

## Traffic engineers will update neighbors at meeting May 10

By Rosanna Herber  
Viewpoint staff writer

City traffic engineers are scheduled to talk to neighbors early this month about traffic calming measures scheduled for installation in late May on several neighborhood streets. The engineers will also explain how to submit traffic concerns to the City, and how the department handles each request. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. May 10 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2.

This meeting results from an in-depth discussion the Neighborhood Concerns Committee (NCC) had about a traffic issue raised by Mike Belgard and other neighbors who live in the southwest corner of Curtis Park. While Belgard did not get a specific resolution to his problem, he did generate renewed interest in traffic impacts surfacing from the development of Curtis Park Village.

Belgard, who lives on 24th Street, explained that when the traffic signal was moved from 24th Street to Crocker Drive, he can no longer turn left on to Sutterville Road. He moved to 24th Street in 2010, just after the village was approved.

"I saw the bollards on 10th Avenue and wondered why they were blocking the entrance to Curtis Park Village," Belgard said. For him to turn

*Please see Traffic, page 8*



Photo/Mike Scheible

## Pedestrian bridge nears completion

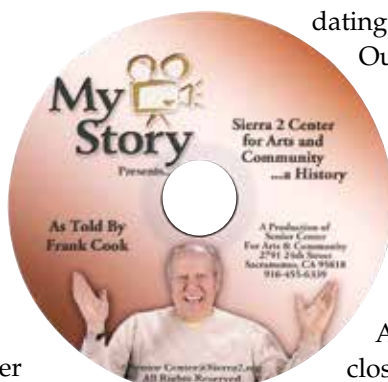
Construction workers guide the handrails onto the western side of the new pedestrian bridge that will link Curtis Park Village and Sacramento City College. The bridge is expected to open Memorial Day.

## Frank Cook looks back

## DVD details Sierra 2's evolution

By Linda Haines  
Special to the Viewpoint

A new DVD gives Curtis Park neighbors a chance to learn more about the history of Sierra 2. Longtime residents will find it a trip down memory lane, and newer neighbors find out what they're already experiencing: Curtis Park is a special place to live. The new DVD is the creation story of the Sierra 2 Center. It's portrayed through a personal oral history and with photos



dating back almost 40 years.

Our neighbor Frank Cook, a founding member of Sierra 2, shared his memories of the major rehabilitation project that rescued the Sierra School building from neglect and ruin.

After the school was closed due to earthquake safety standards established by the Field Act in the 1970s, the school district abandoned the site. The neighborhood rallied to save the building, and Sierra 2 Center was born.

*Please see History, page 7*

## City completes streetlight project in part of Curtis Park

By Erik Fay  
Viewpoint staff writer

The October 2015 Heritage Matters column featured the city's Curtis Park neighborhood streetlight project. Work consisted of restoration, improved infrastructure, and maintenance. The streetlights were installed by developers in the 1920s and maintained by the city.

The City of Sacramento's Department of Public Works Electrical Design Group has now completed work on the streetlights in the area bordered by Donner Way, Sutterville Road, Franklin Boulevard and East Curtis Drive. The project was started in late September 2015 and completed by the projected goal of early spring. The work wrapped up in early March with the final report still in its finishing stage.

The project faced a number of challenges, including a work stoppage due to a change in contractors. Pacific Excavation, Inc. completed the work. The lack of up-to-date maintenance records resulted in surprises along the way regarding existing infrastructure.

Streetlight parts needing replacement were made by the original manufacturer of our 1920s streetlights. The new streetlight parts are constructed of cast iron and steel. The new light globes are more frosted than the original globes. The induction

*Please see Streetlights, page 5*



Photo/Joan Cusick

Farm fresh produce is within a short walk from home.

## Oak Park Market's season opens May 7

The Oak Park Farmers Market expects to reopen at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 7 in McClatchy Park. Organizers plan to have the market open every Saturday until October. The lively venue will bring back free yoga by the Yoga Seed Collective and



continue its popular Food for Thought chef series. There will also be live music and free crafts for the children.

## Tacos on the menu for First Friday May 6

Sacramento's Best Taco Catering will sizzle up First Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. May 6 in Curtis Hall at Sierra 2. Delicious street tacos made with chicken, carne asada or roasted vegetables will be prepared on site and served with beans, Spanish rice, fresh tortilla chips and homemade salsa.

Dinners are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Beverages will be available for purchase separately, including local craft beer.

**BIG DAY OF GIVING MAY 3** 24 HOURS TO GIVE WHERE YOUR HEART IS

To find out why it's so important to donate on May 3, see Terri's column on page 2.



Photo/Abbie Blackman

Last year's yard sale spirited wheeling and dealing for all ages.

In the late '70s and early '80s Curtis Park neighbors set up their yard sale goods on tables in the Sierra 2 Green. The old school yard burst with bargains and laughter as neighbors visited and bargained. Some enterprising vendors sold cookies and coffee. Then the professional yard sale people started creeping in, and the neighborhood event lost its hometown feel.

Now we have the neighborhood-wide yard sale.

## Treasure hunting in Curtis Park May 21

Although maybe not as much concentrated fun, the event draws people to walk and bike the streets in their hunt for bargains. They're sure to find children's books, toys and a few antiques.

This year's yard sale will take place Saturday May 21.

SCNA will advertise the event, and residents may set up their goods in their yards or garages. No registration is necessary.



Notes from April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

Board agenda touches on McClatchy’s athletic fields and our trees

A request from McClatchy

Brian Nelson from Restore the Roar at McClatchy High School asked the board to support the booster organization that is trying to bridge funding gaps in the school’s athletic field and facilities. Nelson said the facilities at Sacramento’s largest high school (by enrollment) are unsafe, and the fields are not usable during the winter.

The board approved a letter supporting the effort to modernize McClatchy facilities.

Trees in the Park

Dan Pskowski reported that there is a cost of \$500 per tree to treat the trees in Curtis Park for Dutch Elm disease, costing SCNA \$14,000 per cycle. The new replants are doing well, but Dan said the City will not train and prune them properly. Dan

plans to do weekly inspections.

A motion was approved to pay for another three-year cycle to protect the trees from infection. Dan said that the City tree ordinance is going forward without the recommendations from arborists and community members, and there will be no extra notification to the public when the city plans to take down trees.

Land use design request

Andrea Rosen reported that Curtis Park Village received land use entitlements along with Planned Unit Development guidelines. SCNA would like the city planning department to issue a courtesy notice when there is an application for design review. A junior planner was assigned to the CPV project.

President’s Report

Eric Johnson asked board members to submit what they would like to see from SCNA, giving thoughts regarding what the association could be doing for neighbors and the community.

Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Terri Shettle

gave a shoutout to Jay Shenirer’s office for getting police officers to show up when there was a dangerous transient in the building. After many calls to the police with no one showing up, Terri called the councilmember’s office and within 10 minutes an officer arrived and took care of the situation.

Treasurer’s Report

Reporting for Treasurer Joe Eschelman, board member Jonathan La Turner said the financials were in line with previous months and income is up because of the full rental schedule. The finance committee is requesting help from a certified public accounting firm on budgeting and forecasting to free up Terri’s time for other pressing issues.

Facilities

Options for early departure from of the Castro Way cottage were discussed at a recent meeting with Runaway Stage. The theater group is scheduled to leave both of its tenant spaces when its lease ends June 30. There are already a dozen groups looking forward to renting the theater from all over the country.

Development

Larry Easterling, is working on guidelines to vet organizations requesting the use of the Sierra 2 name and logo.

Senior Center

Terri reported that some staff from the Curtis Park Court senior housing complex will visit the Sierra 2 Center soon. It is hoped that there will be a shuttle to take people back and forth.

Neighborhood Concerns Committee

Rosanna Herber reported that the NCC met with neighbors in March to discuss the 10th Avenue bollards. The meeting wrapped up with an agreement that the bollards should stay in place for now. City traffic official Bucky Perez has agreed to come to a meeting to explain the traffic calming measures in the works.

Viewpoint

Rosanna met with the Viewpoint staff and discussed upcoming articles.  
— Kate Van Buren, Board secretary

The next meeting of the SCNA Board will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2. For more information, call the Sierra 2 office, 452–3005.

Executive Director’s report

BIG Day of Giving May 3 is important for SCNA

The Big Day of Giving is right around the corner. We are excited to be participating in the region’s biggest day of giving on Tuesday, May 3. We have planned many projects that need your support.

On this one day each year, the community pulls together to support nonprofits that work to elevate, enrich and advocate for life in Sacramento. This year, there are 570 nonprofits participating, all with varying needs and heartfelt stories of why supporting them is important.

When it comes to our story and appeal for support, we are no different than all the other nonprofits. We have a purpose and we need resources to accomplish its many facets. Whether a person lives in the neighborhood or comes from

TERRI SHETTLE  
Sierra 2 Executive Director



other places to attend classes, meetings, workshops, shows, or events, we require the resources to meet their needs and expectations.

Sierra 2 Center was born to facilitate and develop artistic, cultural, social, recreational and educational opportunities for Curtis Park and the broader Sacramento region. We provide

a gathering place for the more than 5,000 residents of Curtis Park who want to focus on land use, protection of trees and natural habitat, park care and usability, traffic, crime, and City bike/pedestrian planning.

Much of what we do cannot be funded solely by Sierra 2 Center operations and memberships. We require additional support to make ends meet.

Some examples of underfunded or unfunded activities include the Music in the Park concert series, Curtis Fest, First Friday Neighborhood dinners, Viewpoint newspaper, children’s activities, tree advocacy and Adopt A Park coordination.

This year, we would like to continue protecting and preserving the trees in the neighborhood, and we must decide whether we can continue the treatment

of the Elm trees at an expense of \$14,000 or dedicate funds to other tree planting efforts.

We need to replace the theater stage floors, seats, upgrade the lighting, and replace the curtains for an estimated cost of \$50,000. We need to purchase equipment and retro-fit the space for the Technology Lab. And, we want to purchase supplies and equipment to build on the Wellness Program.

There is a long list of capital improvements and general operational needs at Sierra 2 Center along with the financial gap of underfunded activities designed to enrich the quality of life in the neighborhood.

You can help by making a donation on Big Day of Giving. For 24 hours on May 3, for as little as \$25, you can help ensure that our projects succeed and that we continue our work with the consistency and quality you have come to expect. We hope you will encourage friends, neighbors, and colleagues to make a donation to support Sierra 2 Center and SCNA. At [www.Bigdayofgiving.org](http://www.Bigdayofgiving.org), find Sierra 2 Center or use the link on our website on May 3 to make a donation.



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Trees of Curtis Park

English Elm treatments in Curtis Park to continue for now

By Dan Pskowski  
Viewpoint staff writer

This year it is time to treat the 12 English elms at north end of William Curtis Park with a fungicide to protect them from Dutch elm disease (D.E.D.), a vascular wilt disease. Once an elm becomes infected with the disease, removal is required to prevent the spread of this disease to other elms either by bark beetle or root graft transmission.

The fungicide, Arbor Tech 20S, which is injected into the tree’s vascular system, successfully prevents elms from becoming infected with Dutch elm. One treatment is effective for three years. A second group of five elms located in the two areas at the north park entrance are scheduled to be treated next year. The total cost to treat these 17 elms is approximately \$14,000. This year’s treatment is approximately \$10,000.

These treatments, which began in



Photo/Dan Pskowski

**Treatment may not be necessary for healthy elm trees in the park.**

2007, were in response to the removal of five English elms in the park due to Dutch elm disease. Residents were concerned and preventative care was advocated to protect the park from losing all the elm trees. Since the

treatments began, none of the treated elms or the other elms in the park has contracted the disease. SCNA’s decision to treat the trees prevented significant loses of elms to the disease, which has occurred in McKinley and McClatchy parks where there were no treatments.

The question came up about this expenditure and whether SCNA should continue to spend \$14,000 on a three-year treatment cycle in order to protect this group of English elms. At April’s SCNA board meeting, I presented four options to the board:

- Request the Parks Department to take over treatment of the elms.
- Purchase the product and have Parks Department staff apply the fungicide.
- Treat every other elm in the two groups. Therefore, if the untreated elm contracts the disease, the adjacent elms are protected from the spread of disease by root graft transmission and/or bark beetle.
- Discontinue treatments and set up

a weekly spring/summer monitoring program to survey the elms for symptoms (wilted leaves that hang onto the branch). Early detection and prompt removal of infected trees is the standard protocol for containment of Dutch elm and used by most municipalities. If the disease reoccurs on multiple elms in the park, then resume fungicidal treatments.

My recommendation was to discontinue treatments and monitor the elms. However, after numerous questions/discussion, a motion to continue the fungicidal treatments of the elms in the park was passed by the SCNA Board. It was also suggested that funds be raised to help cover treatment expenses. I sensed that my fellow Board members believed the neighborhood did not want to take the risk of no treatments only to have the disease return.

So, tell me if you think the treatments should continue. Let me know at danielpskowski@gmail.com.

VIEWPOINT

Editors	Susan MacCulloch Judy Scheible
Production	Carol Blackman
Contributors	Valerie Burrows Ariel Calvert Dennis Cusick Erik Fay Rosanna Herber Eric Johnson Faith Johnstone Craig McCulloch Fayzah Mughal Dan Pskowski Andrea Rosen Terri Shettle
Ad Manager	Fran Coletti
Distribution	Gerre Buehler
Photography	Rudy Calpo Joan Cusick Judy Harper

The *Viewpoint* appreciates neighbors who submit news about their babies, new neighbors, milestones and special events. This includes letters to the editor. Please send them by the 15th of the month and include contact information. Please send to [jgscheible@hotmail.com](mailto:jgscheible@hotmail.com) with *Viewpoint* in the subject field.

By Valerie Burrows  
Facility Administrator

**A day for scrapbooking**

Creative Memories Advisor Tricia Nelson offers scrapbook makers a chance to catch up on their memories from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 14 in Room 11 at Sierra 2.

The 7-hour session is one way to celebrate National Scrapbook Day. Participants will also learn to use scrapbooking products and tools. Cost of the workshop is \$30, which includes food and beverage and half a table for work space.

To register, call 947-066 or email [Cmtricia73@gmail.com](mailto:Cmtricia73@gmail.com).

For information, visit [www.creativememories.com/user/tricianelson](http://www.creativememories.com/user/tricianelson).

**Become a successful choir member**

Beginning singers and seasoned choral members will find plenty to learn in the Choral Skills class that will meet 10:30 a.m. to noon Fridays from May 13-July 1 in Room 10.

The class will focus on:

- How to sing efficiently (vocal technique)

## What’s new at Sierra 2

- How to sing effectively toward improved group sounding (intonation and blending)
- How to hold your part when another part is sounding
- How to understand written choral music (a choral score)

The cost is \$50. To register, contact Instructor Christiana Quick-Cleveland by phone at 765-6537 or email [christiana@tianame.com](mailto:christiana@tianame.com).

**Improv Jam aims to cultivate creativity**

Morpho Theater's drop-in Improv Jam is held at 5 p.m. Sundays in Room 9 at Sierra 2.

It’s a great workshop for beginners interested in improv and

for seasoned performers to keep their improv skills sharp.

Students learn to let go of inhibitions, give free rein to their creativity and gain confidence.

Instructors provide a fun and safe environment in which to explore improvisation, including:

- Building trust within the group
- Creating characters quickly
- Exploring character relationships
- Developing scenes with a scene partner

The cost is \$5 per class, drop-ins welcome.

For information, contact Michael Davenport at [michaeldavenport78@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldavenport78@gmail.com).

## Help us honor your graduates

The *Viewpoint* would like to honor this year’s high school and college graduates from our neighborhood in the June edition. If you have a graduate, please submit his or her picture and personal information to us by May 15.

You may drop off the photo at the Sierra 2 office with the graduate’s name and street, graduating school (major?) and future plans, or you may email the photo as a high resolution jpeg to [carolxo@comcast.net](mailto:carolxo@comcast.net). Please include your phone number in case there are questions. For photos left at the office, please be sure the name appears on the back of the photo, and let us know if you need the photo returned. If you have questions, call Carol at 456-3352.

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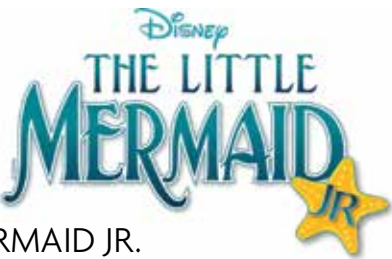
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DISNEY'S  
LITTLE MERMAID JR.

Young Actors Stage

**Showtimes:** Friday, May 6, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, May 7, 1 p.m.; 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
Sunday, May 8, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

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

**Info:** [youngactorsstage.com](http://youngactorsstage.com)

The audience journeys “under the sea” with Ariel and her aquatic friends in this adaptation from Disney’s 2008 Broadway production. In a magical underwater kingdom, the beautiful young mermaid Ariel longs to leave her ocean home — and her fins — behind and live in the world above. But first she has to defy her father, King Triton, make a deal with the evil sea witch Ursula, and convince the handsome Prince Eric that she’s the girl whose enchanting voice he’s been seeking.

LES MISÉRABLES  
SCHOOL EDITION

Young Actors Stage

Showtimes:

Friday, May 20, 7 p.m.  
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Sunday, May 22,  
11 a.m. & 3 p.m.  
Friday, May 27, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, May 28,  
2 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
Sunday, May 29,  
11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

**Tickets:** \$15 (all seats)

**Info:** [youngactorsstage.com](http://youngactorsstage.com)

Winner of more than 100 international awards and seen worldwide by more than 65 million people, “Les Misérables” is an epic and uplifting story about survival of the human spirit. Now adapted for high school performers, the musical’s school edition features a memorable score and remarkable characters.  
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COUNTRY JOE  
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TRIBUTE TO  
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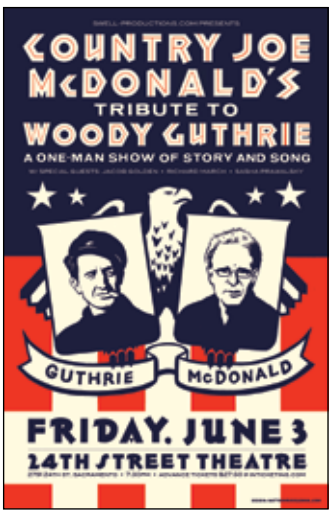
Showtime:

Friday, June 3  
7:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$27.50 Advance /  
\$30 at the door

**Tickets:** 447-6508 or [www.swell-productions.com](http://www.swell-productions.com)

Country Joe McDonald straddles the two polar events of the ’60s--Woodstock and the Vietnam War. His music spans a broad range of style and content. He began his solo career with a collection of Woody Guthrie songs. After 48 albums and more than four decades in the public eye as a folksinger, Country Joe McDonald qualifies as one of the best known names from the ’60s rock era still performing. He continues traveling the world recording and evolving.



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  
Mondays, 6–7 p.m., Studio 2  
Wednesdays, 6–7 p.m., Studio 1  
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](mailto:Lohan36@sbcglobal.net)

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

FITNESS

**Zumba with Toya & Linda**  
Monday/Wednesday, 7:30–8:30 p.m.,  
Studio 2  
[LaToyaBufford@yahoo.com](mailto:LaToyaBufford@yahoo.com)

**Dancehall PowerUp**  
Thursdays, 8:30–9:30 p.m., Studio 3  
[LaToyaBufford@yahoo.com](mailto:LaToyaBufford@yahoo.com)

**Motivational Aerobic Dance Exercise**  
Monday/Wednesday, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Room 10  
Kia: [keynorrisfitness@gmail.com](mailto:keynorrisfitness@gmail.com)

**Zumba**  
Friday, 6–7 p.m. & Sunday, 11–noon. Studio 2  
[AbrahamContreras@yahoo.com](mailto:AbrahamContreras@yahoo.com)

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



CHILDREN

**Capital City Music Together**  
Children 5 and under. For schedule:  
Jennie Ribadeneira: 990-3222  
[www.capitalcitymusictogether.com](http://www.capitalcitymusictogether.com)

OTHER

**Center for Soul Healing**  
Tuesdays, Room 12, 7–8:30 p.m.  
3rd Saturday, Room 12, 1–5 p.m.  
[CenterForSoulHealing.com](http://CenterForSoulHealing.com)

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

**Marxist School of Sacramento**  
Speaker Series: call for schedule  
799-1354, [marxistschool.org](http://marxistschool.org)

**Improv Jam class**  
Sundays, 5 p.m., Room 9  
Cost: \$5 per class, drop-ins welcome  
Michael Davenport, [michaeldavenport78@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldavenport78@gmail.com)

YOGA

**Iyengar Yoga**  
Tuesday, 10–11 a.m. • Studio 1  
Gladys Callander: 743-0246

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

ART

**Glass mosaic classes**  
Tuesdays, Noon–3 p.m., Room 11  
[karenssharp51@gmail.com](mailto:karenssharp51@gmail.com)

**Watercolor class**  
Fridays, 9 a.m.–noon, Room 11  
Michael Mikolon, 730-9347  
[www.artistmichael.com](http://www.artistmichael.com)

DANCE

**Fenix Drum & Dance**  
3rd Fridays, 5:30–7 p.m., Studio 3  
Angela James, 205-3970

**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)

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

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

**West African Dance**  
2nd & 4th Fridays, 5:30–7 p.m., Studio 1  
Jessa Cruz: 365-3721

**River City Taps – Tap Dance**  
Monday–Thursday 5–8:30 p.m.  
Thursday, 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.  
Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Studio 3  
[www.rivercitytaps.com](http://www.rivercitytaps.com)

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

**Auntie Amy's Hula**  
Thursdays, 3–4 p.m., Studio 1  
Amy Cornellier, 792-5561

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

**Bethlehem Baptist Church**  
2nd & 4th Sundays, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Room 12  
Pastor Benson, 230-8069

**Wings of Mercy & Grace Church, FCF**  
Sundays, 2:30–4:30 p.m., Rm. 11  
Pastors Dee & Eric Asbury: (209) 276-5340

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

**Sacramento Native American Believers Fellowship**  
Sundays, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Room 10  
Lee Aviles, 203-6461

**Baha'is**  
Call for schedule  
491-5871, [sacamentobahais.org](http://sacamentobahais.org)

**Mustard Seed Faith Ministries**  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Room 9  
Pastor Dorothy Hayes, 213-0901

**Gnostic Christian Kabbalah**  
Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m., Room 9 or 12  
Elder Gideon, 250-3099


MUSIC

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

**String orchestra lessons**  
Second and Fourth Wednesday  
7:30–8:30 p.m., Room 9  
Krystyna Taylor, 216-0429

**Japanese Taiko drumming**  
For schedule: Kristy Oshiro,  
[kristyoshiro@gmail.com](mailto:kristyoshiro@gmail.com)

**Choral Skills Class**  
Fridays; May 13–July 1, 10:30–Noon, Room 10  
Christiana Quick-Cleveland, 765-6537



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Schenirer's message

# Too much lead in our district weighs heavily on my heart

Recent reports in *The Bee* and television news have outlined a lead contamination issue at Mangan Park near the Executive Airport. In short, lead dust from a city owned gun range leaked from the structure and contaminated the soil around the facility, and a breakdown in government systems prevented the problem from being addressed in an appropriate and timely manner.

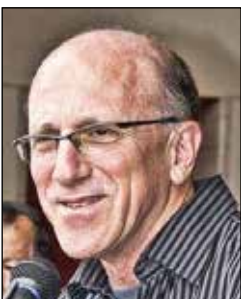
However, it was the other lead-related incident that happened last month that breaks my heart. At 6 p.m. on April 12, two young men got into a fight with another young man at McClatchy Park. Two of the young men, believed to be ages 15 and 17, pulled out handguns and fired 24 shots at the victim (also 17), striking him eight times in the lower body. The victim survived, but the incident terrified those in the park, including the two little league teams playing some 60 feet away.

For those who regularly read my article or follow my work, you know I have repeatedly called for additional supports for our City's young people.

For the past 20 years I have personally raised money for programs that support at-risk kids. It's not enough. If we as a community are going to seriously address the needs of our young people, we need the resources for programs that accommodate all those in need. The challenges our young people face are not insurmountable. We know what programs keep kids off the streets and prepare them for success in school, career and life; we just need the will to do something about it.

I have written Measure Y to meet this challenge, and I hope you will join me.

The issue of lead at Mangan Park stems from a shuttered indoor gun range built in the 1960s. The volume of lead dust produced by bullets in the antiquated facility proved too difficult and costly to maintain so the facility was closed in December of 2014. It has since been discovered that lead dust made its way outside the facility. The



Jay Schenirer  
City Councilmember

good news is that testing shows the lead levels appear to be toxic in only a small area immediately around the range and more importantly, our initial tests show that the primary use areas of the park, such as the playground, picnic area, pool, and soccer fields are all safe and free of lead contamination.

Clearly, there was a breakdown in our internal City systems: The contaminated soil was allowed to go untested for too long and the neighborhood was not notified of the situation. These processes will be fixed.

Right now, my top priority is ensuring public safety and cleaning up the contaminated soil. My office is working with experts at the County Environmental Management and the State Department of Toxic Substance Control to develop a remediation plan as quickly as possible. My priorities are to clean the park, protect public health and then address any system

changes that need to happen. If you have any questions about this issue please contact my office.

Lastly, you may have noticed the project to replace a number of the street lamps in our neighborhood is complete. Similar to making a repair to an older home, this project was more complicated and took longer than anticipated. Many of our neighbors were also involved to protect the historic integrity of the lights.

While the project is an overall improvement to our neighborhood, some Curtis Park Residents have raised concerns about the excessive brightness of the light fixtures. My office is currently working with the City Department of Public Works and the affected homeowners to develop a cost-effective solution to the invasive light projecting into homes. I hope that this solution will be implemented in the coming weeks.

As usual, please feel free to contact me with any question at [jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org) or stop me in the park.

# Streetlights: Matching design and saving electricity create dilemma

(Continued from page one) lights were all replaced with LED lights, which provide a brighter and whiter visual effect. LED lights are intended to save energy costs, and they contain less mercury than the induction lights.

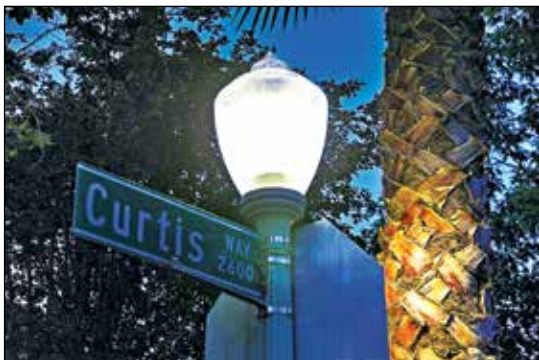
The project work was expensive. A single completely reworked, reassembled streetlight or a replaced streetlight could cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

The city's Department of Public Works originally planned to remove all historic streetlights and install reproductions. That plan was modified after neighbor requests to focus on restoring the original lights. This was a first for the city, and an initial survey indicated most of the streetlights could be restored and reused in their original locations.

Sadly, we ended up losing the majority of our historic streetlights. The original lights were inspected individually. Of the approximate 90 original streetlights in the project area, only eight were deemed able to be reassembled and reinstalled back into the neighborhood. The city tried to return



An original globe with an induction light gives a softer light.



The new globe with an LED light gives a brighter light.

Photos/Rudy Calpo

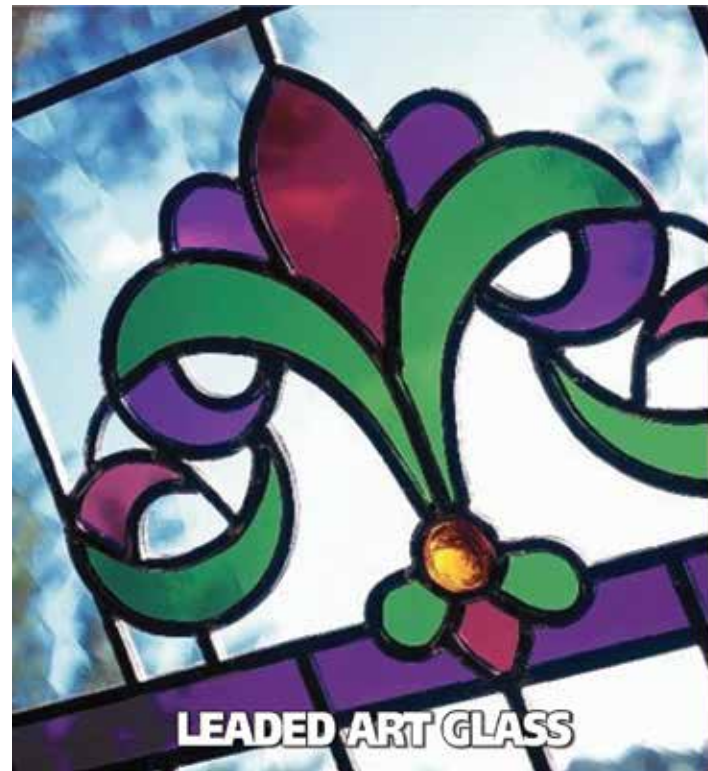
and light consistency were always part of the city's streetlight plan for Curtis Park. The city is working with the councilman's office to see if these concerns can be addressed.

Some areas of Curtis Park remain notably darker than others. West Curtis Drive south of 11th Avenue does not have a single streetlight. The city says that lights were never installed by the developer in that stretch of West Curtis Drive. If residents wish to have lights added, they must contact

the city about creating an assessment district for the purpose of purchasing and installing new lights.

Next, the city is looking at replacing the induction lights on the west side of Curtis Park with LED lights.

Our original streetlights were, and are, a key visual connection to our neighborhood's history and to 1920s industrial design. It's unfortunate we lost so many of our original streetlights in one part of Curtis Park. Hopefully, we have gained some benefits. This loss will bring added attention to ongoing streetlight work and the need for careful care and restoration of original streetlights in other parts of the neighborhood and Sacramento.



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Sierra 2 Senior Center

Doug Lovelace’s talents in tune with Center’s needs

By Katie Byram  
Special to Viewpoint

Any historian will tell you how important oral histories and primary sources are for retelling people’s history. The Sierra 2 Senior Center is lucky to have two groups dedicated to the art of storytelling and the gathering of individual and collective histories.

The Life History Writing group meets Wednesdays to write and share stories from life experiences. The Center is also the home to My Story Project, a grant-supported project run by a skilled team of volunteers using film to help others capture stories and memories on DVD. The important work of these two groups is what brought Doug Lovelace to the Sierra 2 Center. Doug is the Senior Center administrative assistant who keeps the day-to-day operations running smoothly in Room 12.

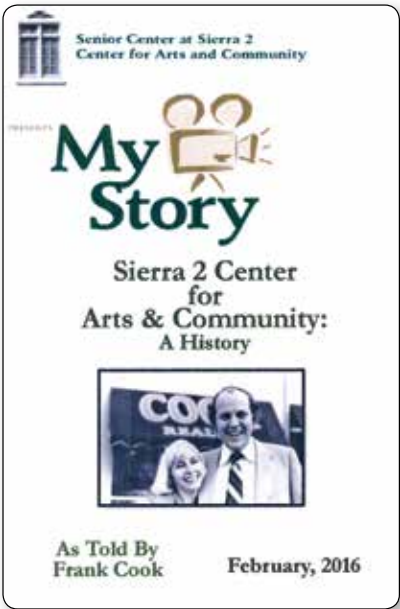
Doug’s interest in storytelling stems from his background as a musician and the interesting people he’s met in the music scene. Doug played for the Sacramento-based Club Nouveau, a contemporary R&B-Pop band, known for a hit cover of Bill Withers’ “Lean on Me.” He toured the United States and Canada with the band, playing guitar and keyboard. A father of four, Doug eventually left the music scene for a stable career with the postal service. He worked for 16 years in the countryside of Laguna and Elk Grove, serving over 600 families.

Doug’s musical inclinations evolved into videography, as he became interested in telling the stories of musicians. He started by interviewing his close friend and trumpeter, Cynthia Robinson, whose career with Sly & the Family Stone led to her inclusion into the Rock



Photo/Carol Blackman

Doug Lovelace, Senior Center administrative assistant, keeps the day-to-day operations running smoothly.



A recent DVD cover of the oral history of Sierra 2 as told by Frank Cook chronicles the past with an interview and photos.

& Roll Hall of Fame. Doug also created an animated music video for Wayman Tisdale, a Sacramento Kings basketball player and later award-winning jazz bass player. Reflecting on his life, Doug puts it simply: “It’s been a wild ride.”

We are lucky to have Doug as part of the Senior Center team. In addition to administrative tasks, he acts as the “utility guy” for the My Story Project, setting up equipment, helping run the camera and pitching in where needed. Life History Writing and My Story Project have opened Doug’s eyes to the importance of sharing memories and life stories.

“It’s important to tell stories, and seniors have very interesting stories,” he says. He also enjoys spending time with the seniors and considers them “like an extended family.”

Anyone interested in the Life History Writing Group and My Story Project is encouraged to stop by the Sierra 2 Center, call 455-6339 or visit [www.sierra2.org](http://www.sierra2.org).



In production of a recent My Story DVD are, from left, Camera #2 Bob Ralston (back to camera); Editor Anna Andrews (with hat and headset); Editor Susan McHale (with IPAD for video of set up); Camera #1 Craig McCulloch (standing at camera); and Director Tom Carroll.



Photos/Simon Haines

Clients Nick and Juanita Nichols are being videoed with table monitor showing them as well. From left are: Camera #2 Bob Ralston; Story Coach Ron Lopez (partially obscured—seated in front of the camera at right); and Director Tom Carroll.

MAY ACTIVITIES

SIERRA 2 SENIOR CENTER

Room 12 • 455-6339

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

Everyone is welcome.

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

FITNESS

Gentle Yoga

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

Fall Prevention

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

LEISURE

Book Club

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., 2nd Monday  
May 9: “Arabian Jazz,”  
by Diana Abu-Jaber  
June 13: “The Turner House”  
by Angela Flournoy

Popcorn & Movie

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

My Story Project meeting

1–3 p.m., 2nd Monday of the month

Everyone Can Drum

1–2 p.m., Tuesdays. Studio 1, \$5

Life History Writing

1–3 p.m., Wednesdays

Open Art

Noon–3 p.m., Fridays. Room 11

EDUCATION

Garden Club

10–11 a.m., Second Tuesday, Room 9

Beginning Drawing

9–10:15 a.m., May 5, 12 & 26  
\$36/month; \$13/drop-in  
Patris: 397-8958

CARDS & GAMES

Ginasta

9:30–11:30 a.m., Mondays

Mahjong

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

Fun Bridge

1–4 p.m., Thursdays

Pinochle

1–3 p.m., Fridays

WELLNESS PROGRAM

10-class punch card \$60; Drop-ins \$10  
Purchase cards in the Senior or  
Sierra 2 Center offices

Healthy Back

4:30–5:30 p.m., Mondays, Studio 1

Yoga + You

11:30–12:30 p.m., Fridays, Studio 3

Chair Massage

2:30–4:30 p.m., Wednesdays,  
appointment only

Fitness Walking & Lessons

9 a.m., Thursdays  
Lessons: punch card; Walking: Free

Tai Chi

10:30–11:15 a.m. Thursdays, Room 12

EVENTS

Meditation & Reunion Meet Up with Tara Stiles

9:30–11 a.m., May 31, Room 12  
Meditation starts promptly at 10 a.m.

AARP Driver Safety Program

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


Potluck

Noon–2 p.m., Last Friday, Room 12

Senior Committee Meeting

3 p.m., Call for date

Join SCNA! Visit [www.sierra2.org](http://www.sierra2.org)



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# COMMUNITY CORNER

## It took a neighborhood to build Sierra 2 Center

When a group of dedicated activists in the Sierra School neighborhood banded together in the late 1970s to form an association and take over the neglected school building for a community center, there were plenty of doubters. But the visionaries prevailed, and thousands of hours of hard work turned the building into a thriving center. The doubters were converted into believers.

Frank Cook was a key leader in this effort, and he tells the story in his new DVD. He credits the neighbors for the team effort that went into the building, the playground and establishing the staff to run the Center. All the pictures on this page and many more appear in the production.

Photos from Frank Cook, John Brush and Dennis Renault



Deemed unfit by the Field Act's earthquake standards, Sierra 2 was closed by the City's school district. By 1978, as seen from the east side, the neglected school building had broken windows and a leaky roof.



John Brush, left, snugs in a piece of flooring for the risers in the theater while Mark Helmar, center, and John Pichinino supervise.



Neighborhood moms and their children get in the spirit of Pickle Family Circus, a key Sierra 2 fundraiser in 1982.



Neighbors rally for new members to the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association, formerly the Sierra School Neighborhood Association.

## History: My Story Project's DVD shows Sierra 2's transformation

(Continued from page one)

Thanks to our Sierra 2 Senior Center's My Story Project, Frank's oral history was filmed and produced on a quality DVD. He talks about the initial dream, the hard work involved, the formation of Sierra School Neighborhood Association, which became the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association, the political processes, the incredible donations of time, materials and expertise, as well as the amazing strength of our neighborhood.

As Frank reports, "Hundreds of people helped to make this happen. It shows you what the neighborhood can do!"

Not to be missed on the DVD are the archival pictures and articles taken from old *Viewpoint* editions and private sources. Among the images is one showing the old building with Led-Zeppelin expertly painted on its deteriorating roof.

A My Story Project volunteer recently spoke about the DVD with neighbor Carmen Mack, who moved to Fourth Avenue from Placerville with her husband, Gene, four years ago. Carmen found Frank's story "...very interesting."

"I didn't know it was a school before. I was amazed at how people came together, and all the help they got," Carmen added, "The people in this neighborhood are so friendly, kind and giving. We're glad we moved here."

Copies of the DVD, packaged in a jewel box, are available in the Sierra 2 Center office for a donation of \$10 per copy. Proceeds support the Senior Center and the My Story Project. Call the office at 452-3005 to check on immediate availability before going to the center to obtain a copy.

A brief trailer of this DVD can be accessed at [www.sierra2.org](http://www.sierra2.org). Go to the website, then:

- Scroll down almost to the bottom of the page.
- Find the dark green My Story logo, and the Sierra 2 Center's YouTube Channel.
- Go to "Click Here" and click once.

Under uploads click on: Sierra 2: An Evolution—trailer version.

Alternatively, you may enter this shortened web address: [https://youtu.be/WvI3\\_BvdIR8](https://youtu.be/WvI3_BvdIR8).

For anyone who would like to film his or her own memories and history, the My Story Project can help make that happen. The project requests a donation for this service, which helps cover production costs. Clients have typically donated \$100 or more. My Story Project volunteers have produced 60 DVDs, and received very positive feedback about the process and the end product. Interested? Call the Senior Center at 455-6339 to have your name placed on the list.

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Bret Harte news

Music program to benefit from treats at May 18 Open House

By Fayzah Mughal  
Viewpoint correspondent

Ice cream, health information and classroom visits will all be part of Bret Harte’s Open House on Wednesday, May 18. Families and community members are invited to come to the campus from 5:30–6:30 p.m. to visit with teachers, check out the information at the Health Fair and buy some Gunther’s ice cream. The sweet sales will help support the Bret Harte Music program. Its needs include materials and scholarships for music lessons.

This event is open to current, past and future students and their families as well as curious neighbors.

**Teacher Appreciation Week May 2-6**

It’s no secret Bret Harte has a dedicated, hard-working teaching staff who spend many hours preparing lessons and various activities for their students. Much of that effort may be behind-the-scenes, but it has not gone un-noticed. Bret Harte’s Kindness Action Team (K.A.T), a group of youngsters focused on serving their community through acts of kindness, under the leadership of Ms. Elizabeth Sterba from Student Support Services, has planned a mini-party for Bret Harte staff during Teacher Appreciation Week as a fun way of showing their gratitude. Teachers can expect to be pampered.



Photos/Gerine Williams

**Volunteers are welcome to pitch in at the school garden during Garden Club from 2-3:15 p.m. Thursdays.**

**Volunteers Needed**

This is a gentle reminder to community members that Bret Harte Elementary is always ready to host volunteers with skills or materials they’d like to share with our students.

If you are interested in helping with an on-going program (such as Garden Club, Thursdays from 2–3:15 p.m.), or hosting a workshop of your own (long or short-term), please feel empowered to contact the school at (916) 277-6261.

Candidate Night

To help neighbors be informed voters, the Neighborhood Concerns Committee will continue its candidates night program May 26 with Angelique Ashby and Darrell Steinberg. They will appear in the Garden Room separately. Ashby will meet neighbors at 6 p.m., make a short statement and answer questions submitted in advance. Steinberg will appear at 7:15 p.m. and follow the same format. Neighbors may submit questions to John Mathews through the Sierra 2 Office.

Traffic: Neighbors reach an understanding

*(Continued from page one)*

left onto Sutterville Road, he must drive a long, circular route. He has to go a half mile north on 24th Street to Donner, turn left onto Crocker Road and head south to Sutterville Road.

“It seems crazy to drive 1.3 miles just to safely make a left hand turn,” Belgard said.

Neighborhood Concerns Committee members explained to Belgard and neighbors that SCNA had opposed the placement of the road at 10th Avenue, and wanted only a pedestrian entrance. At the time, Councilwoman Lauren Hammond supported building the road, but agreed to install the bollards to protect neighbors on 10th and 11th avenues and Coleman Way from cut through traffic.

“We figured every five years or so, we would have to explain why the bollards were placed,” said Michael Hearn, who has lived with his wife and two kids on 11th Avenue since 2008, and lobbied

with his neighbors to keep 10th Avenue closed.

“The bollards maintain the integrity of these three neighborhood streets.”

After discussion, both sides agreed the bollards were an asset to help with traffic mitigation now and in the future. Belgard agreed his neighbors had valid concerns and decided the bollards were the unintended consequences of the traffic changes.

Neighbors also raised questions about the City’s process to bring complaints to the traffic department. The committee agreed the neighborhood would benefit from an update from traffic engineers and agreed to schedule it.

“Let’s be clear that SCNA is just facilitating a conversation about traffic concerns,” NCC member Patrick Soluri said. “SCNA is not taking a position. We just think it’s time for the City to come out and update neighbors on what it is planning for our neighborhood.”

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