniors better connectivity to light rail and Sacramento City College. Domus is moving quickly to get funding for what will be a three story, almost net zero energy building with 90 low-income units. The property will be owned and managed by Domus Development.

In addition, the City of Sacramento has begun construction on the footings and foundation for the pedestrian bridge that will connect Curtis Park Village with the Sacramento City College campus and the Light Rail station. This preliminary work is being done with federal funds that must be spent by July 1. The contract to build the bridge will go to bid this fall, with construction beginning in the winter. The City’s project manager for the bridge, Ofelia Avalos, said the bridge is expected to be completed in early 2016.

Neighbors at the April 24 meeting were mostly positive about the revised plan. Many said they liked the housing partner Petrovich has added to his team. Others said building more single family homes seemed to make sense now that the housing market is hot again. Most everyone agreed that these lots will be especially valuable because of their proximity to downtown. Some said they didn’t like the loss of the 37 housing units. All agreed that the new placement for the senior and multi-family housing was more logical.

“It’s kind of ironic,” said Andrea Rosen, vice president of SCNA. “Market conditions have altered the course of this development. The neighborhood is now getting many of the things we asked for in the first place; like having the senior housing and multi-family housing closer to the pedestrian bridge and the retail area. It’s just a better design.”

The revised plan will go before the Planning Commission in August. Neighbors can review it at www.cityofsacramento.org/dsd/planning. The plan is expected up within three weeks. The SCNA Board will consider its position on the development at its July meeting.



## What's new at Sierra 2

By Valerie Burrows  
Facility Administrator

### Afternoon art show brings Second Saturday to Sierra 2

The Celebration of Watercolour art show will feature an eclectic group of watercolor artists who paint monthly at Sierra 2 with well-known Sacramento artist Katherine Lemke Waste. This Fourth annual show is 2-6 p.m. May 11, a Second Saturday event in Curtis Hall.

Some of the artists have been painting for years and others are beginners. Some are retired, some work as teachers. They all share a love for watercolors and joy in showing their work.

Visitors looking for a Mother's Day gift will find originals, prints and cards at reasonable prices. A portion of the proceeds will be contributed to the Mustard Seed Children's Art Program.

### Fundraiser for outreach and education

Guests who attend An Evening in May will help victims of sexual exploitation find their independence through the support of CASH,

Community Against Sexual Harm. The fundraiser is 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday, May 16 in Curtis Hall. The evening will include hors d'oeuvres, drinks, a silent auction and raffle prizes.

CASH was founded by Sacramento Police officers, professors and business owners. They provide help for recovery to victims of sexual exploitation.

Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. Each ticket includes one drink and food.

For tickets and info, call Cindy Stinson at 856-2900.

### Attention songwriters, artists and musicians

Songwriters Rick Beresford and Deanne Walker will conduct an all-day songwriting and evaluation class Saturday, June 1. They will listen to and offer feedback on how to make attendees songs more commercial.

The class will run from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Room 9. The instructors are coming through the Northern California chapter of the Nashville Songwriters Association International. The \$65 class fee includes lunch. Sign up with Gabrielle Kennedy: 476-5073 or gabrielle@gabscourt.com.



Photo/Joan Cusick

Manager Chris Haney, right, works the new bar at Dad's Kitchen as patrons Lein Shanahan and Lauren Burt of Folsom look on.

## Dad's on Freeport opens beer bar

Extensive remodeling turned half of Dad's Kitchen on Freeport Boulevard into an attractive beer bar with two big-screens for sports fans. With 28 taps, the bartenders have plenty to offer thirsty customers. Dad's owners plan to serve a mixture

of IPAs, pale ales, stouts and hard cider. Two additional taps are reserved for red and white wines.

One of the owners, Julie Peix, has transformed his extensive collection of beer artwork and labels into the bar's lively décor.

## Julia Child inspires evening at Sierra 2

Details are still pending for the dinner and movie event at Sierra 2 next month, but the date is June 21 and the menu will spin off Julie Powell's best-selling memoir "Julie & Julia" and the 2009 film that followed it. Both chronicle Powell's struggle to prepare every recipe in Julia Child's cookbook "Mastering the Art of French Cooking"

and to master her emotions as they bubble up in the process. Details on the caterer and menu will appear in the June *Viewpoint*. Guests planning to attend can expect the dinner to begin at 6 p.m. in Curtis Hall. Tickets are expected to be \$35 for the multiple course meal and two drinks (beer, wine or soda) and popcorn at the movie.

The film is expected to start at 7:30 p.m. and is open to guests who skip the dinner; their tickets will be \$10.

Tickets will be available at the Sierra 2 office and at brownpapertickets.com.



## Bands booked for summer concerts

Many details are yet to be nailed down for summer's popular Music in the Park concert series, but here are the dates and bands you can anticipate.

On the stage Sunday June 30, are Mister Cooper for the children and the Bad Catz band.

For the last Sunday in July, the 28th, the entertainers are Music Mike and West of Next.

Concluding the season on Aug. 25 will be Music Matt and On Air.

Leading up to the concert that day will be CurtisFest with Jon Merriman, Midtown Jazz Duo, and Mike Justis Band.

## Volunteer program needs park 'parents'

Now that the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association has adopted William Curtis Park from the City, we "parents" need to develop a contact list for work day notices. During the coming months we will be cleaning up the park, weeding, mulching, trimming bushes and other activities. The next clean up day is June 15.


To join the "park's parent" list, please email NCC@sierra2.org with your contact info so you can be notified of the next Adopt-a-park event.

### NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR CLASSIFIEDS

SHORT STAY RENTAL in Mendocino on one wooded acre with water view. 3 story, 3 bedrooms, sleeps 7, fireplace, 2 decks, internet. Call 452-0359.

TRYING TO JOIN, or form, a carpool from Curtis Park to JFK high school for fall 2013. Interested? Becky: A\_Floral\_Affair@comcast.net

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# MAY AT SIERRA 2

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

### The Carolina Chocolate Drops

#### Swell Productions

May 10  
Doors: 6:30 p.m.,  
Show: 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets: \$27.50 advance,  
\$30 door  
Inticketing.com. Info: 457-7553

The Carolina Chocolate Drops concerts, The New York Times stated, were “an end-to-end display of excellence... . They dip into styles of Southern black music from the 1920s and ’30s — string-band music, jug-band music, fife and drum, early jazz — and beam their curiosity outward. They make short work of their instructive mission and spend their energy on things that require it: flatfoot dancing, jug playing, shouting.”



### LunaFest: Nine short films by, for and about women

#### Zonta Club of Sacramento

May 18  
Matinee show: 4 p.m. \$10  
Evening show: 7 p.m. \$15  
Tickets at the door or: [www.lunafest.org/sacramento](http://www.lunafest.org/sacramento). Info: 207-7161

This film festival and fundraising event celebrates women. The program includes a silent auction, door prizes, tasty bites, live music and fun. All proceeds benefit: St. John's Shelter, The Nurse-Family Partnership and the Breast Cancer Fund.

### Annie Jr.

#### Young Actors Stage

May 31-June 2  
Show times:  
Friday, May 31: 7 p.m.  
Saturday, June 1:  
11 a.m., 1:30 p.m.,  
4 p.m., and 7 p.m.  
Sunday, June 2: 11 a.m.,  
1:30 p.m., and 4 p.m.  
Tickets and info: [www.youngactorsstage.com](http://www.youngactorsstage.com)  
Box office: 45 minutes  
prior to show times

Based on the popular Broadway musical, “Annie Jr.” tells the story of a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents, who abandoned her on the doorstep of a New York City orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan. In adventure after fun filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan’s evil plans, befriends President Franklin Roosevelt and finds a new family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy. Annie Jr. features songs from the original Broadway show, including “Tomorrow,” “Hard-Knock Life,” “Little Girls” and “Maybe.”



## ACTIVITIES AT SIERRA 2

### OUR TENANTS

All Seasons All Reasons Fine Catering  
451-9393

Angela Curiale Ph.D. Psychologist  
455-1592

Great Beginnings  
Child Development Center  
456-4642

Hope Harris Photography  
454-2111

Italian Cultural Society  
Language School  
482-5900

La Famiglia Catering  
739-6034

River Song Meditation  
212-0062

Runaway Stage Production  
207-1226

Sacramento Braille Transcribers  
455-9121

Sacramento Yoga Center  
572-9139

Straight Men's AA  
454-1100

Charr Crail Photography  
505-1154



### CHILDREN

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

Capital City Music Together  
Children 5 and under  
enjoy singing, dancing,  
drumming, playing, giggling  
Call for class schedules.  
Jennie Ribadeneira: 990-3222  
[www.capitalcitymusictogether.com](http://www.capitalcitymusictogether.com)

Education Française de  
Sacramento  
French language classes  
for K-8th Grade  
4-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays  
Rooms 11 & 12 • [www.efsac.com](http://www.efsac.com)

Young Actors Stage  
Saturdays, Studios  
Call for schedule  
Musical Theater: (ages 6-14)  
Broadway Tap: Beginning (all ages):  
Theater Dance (all ages)  
Info: [youngactorsstage.com](http://youngactorsstage.com)

Zumba  
Mon/Wed/Fri, 10-11 a.m.  
Tues./Wed./Thu. 5-6 p.m.  
Sat. 11 a.m.-noon • Sun. 4-5 p.m.  
Studio 2 • Vanessa • [itsvtime@live.com](mailto:itsvtime@live.com)

### MUSIC

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

### DANCE

Chic Steppers  
Chicago-Style Steppers Class  
Sundays, 4-6 p.m.  
Studio 3  
Instructors: Ken & Monique  
(707) 200-7837, [chicsteppers@gmail.com](mailto:chicsteppers@gmail.com)

New York Salsa  
Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m., Studio 1  
Oscar Castenada • 296-2216

Mindful Bellydance  
Tribal fundamentals class for all levels  
Thursdays, 7 p.m., Studio 1  
Sawako Ama • [lovebreath@infocircle.net](mailto: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](mailto:lovebreath@infocircle.net)

Sacramento Powwow Dance Class  
All ages and levels • Free  
6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays, Curtis Hall  
Shonnie Bear: 747-5133

Irish American Ceili Dancers  
1st and 3rd Mondays, 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

River City Taps – Tap Dance  
Mon-Thu 5-8:30 p.m. Thu 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Sat. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Studio 3  
[www.rivercitytaps.com](http://www.rivercitytaps.com)

Polynesian Dance  
Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Studio 2 • [alohatyra@aol.com](mailto:alohatyra@aol.com)

### MARTIAL ARTS

Eagle Claw Kung Fu Academy of Sacramento  
Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. 441-7215  
Saturdays, 12:30-2 p.m., Studio 2

Sacramento Bushido Kai  
Japanese Martial Arts for ages 4-Adult  
For schedule, Michael Mason: 616-5452

Sacramento Sword School  
Martial Sword Arts of Europe  
Thurs, 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](mailto:Lohan36@sbcglobal.net)

### YOGA

Iyengar Yoga  
Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. • Studio 1  
Gladys Callander: 396-8055

Tai Chi - Chi Kung & Yoga  
Call for schedule. Tara Stiles: 454-5526

### 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  
Sundays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Room 10  
Lee Aviles: 203-6461

Bethesda AOH Church of God  
Sundays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Room 11  
Pastor Geraldine Carte: 392-2877

New Covenant Ministries  
Sundays, 9 a.m. - Noon  
Room 9 • Pastor John Jacobs

Rising Star Ministries  
Sundays, 1:30-4 p.m. Room 10

### OTHER

Golden Eagles Toastmasters Club  
1st and 3rd Sundays, 10:15-11:30 a.m.  
Room 11 • Lonna Moreno  
[goldeneagles.toast@yahoo.com](mailto:goldeneagles.toast@yahoo.com)

Atheist and Other Freethinkers  
1:30-4 p.m., Room 10  
April 14, June 9, Aug. 11  
[www.aofonline.org](http://www.aofonline.org)

Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation  
1st Sunday of the month, 1 – 4 p.m. Curtis Hall  
[knowthyselfassoul.org](http://knowthyselfassoul.org)

Arbonne  
1st Tuesday, 7-8:15 p.m., Room 10  
Tracy Moore 396-4680 or [tracymoore](mailto:tracymoore).

Platinum Insurance & Financial Services  
Final Expense: First Tuesday, 1-2 p.m.:  
Medicare 101: 2nd Saturday, 11 a.m.-noon:  
Room 11 • Free • John Peterson, 832-4815



# Tara Stiles urges students to move, relax and breathe

When Tara Stiles enters the room, she fills it with her beautiful smile, which says, “Be sure to nurture joy in yourself.” Tara greets all her students with a positive and friendly welcome. The focus of her classes -- Yoga, Tai Chi, Meditation and Chi Kung -- is to revitalize the body and mind. Tara began her practice as a young adult in Australia. When she arrived in Sacramento in 1977, she began an adventure of a lifetime.

Whether teaching on the beach at Bodega Bay, on the banks of American River at sunset or at Sierra 2, Tara is a wonderful addition to our many programs. Tara began teaching adult classes at Sierra 2 in 1980 and began working with the seniors 12 years ago with a goal to provide a warm and supportive environment. In her sessions, Tara focuses on how mind and body are interrelated; on love and honoring the body; and quieting the “thinking,” which taps into deeper levels of self.

Tara has conducted classes at Kaiser Permanente for people with health problems. She understands that seniors may have different needs than younger students, so she tailors her classes for them. Tara always encourages students to listen to their bodies. Many students who have said they were unsure of their flexibility and balance have found through Tara’s encouragement and “gentle push” they were able to “stretch” a bit more.

“I highly recommend Tara’s classes,” said Rhonda Rumrey, who has been taking Tai Chi and Chi Kung for



Photo/ Judy Harper  
Relaxing into the yoga pose at the senior center are, left to right, Bea Visnick, Linne Gravestock and Jane Nicols.

over a year. When Rhonda retired, she was looking for ways to improve her health, including improving her balance and increasing her energy as well as seeking new adventures.

“Tara’s classes really fit the bill, and I have found that the discomfort from arthritis in my hands is nearly gone thanks to her classes.”

Mother Nature has always been Tara’s teacher. She loves to be in outdoor settings, gardening, hiking and spending time in the Sierra. The healing power of nature is a key principle of her life and teaching.

At the Senior Center, Tara instructs Gentle Yoga, starting at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, followed by Tai chi at 11:15. Meditation and Chi Kung are at 10 a.m. Fridays. All classes are ongoing. The fee is \$40 for six weeks. Evening classes at Sierra 2 are also available Tuesdays and Thursdays. For a special spring and summer treat, Tara offers a massage therapy session enclosed in her Curtis Park Garden within a large old fig tree surrounded by ferns and flowers. If you would like details on classes or massage, please call the Center at 455-6339 or Tara at 454-5526 or [www.chiyoga.net](http://www.chiyoga.net).

— Karen Oosterman, Senior Center director

## Sierra 2 Senior Center in May

The Senior Center is open to all seniors (age 55 and up). It is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in Room 12 of Sierra 2. The center provides opportunities to keep learning, exercise, meet new people and be actively involved with neighbors. Free (donations accepted) and fee-based classes and activities are on the schedule. See the calendar.

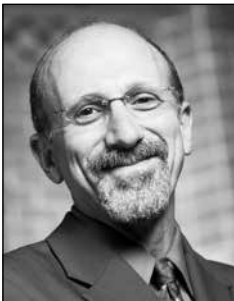
## Schenirer’s message

# Let’s make Sacramento a bike-friendly city

About 6 years ago, my wife and I decided to celebrate our 50th birthdays by signing up for a sprint triathlon — swim, bike and run. We graduated from our run-around-town bikes to entry-level road bikes and began to ride. We haven’t stopped. Between the American River Bike Trail, the Delta and other routes around the City, there is an endless supply of wonderful places to ride. It’s healthy, it’s good for the environment, and there is evidence that is good for the economy.

A few weeks ago, I hosted a Local Government Commission dinner where we talked about creating a bike-friendly community. Our guest speaker was Charles Gandy, head of the Share Our Streets campaign for the City of Long Beach and one of the country’s leading minds on creating bicycle friendly communities. What we saw was exciting. Using numerous strategies, including improved bicycle infrastructure and public awareness campaigns, the city of Long Beach has become one of America’s most bike friendly cities. Since 2012 Long Beach has tripled the number of people who bike or walk to work, and ridership overall is up 50 percent city-wide.

Rather than one big idea, it was a number of small solutions that worked in Long Beach. Among those strategies were building separated bike lanes, establishing a bike share program, using “sharrows” and painting travel lanes green to remind drivers to share the road. These strategies can work in Sacramento, too.



Jay Schenirer  
City Councilmember

As part of their transition away from a car centric city, Long Beach also began working with restaurants to create “parklets,” which adds seating in what was once a parking space. Data shows that restaurants that adopt a parklet have seen a 30 percent increase in business and report hiring 4-6 new employees. Imagine how parklets could transform the Broadway corridor and add excitement to midtown.

Imagine what we can accomplish if we commit to making Sacramento a great bike

City. In 18 months we could make lasting changes to the City that are better for your pocketbook, better for the economy, and better for the environment. Everyone wins. Please let me know if you are interested in helping to move Sacramento in this direction.

Two related items. On May 16-19, I will be participating in the NorCal Aids ride, a 4-day, 330-mile ride to raise money and awareness for HIV / AIDS. For more information or to make a donation for this important cause, you can visit [www.norcalaidscycle.org](http://www.norcalaidscycle.org).

Finally, West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon and I will be hosting a 50K ride from West Sac, into the Delta and back to the Sacramento City Hall to benefit youth programs in the two cities. Save Oct. 12 to ride with us and stay tuned for more information.

If you are not on our list and would like to be, please send Maryann an email at [mrabovsky@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:mrabovsky@cityofsacramento.org).

## SENIOR CENTER AT SIERRA 2

Room 12

For details on classes and events, call 455-6339.

Everyone is welcome.

\* Free (donations requested)

### Spring cleaning?

The Senior Center is seeking your no longer worn jewelry. Our Jewelry Group will reconstruct the items for our yearly fundraiser. This is a great way to help our center. For details, please call 455-6339.

### FITNESS

#### Fall Prevention with Pat Shaw

11:30a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays/Thursdays  
\$20 a month (one class per week)  
\$35 a month (two classes per week)

#### Gentle yoga with Tara Stiles

10-11 a.m. Wednesdays (6 classes \$40)

#### Tai Chi with Tara Stiles

11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Wednesdays (6 classes \$40)

#### Walking and Polewalking Clinic

9 a.m. Thursdays

#### Meditation and Chi Kung with Tara Stiles

10-11 a.m. Fridays (6 classes \$40)

### LEISURE

#### Beginning I Drawing with Patris

Thursdays, 5/2 – 5/23  
8:45-9:45 a.m. • \$48

#### Beginning Drawing II with Patris

Thursdays, 5/2 – 5/23  
9:45–11 a.m. • \$48

#### Improvisation acting with Jetta

Friday, May 31 • 3–5 p.m.

#### Book Club

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Monday, May 13  
“The Paris Wife” by Paula McLain

#### My Story Project meeting

1–2 p.m. Mondays

#### Everyone Can Drum

1-2 p.m. Tuesdays (\$5) studio

#### Crafts and Conversation \*

1-3 p.m. Fridays (except on potluck day)

#### Sierra 2 Jewels \*

1–3 p.m. Fridays (except on potluck day)

#### Life History Writing \*

1–3 p.m. Wednesdays

#### Community Acupuncture Clinic

9:45-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, (\$15)

#### Open Art Studio \*

10 a.m. – noon Fridays  
Bring projects to work on

### CARDS AND GAMES

#### Mahjong \*

10 a.m.–noon, all Mondays except second

#### Bridge just for fun \*

1–4 p.m. Thursdays

#### Ginasta \*

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

#### Pinochle \*

1-3 p.m. Fridays

### EVENTS

#### Monthly potluck

Noon–2 p.m. May 31

#### Senior Committee meeting

10 a.m. May 13

[seniorcenter@sierra2.org](mailto:seniorcenter@sierra2.org)



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# Museum highlights Ray Eames, an early resident of Curtis Park

By Erik Fay  
Member, Curtis Park  
Heritage Committee

One of America's most famous designers grew up in Curtis Park. She's Ray Eames, known internationally for furniture and textile designs, among other works of art. A new exhibit of her work is at the California Museum. Entitled "Ray Eames, A Century of Modern Design," the exhibit will continue through Feb. 23, 2014. Details at [www.californiamuseum.org](http://www.californiamuseum.org).

Ray Eames is the only Curtis Park resident to be in the California Hall of Fame. She lived on Portola Way and Donner Way between 1920 and 1931. Eames designed, or co-designed, era-defining architecture, furniture, textiles, sculpture, medical tools, toys and showcase pavilions at a World's Fair. Her pieces are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New



York and the Library of Congress.

Ray Bernice Alexandra Kaiser was born on Dec. 15, 1912, at Sutter Hospital. She attended the Highland Park School through fourth grade, the new Sierra School for fifth and sixth grade, John Sutter Junior High, Sacramento High School and Sacramento Junior College.

Ray enjoyed a creative and culturally active childhood. Theater, drawing, design and dance were part of her life thanks to her father, a successful businessman who was involved in theater management.



Courtesy of Midge Kaiser Martin  
**Ray Eames, about age 17, poses on Donner Way (circa 1929).**

During her time at Sacramento Junior College, she took art and design classes and worked in the theater.

She produced many design drawings and paintings in this period. One of her signature design themes was first documented while she lived on Donner Way.

Ray's father died in 1929, and her mother decided in 1931 to move the family to New York. By this time, Ray had already been noticed by, and introduced to, several high profile cultural activity sponsors in Sacramento, including Eleanor McClatchy, publisher of The Sacramento Bee and patron of the arts.

In 1940, Ray was admitted to the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. The next year she married Charles Eames, a Cranbrook instructor. They moved to Los Angeles and soon became among the top designers in the country. The museum's exhibit demonstrates the scope of Ray's achievements and provides rare examples of her early designs and work from her years in Curtis Park.

## Theater technician extraordinaire Sherrika Darnell has flair for lighting up our lives

By Valerie Burrows  
Facility administrator

As the 24th St. Theatre on-call technician, Sherrika Darnell has lit up our lives, and the lives of our theater renters, for the past two and half years. Many adults and children have had the thrill of performing for the first time on a stage with the help of Sherrika's designing and operating the lights and sound for their productions.

Sherrika has been working in the musical theater and concert industry for several years and gained high-quality and varied experience in many aspects of production and management. She is passionate about

what she does and particularly enjoys live stage entertainment. Some of the theater groups she's worked with include Garbeau's Dinner Theater, El Dorado Musical Theater and Runaway Stage Productions.

She is also one of the founding members and instructors of Dream Collectives. Started in 2005, the organization aims to give students the resources, education, tools and experiences that positively contribute to society and their family environment. They do this through an interactive program that they teach at local schools.

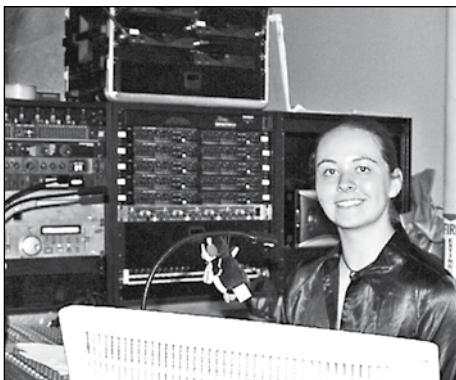
Sherrika's other passions include fitness and dance.

As manager of the racquetball department at Millennium Sportsclub

El Dorado in Shingle Springs from 2004-2007, she organized statewide racquetball tournaments, group and private lessons as the club pro, and coordinated racquetball for the kids summer camp. She also competed internationally in tournaments.

In 2009 she won the High Bronze Ballroom Dancer award and 2nd place in the ballroom competition for the "Dancing with the Stars Tour Sacramento."

When not working in theaters, Sherrika teaches Zumba at local fitness clubs. She recently helped a dance group introduce a Hip-Hop program to Zumba called "Fierce Funk." It's become such a hit that Zumba is incorporating it into its programming and has invited the group to present the class at teacher conferences and conventions across



**Sherrika Darnell creates lights and sound at the theater tech booth.**

the U.S. and Europe.

Sherrika says, "Anything I do in the theater and the dance world gives me an opportunity to let my creativity flow, and hopefully bring a smile to someone else, which in turn makes me smile. Life is about inspiring health and happiness." She goes on to say, "I really enjoy working at the Sierra 2 Center with the awesome staff and the diverse group of theater renters."

**At Home in Curtis Park.**

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# COMMUNITY CORNER

## Jerry Piering leaves rich legacy

Longtime Fourth Avenue neighbor **Jerry Piering** passed away suddenly March 20. He and his wife, **Margie**, moved to Curtis Park in 1968 and raised their three sons — **Ron, Rob** and **Rick**, who attended Sierra School. During most of his civil engineering career, Jerry designed levees and parks throughout California for the Army Corps of Engineers. He retired in 1994.

Beginning in 1969, Jerry coached the Curtis Park Little League. The team played on the baseball diamond behind the Sacramento Children's Home. The Home provided the land in exchange for its children playing with the League at no cost. Jerry became president of Curtis Park's Little League in 1973 and continued in that role for two years. He mapped out and helped construct the minor, major and senior baseball diamonds. These were eventually removed when additional buildings were constructed on the Children's Home property.

When the family returned home in 1979, after three years in Germany, where Jerry worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, Jerry jumped in to help restore Sierra 2.



**Jerry Piering**  
1936 – 2013

He helped design and build the playground in what is now Sierra Green Park. He and his sons built the frames for the original wooden structure. Margie recalls another neighbor worked for Teichert Construction and if Teichert had leftover concrete from a job, the playground construction volunteers went to work late in the

day to pour the donated concrete.

In 1981, Jerry designed and built the low wall surrounding the courtyard at the intersection of 24th Street and Fourth Avenue, with the assistance of longtime neighbor Walt James.

Jerry also worked on remodeling the school auditorium into the 24th Street Theatre. He designed and built the framework for the sloping floor. He and neighbor Bud Worley sourced the theatre seats from a closed Oak Park movie theater.

Upon his retirement, Jerry and Margie spent five months each summer and fall in Northern Minnesota, where they had a cabin.

Jerry left two legacies: his loving family, including four grandchildren, and many aspects of Sierra 2.

— Susan MacCulloch



Photo/Joan Cusick

**Evan James, in Dayle's arms, will have quite a birth story to tell his friends. Dad Larry holds first born, Case, age 2.**

## Fast baby foils parents' plans

A calm birth with a midwife was just what **Larry and Dayle Rodenborn** had in mind for their second child. Apparently their son didn't get the message, and his birth was anything but calm.

Dayle's water broke about 3:30 a.m. March 28, and the midwife at Sutter Davis told them to come in. Just as Larry drove past the exit for Olive Drive on Interstate 80, Dayle, kneeling on the passenger seat of their station wagon, said to pull over. "His head is out," was her emphatic cry.

Larry pulled over, cut the engine and rushed to open the passenger door. "My son was looking at me," he said.

Soon Dayle was holding **Evan James**, who was still attached by his

umbilical cord. The parents called 911 before they realized they could just go on to the hospital. Larry said the emergency crews were happy to help. As for Evan's birth certificate, Dayle and Larry still have to file forms with Yolo County and bring Evan in as proof of birth. The hospital would not issue a birth certificate for a baby born off site.

The Rodenborns have lived on Third Avenue for five years. Their first son, **Case**, is two years old. The pair owns the Tryphon Vineyards near Grass Valley, and their Sangiovese is for sale at Taylor's Market. Dayle is also a social worker in private practice, specializing in eating disorders.

## Red-faced cyclist grateful for his helmet

It would be unfair to say that **Dennis Winger** of Third Avenue didn't see the car coming. He did. He was training for the 2013 NorCal AIDs Cycle Ride on a lonely county road between Vacaville and Winters on Feb. 17. When he saw the car, it seemed so far away he thought he had plenty of time to get through the intersection first. Unfortunately, he was wrong. The car with the right of way hit him hard enough to throw him 100 feet into the air.

Dennis suffered a broken scapula, several fractured ribs and an ankle broken in three

places. He also left part of his ear on the blacktop as he slid across the road. His helmet saved his life.

"I'm embarrassed to say that I did this totally to myself," Winger said. "The driver of the car wasn't at fault. I just misjudged the speed of the car and didn't stop at the stop sign."

Winger is now at home in a wheelchair. He will miss the NorCal AIDS Cycle Ride in May, where cyclists get pledges and ride 330 miles to raise money for HIV/AIDS services in the Sacramento Valley. Instead, he will

be cheering participating neighbors, including Jay Schenirer and Bina Lefkovitz of 10th Avenue and Michael Madsen, the owner of the Coffee Garden on Franklin Boulevard. To donate to a cyclist, go to [www.norcalaidscycle.org](http://www.norcalaidscycle.org).

"My message to everyone is to wear your helmet and stop at every stop sign, no matter what road you are cycling on," Winger said. "I hope to be back cycling by September, along with being able to fully walk again."

— Rosanna Herber



Photo/Joan Cusick

**Dennis Winger recups at home from bike accident.**



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## Bret Harte News

# 34th annual Pancake Breakfast set for May 18

By Char Klassen  
Viewpoint Staff Writer

The time for pancakes and maple goodness is just around the corner. The 34th Annual Bret Harte PTA Pancake Breakfast is May 18. A time honored tradition, the pancake breakfast draws together current and former Bret Harte families, teachers and community members. Marketed more as a community event than a fundraiser, the event features low



costs so everyone can attend. Organizers arrange for just about everything to be donated via the Bret Harte community. Each plate is about \$5.

The pancake breakfast always proves to be a great opportunity to see firsthand what Bret Harte offers families and to experience its embracing welcome. There are no bells and whistles at this event. It's just a generous offering of simple food and an opportunity to

connect. Tables will be scattered about the playground's blacktop for guests to dine and visit.

### Beautification Day

The campus was completely cleaned last month thanks to families and students who came out for Beautification Day. Volunteers helped spring clean classrooms, windows, play structures and did other odd jobs.

Teacher Cathy Glen commented, "The day was work but it was fun. Everyone was working together and not fighting."

## Mark Your Calendar

**Memorial Day Holiday**  
**NO SCHOOL Monday, May 27**

Interim Principal Mr. Mac noted, "I am just so amazed and humbled by the number of adults and students willing to help and the enthusiasm with which everyone went to work making a difference for our kids. It is truly amazing what can be done when we all work together!"

## District: Historic designation appears possible for Curtis Park

Continued from page 1

Unless a single historic house meets the high threshold of individual landmark status, there is nothing to stop or even discourage a teardown. The replacement merely has to "meet code," which can result in an oversized structure with little regard to its surrounding neighborhood.

Janice's presentation suggested that Curtis Park still has a high degree of historic integrity and would qualify as a Historic District in the Sacramento's official Register of Historic & Cultural Resources.

"Each house contributes to the district as a whole and to the quality of life that we all enjoy," Janice said. Exterior remodel projects would first require submission of preliminary plans for

preservation planning review before proceeding to permit application.

While this preliminary review could affect the historic streetscape, the assurance of neighborhood protection from construction altering the "historic fabric" would be worth the effort for concerned neighbors. The City's Preservation staff assists property owners or their architects with project approval within historic standards. Many examples of sensitive remodels in Curtis Park demonstrate how space can be added by extending from the rear, or adding a second story set back to retain the front of the house from street level.

If a movement to gain historic district status for Curtis Park succeeds, there are questions regarding a property owner's freedom of choice. For example, would a homeowner's choice of exterior paint color be scrutinized by a design review board? What about new landscaping or a second story addition? Are extra costs associated with an added layer of review?

Protection equates to preservation review for exterior work, "with the idea that the streetscape is what we all share and are affected by," Janice Calpo emphasized. "Preservation review is not

CC&R's (Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions, binding rules in homeowner associations). There is no regulation concerning homeowner choices of landscapes, paint colors or interior work."

The benefits of historic district status may also affect a primary concern for many neighbors: property values. According to Janice, "Studies have consistently shown that stable (protected) historic districts increase the property value for all who live there."

The meeting concluded with suggestions for providing more information to the neighborhood about historic designation perhaps within a community forum under SCNA auspices. For more information: curtisparkhistoricdistrict@gmail.com.



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