

Samples at Oct. 4 Winetasting

New Sierra 2 tenant to share sweet treats

By Susan MacCulloch
Viewpoint staff writer

If you've walked by Sierra 2's Fourth Avenue corner and noticed the sweet aroma of fresh baked treats, then you're aware of the new tenant in the Curtis Hall kitchen. It's the Sugar Plum Vegan Bakery, which moved in June. It took over the space occupied for years by the catering company All Seasons, All Reasons.

Neighbors attending the Wine Tasting and Silent Auction on Oct. 4 will be able to sample Sugar Plum most popular sellers.

Founded by Melissa Sugar, the wholesale bakery sells through health food stores and coffee shops in Sacramento, the Bay Area, Placerville, Grass Valley and Davis. In Sacramento, their goods are sold at the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op, Temple Coffee locations, Insight Coffee locations, Shine Café and Whole Foods Arden. This month the bakery's products also will be available at Nugget Markets.

"We are a small business that supports other local businesses and farms," Melissa said in an email. "Our goal is to bring our customers baked

goods and sweet treats that are not only healthier for them, but for our Earth as well."

For the holiday season, Sugar Plum will offer a vegan pie selection featuring traditional, gluten free and paleo (grain free) choices. Flavors will include pumpkin, sweet potato chai, pecan and apple streusel in a 9-inch family size and 4-inch mini (individual) pie size.

As to their new location, Melissa said, "We really love our space. We came from more of an industrial area, so it's nice to see the trees while we bake."

Check www.sugarplumvegan.com.



Photo/Judy Harper

Melissa Sugar, baker and founder of Sugar Plum Vegan Bakery, pipes the filling on vegan sandwich cookies.



Curtis Park Wine Tasting, Silent Auction & Beer Garden

The largest annual fundraising event for Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association

Saturday, Oct. 4 • 4 to 7 p.m.

Sierra 2 Center • 2791 24th St. Sacramento

REMINDER: Online ticket sales close and all tickets will be \$50 each after Oct. 1.

COST: Advance tickets through Oct. 1 are \$40

SCNA members and \$45 non-members;

TICKETS FROM OCT. 2 are \$50 everyone, in office or at the door only.

TICKETS: www.sierra2.org through Oct. 1 or Sierra 2 Center office, 452-3005. For more information: 452-3002.

Sponsors' enthusiasm and financial support are key to success of Sierra 2's Winetasting

As preparations continue for the annual Wine Tasting, Silent Auction and Beer Garden event on Oct. 4, it is a good time to reflect on the sponsors who help make it possible. These sponsors provide more than valuable funding. They broaden the community aspects of the event and its purpose. We could not hold an event of this size without them. Please, when possible, consider supporting our neighborhood sponsors and business partners. Here are some of their comments about why they support our event.

Joe Eschleman, Wells Fargo Advisors: "In being a proud seven-year resident of such a tight-knit and warm neighborhood, it becomes an easy decision to support and sponsor the highest profile Curtis Park

fund-raising event of the year."

Trey Bonetti, Cook Realty, presenting sponsor:

"Our reasons for supporting SCNA go back almost 50 years. I went to kindergarten and elementary school here, and then helped organize to save it from the wrecking ball, along with many of our management team and realtor associates. It's such a superb resource, and beautiful structure. Now the entire City, along with those in the neighborhood, can enjoy its amenities. We want to help preserve this valuable asset for many, many years to come."

Melissa Heede, RE/MAX: "I am very excited to be a sponsor of the Curtis Park Wine Tasting this year. Not only is it a fun event to mingle with

Please see Winetasting, page 8

Neighbors packed into forum to hear opinions on Measure L

By Dennis Cusick
Viewpoint staff writer

Should Sacramento voters adopt a "Strong Mayor" form of government or stay with the system led by an appointed city manager that the city has had for 94 years?

That question, which city voters will consider on the Nov. 4 ballot as Measure L, was discussed by proponents and opponents at a Sept. 22 forum at Sierra 2 sponsored by Organize Sacramento.

If approved by voters, Measure L would make these changes to the City Charter:

- The mayor would become the chief executive officer, with the power to appoint and remove the city manager, and veto most City Council actions, subject to override by a council supermajority of six votes;
- The mayor would present a proposed budget to City Council at least 90 days before the start of the fiscal year;
- The mayor would be limited to three terms;
- Council districts would be established by a new citizens' redistricting commission.

Speaking for proponents of the measure were attorney Nancy Miller and mayoral aide Daniel Conway.

Speaking in opposition to the measure were former Mayor Heather Fargo and Councilmember Steve Hansen.

In opening the debate, Miller said: "Tonight, the question is: Is there a way of (governing the city) better, and if there is, what is that way?" Her answer: "We need a mayor that has the powers of big-city mayors." Measure L, she said, would improve the accountability and openness of local government.

Fargo, who said she represented the League of Women Voters in speaking against the initiative, noted that Measure L is billed by sponsors as the Checks and Balances Act, but "we think it removes checks and balances." Fargo pointed to a provision that would eliminate the mayor's status as a councilmember and would distance the mayor from public discussion of city issues. "We think that's a mistake."

Conway said the initiative "reflects the priorities of the community" and "is something that makes sense for the community." He said a provision calling for the

creation of a neighborhood advisory committee "will enhance the voice of neighborhoods — particularly low-income neighborhoods."

Hansen said many of the initiative's reforms could be accomplished by enacting ordinances without changing the city's charter. "Make no mistake: Measure L is a power grab," Hansen said. "Putting all the power in the mayor's office is not the answer."

More than 100 people attended the forum in Curtis Hall.

Each side presented opening and

closing statements with the majority of the hour reserved for questions and answers. Written questions were taken directly from the audience and read by SCNA President Eric Johnson, who moderated the forum.

Immediately after the forum, the SCNA board voted 6-3 at a special meeting for a resolution expressing the board's opposition to the ballot measure. The three board members voting against the resolution said they didn't want the board to take a position on Measure L. Four board members were absent.



Photo/Judy Harper

New homes

Construction crews are busy every weekday building houses designed by BlackPine on the east side of Curtis Park Village.

No First Friday dinner in October

Notes from September 10th meeting

Board to request replacement of new trees on Crocker Road

Special Board session

The board agreed to meet in a special session following the strong mayor initiative forum Sept. 22. At that time, the board will consider whether to take a position on Measure L. If the board decides to take a position, it is expected to do so at that time. (See forum story on page 1.)

City's draft tree ordinance

SCNA wrote to Council-member Jay Schenirer in May requesting at least 30 days to review the draft tree ordinance prior to its presentation at the Law and Legislative Committee, which has not yet been set. The association then joined 20 other neighborhood organizations and signed a second letter Aug. 18 to Mayor Kevin Johnson and members of the City Council with the same request.

To date, the city has not responded to either letter. If we are not granted 30-day review, SCNA would have only seven days to review the ordinance and prepare comments before the committee hearing. This is an extremely short timeline considering the issue's importance. Dan Pskowski, a board member and arborist, has agreed to review the ordinance, prepare comments and circulate to the board within the seven day review period.

Trees on Crocker Road

SCNA has identified serious flaws with the type of trees and the way they were planted on the sidewalk strip in Curtis Park Village. The board will request the city require the developer to replace some of the trees with a more appropriate species and follow more sound planting practices, such as providing extra space between the

grass and the tree roots. Cork oaks, which are considered a large canopy tree, were planted in a 4.5-foot to 5.5-foot wide planter strip. Urban Forestry's guidelines recommend a 7.5-foot wide planter strip for large canopy shade trees. In addition, the cork oak is a drought tolerant species that does not do well in turf because the turf water requirements make this tree susceptible to root diseases.

Welcome new Sierra 2 staff

Two new facility monitors were hired to help support operations

at Sierra 2, Geronimo Avelar and Tommy Garcia. A part-time consultant, Jaime Gerigk, was also hired to assist with the Senior Center. Thank you all for joining the team and working to improve one of our community's greatest assets, Sierra 2.

Curtis Park Kiosk

The Neighborhood Concerns Committee is in the early stages of exploring the possibility of adding an information kiosk to Curtis Park. The kiosk would serve as a message board for neighbors, allowing people to post notices and flyers in one place, rather than on various poles. An initial design was drafted and a potential site identified. The committee will now pursue official drawings and guidance from the city on how to proceed.

— Submitted by Nicole Quinonez
Board Secretary

Next meeting

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

A toast from a host

An ode to summer's end

This is our 24th event, and it's a lovely day
My biggest thanks for your support of our SCNA.

Welcome to the courtyard and the asphalt and the tent
I guarantee the food and wine will seem as heaven-sent.

There's also beer and things to buy so leave those inhibitions
It's sure your living room could use some auction-found additions.

Cook Realty is, once again, presenting this whole gig
McDonald Plumbing's Beer Garden might make you dance a jig.

Pangaea and dear Taylor's made the beer and wine appear
And what the ARC kids cook will have you raise a cheer.

BlackPine is building brand new homes; the Heedes will sell your old one.
If your investment plan is slack, Joe Eschleman's got a bold one.

Commerce Printing gives us printing, A Leap Ahead gives tech
While all the school groups enjoy receiving a nice check.



A huge, lively crowd enjoys SCNA's Winetasting, Silent Auction and Beer Garden.

Photo/Judy Harper

For that's the reason we're all here: We love Sierra 2
The services it provides to all keep us from feeling blue.

If they're not already all sold out, make sure you buy a dinner
No matter what the place or host, it's sure to be a winner.

It seems as if there's more to say but your attention's waning
If this note stretches further rhymes, there's bound to be complaining.

So grab a glass and grab a tray; at this point you're just shirking
No time for idle chit and chat; let's get those taste buds working.

— Eric Johnson, SCNA President

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FOOD

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

For more about how to join SCNA, visit www.sierra2.org

Forum focuses on ways to foster small businesses

By Rosanna Herber
Viewpoint staff writer

About 30 people attended a business forum in late August to learn more about the commercial corridors around Curtis Park and what can be done to promote independent, local businesses.

Teresa Rocha, executive director of the Greater Broadway Partnership, and Marti Brown, executive director of the North Franklin District, each outlined the goals and challenges of their respective districts.

Stan Forbes, owner of the Avid Reader and three time president of the Davis Downtown Business Association, shared insights on how downtown Davis was rebuilt to encourage the growth of small businesses.

"If you can get the City engaged to support small, local businesses here in Curtis Park, there are many creative things that can be done," Forbes said.

He described the multi-year process of re-building Downtown Davis and the actions the City of Davis took to support its downtown. The city recruited key businesses

and then offered to forgive the first year of city taxes. They also offered matching grants for facades and other improvements so small businesses could easily relocate to the downtown.

"Your city could take on the master lease in a new development and subsidize rents to ensure that small, locally owned businesses can afford the rent until they grow stronger," Forbes said. "Yes, it can be costly, but it will level the playing field for small businesses that have to compete against retail chain stores that have deep pockets."

The forum was sponsored by the Curtis Park Character Advocates, a new neighborhood group working to bring home grown businesses to Curtis Park.

"This forum generated a lot of excitement," said Kathleen Ave, one of the leaders of the Advocates. "Our next project is working with the business districts to host a Small Business Saturday on Nov. 29, and we welcome neighbor involvement in the planning process!"

Curtis Park Character Advocates can be reached at Curtisparkcharacter@gmail.com.

Viewpoint distributor needed

The *Viewpoint* runs on volunteer power, most importantly that of its distributors. For 20 years the main distributor for Area 1 has made sure her 12 block captains got their allotment for "home delivery." Now she wants a break.

We are looking for someone to step into these big shoes.

Here's what we're asking. Each month (except January and August) you would receive 450 *Viewpoints* to divide and distribute to 12 block distributors. Area 1 covers 2nd Avenue to Portola Way between 21st and 24th Street.

If this is something you could do, call Gerre Buehler at 451-9610.

Letter to the editor

Dear Viewpoint,

It has come to my attention that some people using the soccer field as a dog park don't pick their dog's poop up. I practice at the soccer field several times a week and

step in dog poop one to two times a week. Please remind your readers to keep an eye on their dog.

— Will C. Davies, 12,
Cal Middle student

Dogxilliary response

Editor's note: Since the *Viewpoint* publishes monthly and Will Davies' letter to the editor needed a quick response, the paper's staff asked the Dogxilliary manager to comment.

Curtis Park's neighborhood dog group, the Dogxilliary, would like to apologize for Will's experience and remind neighborhood dog owners to pick up after their dogs, not just at Sierra 2, but everywhere in the neighborhood.

One of the beauties of living here is that we all can share in the green spaces on a daily basis. The Sierra 2 Green is used for a variety of activities, including special events, picnics, kite-flying and sports.

Dogxilliary members work

diligently to keep the green clean of more than poop. We conduct sweeps of the field prior to special events and pick up recycling and trash left behind after picnics, parties and sport activities. During soccer season, we collect left-behind items and return them to coaches during practice and, throughout the year, we return found items to the Sierra 2 office.

It's our goal that everyone using the green has a pleasurable experience. I've notified our members of your letter to the editor. We are rebounding our efforts to keep the field clean and educate neighbors and visitors to Sierra 2 Green that we're each responsible for picking up after our pets.

— Jennifer Garrison,
Dogxilliary manager

Neighborhood surveys due soon

Have you completed and turned in your neighborhood survey? It was prepared by the Curtis Park Character Advocates and tucked into your September Viewpoint. It's due in the Sierra 2 office by Oct. 15.

The survey asks neighbors what kind of businesses they want in Curtis Park. As part of a class project, students from Sac State are keying in the survey data, tabulating it and then interpreting the results with graphs for a neighborhood meeting.

What's new at Sierra 2

By Valerie Burrows
Facility Administrator

From surviving to thriving

When diagnosed with a life-altering illness, many of us struggle with self-doubt, uncertainty and fear. The Love Me Tender workshop, presented by Healing Journeys from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11 in Room 9, will explore what it means to love one's self in the midst of illness, how to cultivate tenderness in the midst of the fear and what it means to be a temporary being, to live and die with self-acceptance and love.

Workshop fees are \$109 in

advance or \$125 for walk-ins. For registration and info call 391-0549 or visit info@healingjourneys.org.

String orchestra lessons

The K Street Orchestra is a late-starters string orchestra. It welcomes any string player over 18 who can read basic music and play in first position. Classes are from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday in Room 9. The classes are designed to create a fun and friendly orchestra setting for beginning and intermediate string players who wish to play with other learning adults. Music provided. Students must bring

a music stand and an instrument. Class fee is \$20 per month. For information, contact Krystyna Taylor at 216-0429.

Scottish dance classes

Beginner level dance class for ages 4+ in Scottish Highland and National dancing, including the Highland Fling and Sword Dance, are held from 11 a.m.-noon on Sundays in Studio 1. Tartan Hearts School of Highland Dance instructor Jessica Bach started taking Highland dance lessons in 1999 and competing in 2000. She has danced and competed ever since. She became a Premier-level

dancer in 2004. Adult classes coming soon. For information visit www.facebook.com/TartanHeartsDance or email tartanhearts@gmail.com.

Adoption options

A Domestic Adoption Orientation will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 20 in Room 12. This free orientation will introduce the process of domestic, infant, open adoption and the services of Adoption Connection. Topics include: understanding the adoption process, the myths and realities of open adoption, and options when adopting. For additional info, contact Malia Kane at 415-359-2462.

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Advance tickets: (916) 308-8327

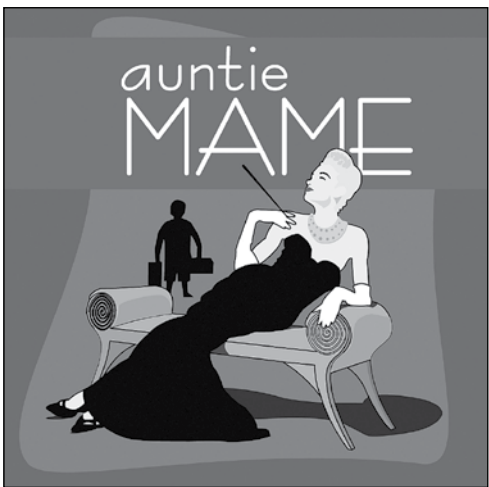
OLIVIA
A Sound Vision
Friday, Oct. 17
Saturday, Oct. 18

Written by Fernlea Crump-Murchison and directed by Michael Benjamin Jr., this Gospel play is a story about a woman and her tragic journey without a mother's love. Will she survive and prevail, or will the circumstances of her life become her destiny?
Show: 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$15
Info: (916) 613-9599 or www.asoundvision.org



MAME
Runaway Stage Productions
Oct. 24 – Nov. 16

Prepare to make your life a banquet and journey back in time to the height of the fabulous 1920's as the eccentric Mame Dennis must drastically adjust her lifestyle when she becomes the guardian of her 10-year old nephew, Patrick. Patrick's life is turned upside down as they cope with the Depression in a series of adventures. Throughout all, Mame teaches us to enjoy living life to the fullest, following her famous motto, "Life is a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death." Featuring classic tunes such as "We Need a Little Christmas," "It's Today," "Bosom Buddies," "My Best Girl," and the exciting and memorable title song, this Tony award-winning show will be a fun adventure for audiences of all ages.
Show: Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$25 Adults, \$23 Seniors (60+), \$18 Kids (12 and under)
Info: (916) 207-1226 or www.runawaystage.com



ACTIVITIES AT SIERRA 2

MARTIAL ARTS
Eagle Claw Kung Fu Academy of Sacramento
Wednesday, 6–7 p.m. 441-7215
Saturday, 12:30–2 p.m., Studio 2

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

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

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

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

ART
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OTHER
Center for Soul Healing
2nd Thursday and 4th Tuesday
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CenterForSoulHealing.com
Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation
1st Sunday of the month, 1 – 4 p.m. Curtis Hall
knowthyselfassoul.org

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

DANCE
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Tribal fundamentals class for all levels
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Sawako Ama • lovebreath@infocircle.net

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

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

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

River City Taps – Tap Dance
Monday–Thursday 5–8:30 p.m.
Tues: Tues/Thurs 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Studio 3
www.rivercitytaps.com

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

West African Dance
Fridays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Studio 1
Jessa Cruz: jessakaycruz@gmail.com

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



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Garden Room and Studio 3
www.riovalley.org

Tartan Hearts School
of Highland Dance: Ages 4+
Sundays, 11 a.m., Studio 1
Jessica Bach, [facebook.com/TartanHeartsDance](https://www.facebook.com/TartanHeartsDance)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
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Krystyna Taylor, 216-0429

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Senior Center welcomes new consultant

The Sierra 2 Senior Center is happy to welcome Jaime Gerigk as additional Senior Center support. She will serve as a consultant and outside resource for the program coordinator and the Center’s attendees. Jaime is a certified master’s level social worker with a strong background in program coordination and growth. She has experience with community outreach and education, volunteer recruitment and supervision, grant writing as well as a clinician. She has worked in a variety of settings, including hospice for the past five years. Jaime and Phoebe are busy submitting materials for grant applications on behalf of the Sierra 2 Senior Center, as well as working toward increased Senior Center staffing of volunteers and interns, and program growth and development.

Jaime, the proud mother of two sons, ages 12 and 16, enjoys traveling, reading, writing and gardening. She will work about 10 hours a week, both on-site and off-site. This flexibility will allow her to contribute to the Center at strategic times. If you would like to meet Jaime, please drop in between 9 a.m. and noon on Mondays. Jaime is a welcome and much needed member of the team.

Free piano workshop
Dane Andrus, an advanced piano instructor for Simply Music, will provide two complimentary

introductory workshops Oct. 24 and 31. For time and room information, please call Phoebe at 455-6339. For more information about Andrus, see www.pianolandpark.com.

Note: Sierra 2 Senior Center is looking for a volunteer from 12-4 on Fridays to assist with set up and clean up and enjoy the activities of the day. Join in the fun and help your community. If you are interested, please call 455-6339.



Jaime Gerigk is the newly hired consultant to the senior center.

— Phoebe Celestin, Senior Center Director

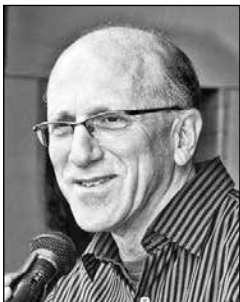
Sierra 2 Senior Center

The Senior Center is open to all seniors (age 55 and up). The center provides opportunities to keep learning, exercise, meet new people and be actively involved with neighbors.

Schenirer’s message

Debate on how to vote on Measure L needs to focus on policy, not politics or personalities

I care deeply about our city and its many neighborhoods. My insights and perspective on Measure L, the “strong mayor” issue, are based on four years on the City Council, almost 30 years of working in the public policy arena, and 20-plus years as a business owner. The decision on whether to update the City Charter to an executive form of government is ultimately up to the voters of Sacramento. However, I wanted to share my thoughts with you.



Jay Schenirer
City Councilmember

First, I do not believe City Hall is broken. We have made a lot of progress in the last four years and carried out some very good work as a council. However, there is no doubt that Sacramento could run better and more efficiently. To accomplish this, we need a government that has greater accountability, alignment and ability to take quick action.

Improving accountability is important. I want to vote for, and elect, a mayor based on his or her vision for the City, and to ensure that the tools are present to implement that vision. We have a very good city manager, but he was not elected. Under the current system, a city manager has more power and influence than the mayor or any council person, yet it is the mayor and councilmembers who are held responsible by the public.

Alignment is more nuanced, but relates to accountability. City staff report to the city manager, not the mayor or the council. Ensuring that everyone in the City bureaucracy is working in alignment to implement

the vision and goals established by the mayor and the council is not easy and often is not the case. Aligning the managerial authority of the city manager’s office with the mayor’s office will better align our work with our priorities.

Finally, the ability to take more timely action is needed. I believe that the City is at a critical point in its history, with great opportunities ahead. I personally want a government that is action-oriented and in a position to take advantage of those opportunities not only as they present themselves, but to seek new ones. A stronger Mayor, supported by an aligned bureaucracy, will facilitate this goal.

I have never been a fan of cheeky campaign slogans. On the whole, I find they oversimplify complex issues. Claims that Measure L is a “power grab” or will diminish access to elected officials and reduce the influence of neighborhoods are unfounded and tend to elicit an emotional response rather than foster debate.

I believe that Measure L, if passed, will empower the council and create greater accountability for the mayor. Additionally Measure L will add an independent redistricting committee, an ethics committee, and a neighborhood advisory committee. Finally, there is a 6-year sunset on the initiative, which will allow the City to see what works and what doesn’t. I look forward to a fact-based discussion of this initiative, based on policy and not personalities.

As always, you can find me walking my dog in the park or contact me at jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org if you’d like to discuss this further.



Photo by Angelique Ashby
Councilmembers Steve Cohn and Jay Schenirer are healing from summer accidents.

On the mend

In case you missed this photo on Facebook, here’s a look at two broken City Councilmembers, **Steve Cohn**, left, and **Jay Schenirer**, vice mayor. They will have some painful memories of summer 2014.

First, Schenirer hit a car that was turning left while he was heading downhill at about 25 mph in the Kings Beach area of north Lake Tahoe. He hobbled off with a dislocated shoulder, some torn ligaments and other bruises. His chief of staff, Joe Devlin, said Jay’s helmet may have saved him.

Next, **Steve Cohn** fell from a ladder at Lake Tahoe and broke his pelvis.

Also healing is neighbor **Phil Harvey**, who came home from Ohio in a Medivac jet, paid for by Kaiser, after he spent two weeks in a hospital there with a stubborn staph infection.

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

SIERRA 2 SENIOR CENTER
Room 12
455-6339 or seniorcenter@sierra2.org
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

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

SENIOR CENTER IS ON FACEBOOK. PLEASE “LIKE” US!

FITNESS
Community Acupuncture Clinic
9:45–11:15 a.m. (\$15)
Oct. 7 & 21 • Rm. 12
Zoë Griffin: 212-2170

Meditation/Movement/Verse
Instructor: Alexa Mergen
9:45-11 a.m. Fridays
Rm.12 • \$30 for 4 sessions

Hatha Yoga
Instructor: Alexa Mergen
9:45-11 a.m. Tuesdays
\$30 for 4 sessions

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

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

Tai Chi
Instructor: Frank Gaviola
10:30–11:15 a.m. Thursdays
Rm. 12 • \$40 per month

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

LEISURE
Arts & Music Lecture Series
Instructor: Robert Coleman
3–4 p.m. Tuesdays • Rm. 12.
\$30 for 4 classes
To sign-up: 455-6339

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

Book Club
10:30–11:30 a.m. 2nd Monday
Oct. 13: “The Little Friend”
by Donna Tart
Nov. 10: “We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves” by Karen Joy Fowler

Travel Writing
Facilitator: Phoebe Celestin
11 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Fridays Rm. 12
Fee: \$3 per class

My Story Project meeting
1–3 p.m. 1st Monday of the month

Everyone Can Drum
1-2 p.m. Tuesdays (\$5) Studio 1

Sierra 2 Jewels & Crafts and Conversation
Open Art Studio
11 a.m.–3 p.m. Fridays
(except last Friday)

Life History Writing
1–3 p.m. Wednesdays

EDUCATION
Computer and Internet Basics
Instructor: Marganne Meyer
9–10 a.m. Wednesdays. Rm. 12
Oct. 1, 8, 15 & 22
Fee: 6 classes/ \$40 • 927-5013

Beginning Drawing by Patris
9–10:15 a.m. Thursdays

CARDS AND GAMES
Monday Morning Games
9–11:30 pm

Fun Bridge
1–4 p.m. Thursdays

Pinochle
12:30–3 p.m. Fridays

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

Senior Committee Meeting
3–5 p.m.
First Monday of the Month
Location to be announced

Quarterly All Senior Center Meeting: 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17

It's time to reconsider a city ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers

By Dan Pskowski
Viewpoint staff writer

Fall is my favorite season in Sacramento. No more scorching temperatures plus, with the cooler weather, and shortened daylight hours, Sacramento's trees are showing off their beautiful fall colors. But with fall comes an abundance of leaves that need to be cleaned up. A chorus of gas-powered leaf blowers can often be heard in Curtis Park.

Unfortunately, unlike the approximately 20 California cities that have banned gas-powered leaf blowers (some since 1976), the City of Sacramento allows leaf blowers from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.

Some cities, like Santa Monica, have gone so far as to completely ban any type of gas, electric, or battery powered leaf blowers.

Personally, I wish Sacramento was among the cities that ban gas-powered blowers. Why? They pollute the air with their emissions because the gasoline is burned inefficiently and 100 percent of the engine's emissions are released directly into the air. These emissions worsen allergies, asthma and irritate the lungs, and the blowers propel clouds of dirt, dust, and toxic chemicals (from lawn applications) into the air.

Gas-powered leaf blowers stir up molds, allergens and dust tamped down by water and decomposition. Dust and debris are not removed, just pushed around. The blowers' noise disrupts the

neighborhood's tranquility. A gas-powered blower noise level is usually 60-75 decibels. Any sound above 85 decibels can cause hearing loss.

So, what are the alternatives? The preferred method is to rake or sweep leaves and debris. Another choice is using an electric leaf blower or electric leaf vacuum; they're not as noisy and don't pollute.

Critics claim that leaf blower bans will cause companies to go out of business. However, in the cities that have banned gas-powered leaf blowers, Los Angeles being one, the local gardeners were not driven out of business.

This fall why not make Curtis Park neighborhood a more peaceful, healthier place by not using gas-powered leaf blowers.

Casa Garden celebrates 40 years

By Susan MacCulloch
Viewpoint staff writer

The Casa Garden Restaurant will host its third annual Gala at the Garden over two days, Oct. 24 and 25. The event will feature art, wine and food and raise money to benefit the Sacramento Children's Home.

Guests attending the opening night gala, from 5-8 p.m., will be sampling wine and hors d'oeuvres while browsing and shopping at the Casa Arts Boutique. The Boutique will offer unique jewelry, mosaics, scarves, pottery, bags and other gift items created by local artisans. Tickets opening night are \$25 each.

Festivities continue the next day with lunch at noon. Entrées are either chicken piccata with a spring mix salad or Asian chicken salad with dried cranberries. The cost is \$18.60 per person, which includes tax and tip. Reservations are encouraged by calling 452-2809.

The Casa's boutique also will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, with no ticket required for entry.

This year Casa Garden celebrates its 40th



Photo/Judy Harper
Mary Weaver has volunteered as a server at the Casa Garden Restaurant for many years. She is also chair of their 40th anniversary festivities.

anniversary of serving weekday lunches to support the Children's Home. Volunteers staff the restaurant, which has raised more than \$2.7 million for the Home. Casa Garden is also available for group weeknight dinners and special events.

The Casa Garden Restaurant is at 2760 Sutterville. For more information, visit www.casagardenrestaurant.org.

SMUD EnergyAware offer helps measure use

By Mike Scheible
Special to the Viewpoint

Want to know more about how your home uses electricity? If so, you might want to take advantage of SMUD's program to provide a free loaner of a power display device.




This nifty little meter, called "EnergyAware," uses the signal from your smart meter to provide an almost instantaneous reading of your home's electricity use. It also provides a power trace for the last 15 minutes and a running total of your consumption of power over the last 24 hours, last week and last 30 days. By turning an appliance on and off, you can easily determine how much power it consumes.

SMUD loans out the power meter for 60 days. To get one, go to your on-line SMUD account and check a box to request and EnergyAware device, or go directly to www.smud.org/en/residential/save-energy/energy-use-display.htm.


My device came in about a week. I got it up and working in a few minutes.

The small, portable unit can easily be moved around the house to test the energy use of any electrical appliance that can be turned on or unplugged. For example, I learned that charging a Chevy Volt on a 110 circuit draws power at about the same rate as my coffeemaker. Of course, the Volt drew that power for many hours while the coffee maker was done in less than five minutes.

So far the top power draw in our home is the electric oven — increasing power demand by 5.7 kilowatts when warming up.



Kate Woolley
for SCUSD School Board Area 1
www.woolleyforschoolboard.org
Paid for by Woolley for School Board 2014
FPPC #1357525



Thursday
OCTOBER 8
7-8 p.m.

Assembly District 7 Candidate Forum at Clunie Club House

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association and East Sacramento Preservation will co-host a forum for the State Assembly District 7 candidates from 7-8 p.m. Oct. 8 in the Grand Hall at Clunie Club House in McKinley Park, 601 Alhambra Blvd. The candidates are Steve Cohn and Kevin McCarty. The forum will be conducted by the League of Women Voters.

During the preceding hour, the East Sacramento Preservation will also sponsor a forum with District 3 City Council candidates, Jeff Harris and Cyril Shah.

The forums are designed to give voters an opportunity to see and meet the candidates.

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Photo/Judy Harper

Jacki Phillips finishes packing the last of her things before moving to her daughter's home.

Long-time neighbor moves away

After living more than 38 years on Fourth Avenue, Curtis Park neighbor **Jacki Phillips** is packing up for a new home in Arden Arcade. It's a bittersweet move. She's loved her life in the two-story home she shared with her late husband, Rick, and where she raised their son and daughter, Matt and Tracey.

Now she's be living in a one-bedroom cottage at the back of her daughter's home. This will bring her close to her two granddaughters and simplify her housekeeping duties, which were a bit overwhelming in the large family home.

Jacki taught elementary school, first as a substitute and then, after 1994 when Rick died suddenly of a heart attack at age 47, she taught full time. She and Rick volunteered many hours during the early stages of the neighborhood association.

New in the neighborhood

Andy Linn and Cinthia Tirado and their two children have moved into the unique Italianate modern home at the corner of 22nd Street and 4th Avenue. Both are physicians. Andy is a pain specialist at Mercy General, and Cinthia is an anesthesiologist at UC Davis Medical Center.

Andy, a California native, trained on the East Coast. Cinthia is from Puerto Rico. One February their vacationed in the Napa Valley and wondered why they were putting up with snowy days. And Andy wanted to come home.

Their children are **Penelope**, 3, and **Veronica**, 18 months.

For 35 plus years, their house was home to Maurice Read and Mary Anne Moore, a former



Photo/Judy Harper

At the front steps of their new home on 22nd Street are Andy Linn and Cinthia Tirado with daughters Penelope and Veronica.

editor of the *Viewpoint*. Their new home in Campus Commons is easier to manage, but they admit to missing the 'hood.



Photo/Christine Mathias

Cole Arnold with school supplies to donate.

Thinking of others

As part of achieving his Little Dragon black belt, 7-year-old **Cole Arnold** of Curtis Way developed a project to help others. With the help of friends and neighbors, he was able to deliver 48 backpacks stuffed with school supplies to Bret Harte's Youth and Family Resource Center.



Wheeling and dealing

Photo/Judy Harper

When the Sutterville Bicycle Company opened four months ago, owner **Ron Paoletti**, above, planned to cater to the everyday riders by repairing and selling used bikes. Then he got an irresistible offer to run the family farm and planned to close the shop. Now, another bike enthusiast wants to buy the shop. Until it's a done deal, Ron's son, Nico, is running the shop between classes at City College. The shop is at 2365C Sutterville Bypass, near Track 7. For more info: www.suttervillebicyclecompany.com.

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Bret Harte News

Lower than expected enrollment challenges teachers, students

By Char Klassen
Viewpoint Staff Writer

Fresh faces joined eager returning students, staff and parents/guardians on the blacktop Sept. 2 to start the 2014-15 school year. Bret Harte Elementary welcomed new staff: Third grade teacher Mrs. Karen Lim; new afternoon START coordinator Lay Ferguson; and morning START coordinator Chou Thao. Also new to the staff is resource teacher Mrs. Cassandra Boltz. A popular substitute teacher, she was hired with funding approved by the Site Council.

To the disappointment of students, parents/guardians and Principal Lorena Carrillo, the district had yet to hire a 4th/5th grade teacher, and it had determined that Bret Harte needed to reduce its teaching staff by one. This decision caused more shifting.

Several grades are experiencing split classes due to a few factors: the teacher union agreement of reducing class size in grades K–3rd, reduction of teachers due to lower enrollment than projected, and the need to

have GATE-identified students in a classroom with a GATE trained teacher. Contrary to popular opinion, GATE does not mean advanced: it is a pace and instructional design concept to keep advanced learners interested and engaged.

According to the district website, “Gifted/Advanced Academic Programs serve students in grades 2-12 and offer highly challenging learning opportunities that follow the Common Core State Standards in depth, breadth, and pace of instruction designed to meet the needs of advanced learners. Adaptations are made to the curriculum in order to provide an appropriate level of challenge for gifted and advanced learners with an emphasis on critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and logical reasoning.”

Bret Harte has always had several GATE-trained teachers, but not all BH teachers have this additional training. Rachelle Gray completed the training a few years ago and taught a GATE/advanced class of third/fourth graders last year. Her current third grade is one of the classrooms being shifted to a third/fourth grade.

Principal Carrillo lamented the classroom disruption. “We are all frustrated with the need to have so many split classes. However, it is



Photo/ Char Klassen
Mrs. Cassandra Boltz works with a 5th grade math cluster group in her new classroom. Boltz is the resource teacher at Bret Harte. Students, left to right, are Nehemiah Smiley, Graycie Longhofer and Ivan Saechao.

a necessary step, for the benefit of every student. We hope to have it all worked out and students settled into a permanent classroom by (Sept. 22).”

In addition to classroom reassignment, Bret Harte is being “leveled” this year as a result of by Principal Carrillo observations during her first year at Bret Harte. She is exploring options toward making Bret Harte a school with a certain emphasis.

“It will be an emphasis that is linked to college and career readiness, maybe emphasizing science and technology or something else that gives Bret Harte students opportunity and challenge,” Carrillo said.

One immediate change being implemented is eliminating Advanced classes. GATE- identified students will have GATE trained teachers, but all classrooms will have advanced students.

Winetasting: Event sponsors share a love for their neighborhood and its diverse ambiance

(Continued from page 1)
friends, but the proceeds go to a great cause — local schools!”

Vince McDonald, McDonald Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning: “We love the charming variety of vintage homes. Our company has served homeowners in this unique neighborhood for over 56 years and is fortunate to be ‘next door’ to Curtis Park.”

Rob Archie, Pangaea: “I love living in this

neighborhood and having a business here. The wine tasting gives me a chance as a business owner and a neighbor to enjoy Curtis Park as a whole.

Steffan Brown, Coldwell Banker: “This is one of my favorite events to help sponsor. It highlights the character, community and fun we have in our great neighborhood and why I am always proud to call Curtis Park HOME. It is my privilege to live here and help others do the same.”

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