

VIEWPOINT

A Publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association

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2791 - 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95818 • 916 452-3005 • www.sierra2.org

November 2018

New neighbors bring on the fun



Photo/ Alyssa Ashbaugh

At the front step of their Cutter Way home, the Dunivant family, Caroline, Cash, Lula and Todd, wait for guests to arrive for their Dia de Los Muertos party. See new neighbors stories, Page 11.

10-year plan gives SCNA roadmap for future boards

Viewpoint Staff

The SCNA board has finalized its 10-year Strategic Plan, which will give the current board and future boards a way to make decisions beyond what might be momentarily expedient, or feel currently urgent.

“The plan centers around three of SCNA’s core values – community, stewardship and environmental sustainability, with four ‘headline goals’ that give us guidance on where we should be expending our efforts,” says SCNA President Eric Johnson. “Much of the discussion centered on what the headline goals should be.”

The board settled on four goals:

- Maintain financial sustainability;
- Be a community hub;
- Provide a forum for neighborhood interests;
- Deliver relevant programs.

Future boards and staff will be able to evaluate proposed programs and expenditures clearly. Does this fit in with the goals of our plan?

Please see Plan, Page 3

Nextdoor

Sacramento Zoo considers finding new location

By Craig McCulloch

The Sacramento Zoo has started a conversation about moving from its Land Park location, and many neighbors have spoken up, providing opinions on both sides. Most of the neighbors who posted on NextDoor.com were initially against the zoo moving.

The zoo is one of 250 U.S. zoos and aquariums accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and must meet stringent standards for animal care and the facilities that house them. The zoo is nearly a century old, and many of the enclosures no longer meet AZA standards. As a result, some popular animals are no longer at the Sacramento Zoo, including elephants, hippopotamuses, tigers and bears. The main concerns are the zoo’s limited size (14 acres) for any expansion and limited parking for patrons.

Please see Nextdoor, Page 3

Elite runner on 10th Avenue

Sports Illustrated took notice when Jenny Hitchings set three race records. See Page 11.



Old theater is new again

Seats and carpeting have been installed. More change is coming. See Page 5.



SCNA meeting set for Nov. 14

Board will present Strategic Plan, address neighborhood’s outlook. See Page 3.

Police seek to build effective partnership with neighborhood

By Viewpoint staff

Viewpoint submitted a list of questions to Sacramento Police Capt. Alisa Buckley, who supervises District 4, which includes Curtis Park. She provided the following responses.

Q. What is “community based policing”?

A. Community based policing is when an officer is assigned to work a designated area each day. The idea is that the officer takes ownership of that assigned area and works closely with the community and other city entities to solve neighborhood problems from blight to violent and property crimes.

Q. What is your vision for effective policing of and partnering with Curtis Park residents?

A. Communication, trust and transparency are the starting point for effective partnerships. The Sacramento Police Department is committed to positive



Photo/Sacramento Police Department

From left, Capt. Alisa Buckley, Lt. Zack Bales, Sgt. Gregory Galliano, Officers Kelli Streich, Michael Mageletti, John Pullen and Brandon Lundgren. Not shown is Lt. Paul Freeman, who is assigned to Curtis Park.

community engagement to earn the trust and respect of the citizens we serve. This is accomplished through open dialogue and developing strong relationships with our community partners.

Q. How is Curtis Park policed? Is it one car with one officer, two cars?

A. Our staffing plan for neighborhoods depends on the shift, day of the week

and size of the area. Generally, one to two officers are assigned to each area in the city. Sometimes there is one officer in each car and sometimes there are two officers. Officers from the entire city can be deployed anywhere based on the needs at that time. There are also many specialized units that patrol the city on a daily basis, such as: Problem Oriented Policing officers, gang enforcement officers, Shot Spotter officers, motor officers, school resource officers and detectives.

Q. Who are the officers who most often patrol our neighborhood?

A. Our patrol division has three different shifts (day shift, swing shift and late watch) and almost all patrol teams have different days off. For these reasons, there isn't any one officer we would recommend contacting for each neighborhood. Instead, our lieutenants maintain geographic responsibility for each area. Lt. Paul Freeman is assigned to Curtis Park and is a day shift watch commander.

Q. When do they patrol Curtis Park?

A. The Curtis Park neighborhood is patrolled on a 24-hour-a-day basis, seven days a week.

Q. What types of calls or reported crime most frequently takes place in Curtis Park and the surrounding areas?

A. Violent crime in Curtis Park remains relatively low. Property crimes such as car burglaries and petty thefts are the most commonly reported.

Q. What time of day does crime most frequently take place here?

A. Theft crimes occur when the opportunity presents itself to the person committing the crime. Joining a neighborhood watch group is a great way to learn ways to prevent crime in your neighborhood. We also strongly recommend home surveillance equipment and using the post office or UPS stores for package deliveries. Having packages delivered elsewhere significantly reduces package theft.

Q. Is there much reported crime in the park itself?

A. There has not been significant criminal activity reported in William Curtis Park itself. Curtis Park residents around the park are very engaged, but we always encourage

Violent crime in Curtis Park remains relatively low.

Property crimes such as car burglaries and petty thefts are the most commonly reported.

anyone to report any crime or suspicious behavior to the Police Department. There is value to reporting incidents online, particularly those involving serialized property that is stolen. We track these incidents to assist us in resource deployment.

Q. What is the best way to establish contact between Curtis Park residents and our assigned police station?

A. Neighborhood watch groups and/or homeowner associations often invite officers to their meetings to discuss what is going on in their neighborhood. This provides an opportunity to meet each other and discuss specific needs that your neighborhood has. The lieutenants and I all have profiles on NextDoor.com and can receive private messages from residents there as well.

Q. Can Curtis park residents do a “ride along” with patrol officers assigned to our District 4 area to learn about neighborhood crime from the street level perspective?

A. We encourage residents to do ride-alongs. There is an application to fill out and you must sign a waiver once your application is accepted. You can also apply to join the Citizens Academy, which gives you insight on how your local law enforcement and criminal justice system operates.

VOTE

SIERRA 2 CENTER NOV. 3-6

Nov. 3 Curtis Hall
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 4 Room 10
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 5 Room 10
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 6 Curtis Hall
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Come to register, vote, get a replacement ballot or get language assistance.

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Plan: Committee chairpersons emphasize different perspectives

(Continued from page 1)

The board purposely kept the plan short and sweet, in outline form with specific line items and dates. There's not much point in a plan if it's full of gobbledy-gook, and even less if there's no accountability.

This document is the culmination of more than a year's work, multiple meetings in addition to regular board meetings, and a commitment from the board and SCNA staff to make it happen.

It's going to be an evolving document, with revisions and updates on a regular basis to make sure the items continue to be relevant for the Sierra 2 Center and the neighborhood.

Committee chairpersons emphasize different aspects of the plan, from maintaining the Sierra 2 building as a historic but functional structure to involving the Curtis Park neighborhood in advocacy, volunteering and cultural activities.

Andrew Booth, who chairs the

Facilities Committee, stressed the need to secure a long-term building lease to provide planning stability in the future. With such stability, Booth says, Sierra 2 "can be a hub for fun social events, philanthropic endeavors and political and community activist efforts. The Sierra 2 building is a physical symbol of the neighborhood, something we are fortunate to have in Curtis Park."

Kat Haro, chair of the Development Committee, believes the plan will responsibly shape the future functional, financial and philosophical initiatives of SCNA and Sierra 2. "We are at a turning point in our growth as an organization, from the events we run, to how we fund programs, to our general focus as an organization," she says.

For John Matthews, chair of the Neighborhood Concerns Committee, a top priority is building a volunteer network. "By joining our volunteer group, neighbors can give back to the community in a variety of ways, from assisting in events like Wine

Tasting or the Egg Hunt, to spreading mulch around the park's trees in the spring," Matthews says. "Working together can cultivate and reinforce a great sense of neighborhood pride."

Vice President Bruce Pierini emphasizes the need to develop a regular SCNA evaluation process whereby the board considers Sierra 2 room utilization, possible changes to the permanent tenant mix and in-room upgrades to improve

user experiences and generate revenue. "Secondly, a community hub needs an ever-expanding 'brain,' ... a vital means of communications across the neighborhood and beyond," which Pierini identifies as including the *Viewpoint* and the Sierra2.org website.

The full plan will be posted on the SCNA website, sierra2.org.

Artist, Sierra 2 alumnus Nathan Cordero, 43

By Valerie Burrows

Former Curtis Park neighbor and Sierra 2 staff member Nathan Cordero died Aug. 15 at age 43.

Nate lived on Second Avenue and worked at Sierra 2 from 2005 to 2009 and again briefly in 2010 before realizing his dream of becoming an artist.

He utilized dumpster diving, curbside debris and metal-detecting finds to create clever, playful and thought-provoking images and messages.

Nate had gallery and museum shows over the years at the Nelson Gallery at UC Davis, Johansson Projects in Oakland,



Nathan Cordero

Verge and Axis Galleries in Sacramento, the Contemporary Jewish Museum and Ritual Roasters Gallery in San Francisco, and The Warehouse Gallery in Syracuse, N.Y.

Nate demonstrated that treasures can be found everywhere – in

the dirt, on the street, in an everyday object – if you just take the time to look.

The next time you're visiting Sierra 2, look up at the mural that hangs in the main hallway as part of Sacramento Metropolitan Art Commission's Art in Public Places. You'll see Nate smiling down at you.

Nextdoor: Cat killed, dog mauled

(Continued from page 1)

In the 1990s, the city proposed expanding the zoo into about half of Land Park's total acreage. The Land Park Community Association strongly opposed the expansion. City Council eventually relented.

Currently, relocation of the zoo's larger exhibits to a different area seems to be the focus, subject to further study and analysis. Another alternative would maintain the current location as a children's zoo.

No decisions have been made about funding sources and the amount needed. More information about the zoo's future can be found at: <https://www.saczoo.org/about-us/relocation-and-expansion/>.

• • •

An Oak Park neighbor reported that a speeding hit-and-run driver killed her black cat, Blackjack. An outpouring of more than 60 NextDoor posts expressed sympathy for the loss of the cat, with some suggesting ways to locate the driver with neighborhood security cameras.

• • •

A Midtown neighbor reported that she was walking her little white dog, Toby, when it was attacked by a pit bull on a leash while the owner, distracted by his phone, was not holding the leash tightly. The veterinary bill was about \$750, with many neighbors contributing to the cost. About 130 neighbors on NextDoor posted comments, largely sympathetic to the injured dog's owner.

Annual meeting Nov. 14

Viewpoint Staff

The SCNA annual meeting will take place Wednesday, Nov. 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Curtis Hall.

The board will present the Strategic Plan.

SCNA Executive Director Terri

Shettle and board President Eric Johnson will make presentations about the state of SCNA and where it is headed.

Guest speakers City Councilmember Jay Schenirer and County Supervisor Phil Serna will speak about city and county issues that relate to the neighborhood.

There will be light refreshments.

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HOME OF RIVER CITY TAPS

Notes from committees

SCNA working with city to clarify roles in Sierra 2

The SCNA board of directors did not meet in October, but the board's committees continued to make progress.

Facilities

The Facilities Committee has been working on finalizing a lease with the city. Councilmember Jay Schenirer asked for historical documents outlining past capital improvements so we can negotiate and make clear what SCNA's responsibilities are toward the Sierra 2 Center and what are the city's obligations.

SCNA Executive Director Terri Shettle persuaded the city to map out the water pipes, which showed SCNA has been paying for the city park's water for years. SCNA hopes to arrange a refund.

Development

The Development Committee has been tasked with the association's main projects: membership, fundraising, events, communications and volunteer coordination. The finalization of the Strategic Plan has helped create realistic initiatives and budget proposals, bringing

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the SCNA board will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2.

organizations together and partnering with the community to determine charitable giving projects.

Neighborhood Concerns

SCNA and the Land Park Community Association co-hosted a forum on Measure U moderated by the League of Women Voters. Craig Powell represented No on U, and Mike McKeever from Mayor Darrell Steinberg's office represented Yes on U.

Neighborhood Concerns will update the rules and regulations of the Sierra 2 Green dog park, which will include instructions on registering dogs and owners.

Dan Pskowski has been communicating with the city Parks

Department regarding the installation of a fence and contemplation seat around the Peace tree, which was planted in collaboration with the United Nations Association of Sacramento last year.

There is ongoing communication with the city regarding traffic-calming measures.

A letter will be written to the planning department to offer alternatives to the 65-foot and 35-foot signs the developer is proposing to advertise Crocker Village.

Senior Center

Attendance was up during the summer. Classes are continually planned to help seniors create digital projects, learn internet navigation, and other useful and fun subjects.

Viewpoint

The neighborhood newspaper now includes an events section and profiles of community members. Story ideas should be emailed to Viewpoint editor Dennis Cusick at: denniscusick52@gmail.com.

— Submitted by Kate Van Buren

SCNA Income/Expenses

Fiscal Year 2018	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget	Prior Year Actual
Total Income.....	\$959,992	\$1,012,862	\$820,446
Total Expense	(\$899,214)	(\$921,688)	(\$893,498)
Other Income (Expense)	\$2,429		\$18,299
Net Income (Loss)	\$63,207	\$91,174	(\$54,753)

President's message

Trick-or-treat varies by street, but Thanksgiving is everywhere

If you're reading this in the southern half of Curtis Park, then you've survived another year of the joyous chaos that is Halloween.

Witches! Incredibles! Inflatable T-Rexes! Lines of treat-entreaters out to the sidewalk and "Sorry, she got the last one – we're out." Perhaps you've vexed a few dentists, but there are a whole lot of happy kids.

In the north, it's street-by-street and year-by-year. Sometimes, we go through five bags. Sometimes, we pack leftover "fun-size" Snickers and Butterfingers into kids' lunches for weeks afterward. (Note: The only thing "fun" about tiny candy bars is seeing how many you can stuff in your mouth at one time)

Either way, it's a blast and it's always entertaining to hear the gasps of the first-timers afterward: "We went through 600 Smarties in two hours and had to turn off our porch light at 7!" You'll know better for next year, rookie.

Equally calorically indulgent, but limned with reflection and perhaps a slight tinge of melancholy, is Thanksgiving. Turkey Day is my favorite holiday because, even though its origin story is a pretty flagrant misrepresentation of colonization, it asks for some

ERIC
JOHNSON
SCNA
Board
President



introspection: What am I thankful for, and who am I thankful to?

We've all got our own things to be thankful for, so my list would bore you and probably come off as preachy or humblebraggy. I would like to challenge you, however, to make thankfulness and ritual an active part of your holiday. Go ahead and have each person around your

table say something they're thankful for as the dressing passes by. If you're the host, stand up and make a toast.

Please also make it a priority to help those who have less to be thankful for. We see pain and misery in and near our neighborhood, and it's really easy to drive straight on through the underpass without thinking too much about the shopping carts and impromptu bicycle chop shops and what they really represent. Whether your help is through time, money or effort, it will make a difference in someone's life.

Hug your family. Act as mediator for your kids' candy trading, taking a small percentage off the top for your services, if necessary. Write a few checks. Bundle up in a scarf and hat and wave at the neighbors from your porch. Vote. Vote. Vote. Enjoy another month in Curtis Park.

VIEWPOINT

Editors	Dennis Cusick Susan MacCulloch
Production	Carol Blackman
Contributors	Valerie Burrows Katie Byram Erik Fay Adrianna Gonzalez Rosanna Herber Heather Hogan Eric Johnson John Mathews Craig McCulloch Nancy McKeever Bruce Pierini Dan Pskowski Judy Scheible Terri Shettle
Ad Manager	Fran Coletti
Distribution	Gerre Buehler
Photography	Will Carlton 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 to denniscusick52@gmail.com with Viewpoint in the subject field or call the Sierra 2 office at 916 452-3005. Deadline for Viewpoint copy is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

SIERRA 2 DAY



Jewel of Sierra 2 gets polished

New seats, carpet, sound make theater sparkle again

By Dennis Cusick

Almost 90 years ago, a Spanish mission-style auditorium for holiday pageants, student assemblies and other school activities requiring a large interior space opened at Sierra Elementary School on 24th Street.

A building that was old is becoming new again. A new roof now protects the auditorium, and new carpeting, new seats and a new speaker system greet patrons of what is now the 24th Street Theatre, the artistic jewel of the Sierra 2 Center.

Valerie Burrows, Sierra 2's facility administrator and theater manager, says more than \$90,000 has been raised to date through donations and a grant from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. Another \$60,000 is needed to complete the renovation.

"The renovations are being done in order of the most pressing needs," Burrows says. "New signage is currently being produced and, with continued fundraising, we hope to soon purchase new drapes and refurbish the stage."

This is at least the third renovation of the original auditorium. After what was then the Sierra School Neighborhood Association took over management of the abandoned school in the late 1970s, efforts began to convert the flat-floored school auditorium into a theater with fixed seats and a floor that rose 48 inches from front to back. Materials were donated by Burnett and Sons, John F. Otto Inc., Unger Construction and Capital Plywood. Theater seats came from Lincoln Elementary School. Theatrical performances were scheduled beginning in September 1980.

Two decades later, the theater was in need of more renovation.

Concert promoter Mindy Giles, who lives on 10th Avenue, recalls the first time

she wandered into the 24th Street Theatre, in 2001. She was living nearby, working in marketing for one of Russ Solomon's Tower Records subsidiaries.

"I walked in there and heard the acoustics were perfect," she said. With a background in music promotion and management, she imagined what it would be like to stage a concert there.

Soon, while having drinks with Tower Records colleagues who were about to lose their jobs in Tower's collapse, Giles mentioned her vision of promoting concerts at the theater. Co-worker Steve Nikkel, who also lived nearby, said he had the same vision.

Together, they produced a theater fundraiser starring political satirist Will Durst in 2003 with a catered dinner. During his routine, Durst "put his foot through the side of the stage – it went right through the wall," Giles recalled. "He was mortified. He said, 'See why you need to raise money to save this place?'"

In 2004, Giles and Nikkel, by then officially partners in Swell Productions, produced a show at the 24th Street Theatre starring Roger McGuinn, formerly of the Byrds. They sold out the 296 seats at \$30 a ticket, and their production company was on its way.

Through the years, Swell Productions has brought to the theater Graham Parker, Ray Manzarek (formerly of the Doors), Marie Muldaur, Chris Hillman (also an ex-Byrd), the Carolina Chocolate Drops, Country Joe McDonald and, most recently, Jack Gallagher.

Giles said singer-songwriter Richard Thompson considers the 24th Street Theatre his favorite concert venue. She quoted him as saying the acoustics are "like being inside my best acoustic guitar."

Giles agreed: "It's like a room that's tuned – it's beautiful."

The latest renovation of the 24th Street



Photo/Jean Cusick

Concert promoter Mindy Giles admires the new seats in the 24th Street Theatre. She says performers are drawn to the theater's perfect acoustics.

Theatre continues while the shows go on.

New signage by the local fabrication studio Obra has just been installed. As more funds are raised, plans call for new audio-visual equipment, curtains and a projection screen, and new carpeting for the lobby.

As the fundraising campaign continues, donors are being asked to "leave a legacy – sponsor a seat." Plaques with donor names will be installed on the new theater seats to memorialize the contributions.

Another theater fundraiser is a workshop at 10 a.m. Nov. 10 at UPcyclePOP, 7300 Folsom Blvd., which will enable people who buy the old theater seats to repaint and re-upholster them into chairs for their homes.

The seats that were most recently replaced came from Memorial Auditorium. They are available for purchase individually, in pairs and up to an entire row. Contact the Sierra 2 office at 916 452-3005.



THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
MUSICAL

Nov. 1 and 3

Showtimes: 8 p.m.

Cost: \$20/general admission

Tickets: greenvalleytheatre.com

Info: greenvalleytheatre@yahoo.com

NOVEMBER AT THE 24TH STREET THEATRE

DISNEY'S THE LION KING JR.

Nov. 30 – Dec. 2

Showtimes: Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m.

Sunday, 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 student; \$12 adult

Info: YoungActorsStage.com

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capitalcitymusictogether.com

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Lee Aviles, 916 203-6461

Mustard Seed Faith Ministries

Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 9
Pastor Dorothy Hayes, 916 213-0901

Good Shepherd Parish

Sundays, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 12
Contact: Mother Elizabeth English
916 502-6773, GoodShepherdCommunity.org

Empowerment Theological Seminary

Mondays, 6-9:55 p.m., Room 9, 916 308-7646
empowermenttheologicalseminary.com

True Life Ministries

Sundays, 2:45-4:15 p.m., Room 9
Pastor Grant Harper: 916 382-2885

YOGA

Iyengar Yoga
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Gladys Callander: 916 743-0246

DANCE

Adult Ballet

Two Rivers Dance Center
Mondays & Saturdays
info@tworiversdancecenter.com

Irish Folk Dancing

1st and 3rd Monday, 7-9 p.m., Studio 1
Liam Irish, 530 677-5549

Polynesian Dance

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alohatyra@aol.com

River City Taps – Adult Tap Dance

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www.rivercitytaps.com
richard@rivercitytaps.com

Auntie Amy's Hula

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Kalanjali: Dance of India

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510 526-2183, katherine.kalanjali@gmail.com

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tartanhearts@gmail.com
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ART

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karenssharp51@gmail.com

MUSIC

Nashville Songwriters Association

2nd Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 12
Free • Gabrielle Kennedy: 916 476-5073

Japanese Taiko Drumming

Tuesdays, Studio 1 • Youth Ages 7+, 6-7 p.m.
Beginning Ages 9+, 7-8 p.m.
Intermediate, 8-9 p.m.
Kristy Oshiro, kristyoshiro.com

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Eagle Claw Kung Fu Academy of Sacramento

Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 12:30-2 p.m., 916 441-7215

Sacramento Sword School

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Maestro Eric Myers: 916 276-2247

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Thursdays, 8:15-9:15 p.m.
Saturdays, 9-10 a.m.
Studio 2
Shifu Byron, lohan36@sbcglobal.net

OTHER

Cochlear Community Meetings

6-8 p.m. Nov. 15 Curtis Hall
cochlear.com/US/events

Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation

1st Sunday of the month, 1-4 p.m. Curtis Hall
knowthyselfassoul.org

FITNESS

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randirobinson@mac.com

Dancehall PowerUp

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LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.com

Motivational Aerobic Dance Exercise

[No class Nov. or Dec.; resumes Jan. 2019]
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Zumba

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Abraham Contreras, pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

Weight Watchers

Thursdays, 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 6 p.m.
Saturdays, 9 a.m. Room 10. 800 374-9191

All Levels Pilates Mat Class

6:30 p.m., Thursdays, Studio 1
Lauren, 916 956-0876

Zumba Gold

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 4:45 p.m. (50-min. class)
info@tworiversdancecenter.com

Stilettos with KG – Ages 18+

8:45 p.m., Wednesdays, Studio 3
krystal, kgstilettos@gmail.com

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What's new at Sierra 2

By Valerie Burrows

Protecting the planet

The Environmental Council of Sacramento will hold its annual awards ceremony Tuesday, Nov. 13 in Curtis Hall. The reception is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The awards ceremony follows from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The awards celebrate and recognize the past year's regional champions and the community's sustainability successes.

The reception will include hors d'oeuvres, wine and live music. Tickets can be purchased at eventgrid.com. For information, visit ecosacramento.net.

Basic ballet

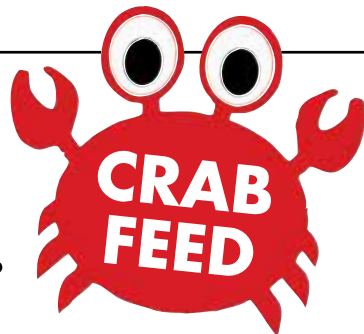
Whimsy & Wishes "Princess & Me" dance classes are packed with interactive fun. Children ages 3-5 are introduced to

basic ballet movements and terminology while developing coordination and rhythm. Your child will gain confidence, make lifelong friendships and learn how important it is to be active.

This class is a perfect way to prepare children for the classroom environment. Each 30-minute class is split into stretching, introduction to basic ballet movements, basic ballet terminology and princess play. The fun activities of princess play differ each week. There are new princess lineups each month.

Classes are Sundays at 10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-noon (Pre-ballet); and 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m. (Ballet 1), all in Studio 1. The cost is \$15 per class when booking for the month or \$20 per class when booking individual classes. For information and to enroll, visit whimsyandwishes.com.

It's Back!
Save the Date!
SCNA presents...



Saturday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m.

Curtis Hall. Tickets go on sale Dec. 1.
THESE TICKETS GO FAST!

Sierra 2 Senior Center

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



LEISURE

BOOK CLUB

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 2nd Monday

Nov. 12: "Less" by Andrew Sean Greer

Dec. 10: "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 3rd Thursday

Nov. 15: "Stranger in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right" by Arlie Russell Hochschild

Dec. 20: "The Revenge of Geography: What the Map Tells Us About Coming Conflicts and the Battle Against Fate" by Robert D. Kaplan

FILM CLUB

1:30-4 p.m., 3rd Tuesday

Nov 20: "The Truth About Cats and Dogs" (1996)

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, Room 11

• Now an extra hour longer! •

LIFE HISTORY WRITING

1-4 p.m., Wednesdays

OPEN ART STUDIO

Noon-3 p.m., Fridays, (except the last Friday) in Room 11

BEGINNING DRUMMING

Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. in Studio 1

Fee: \$7 per class or \$25 for the month

POTLUCK

Noon-2 p.m., Last Friday of the month

FITNESS

FALL PREVENTION: FLEX, STRETCH AND BALANCE

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays

Resumes in November.

Pat Shaw: 916 856-0136

FITNESS WALKING

9 a.m., Thursdays. Fees: free to walk; \$5/pole rentals; \$60 poles purchase. Meets in the parking lot by basketball court.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Activities are free except where noted. (Donations appreciated)

Room 12 • 916 455-6339

seniorcenter@sierra2.org

GENTLE YOGA

10-11:15 a.m., Wednesdays

Pat Shaw: 916 856-0136

WELLNESS PROGRAM

Punch cards: \$60/10 classes; \$35/5 classes; or \$10 drop-in. Purchase cards in the Sierra 2 Center office or pay drop-in fee to instructors.

TAI CHI (Beginner, Intermediate & Mixed)

10-11 a.m., 11 a.m.-Noon, Mondays in Studio 3 & 10-11 a.m., Thursdays in Room 12

PILATES WITH LAUREN

10:30-11:30 a.m., Mondays/Tuesdays/Fridays in Studio 2

YOGA + YOU

10 a.m., Tuesdays, Room 12 (Room 9 on 4th Fridays)

MONTHLY MEDITATION

11:10-11:50 a.m., 4th Tuesdays, Room 9

ZUMBA TONING W/ KELLY

2-3 p.m., Wednesdays & Fridays, Studio 3

CARDS & GAMES

MAHJONG

10 a.m.-Noon, Mondays

FUN BRIDGE (RUBBER/CONTRACT)

1-4 p.m., Thursdays

PINOCHLE

12:30-3:30 p.m., Fridays

EDUCATION

MY STORY PROJECT

2nd Monday, 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

9 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov 12-13, Room 10

Fee: \$15 (AARP members) or

\$20 (non-members)

Register: Jim Finnegan, 916 804-9777

FREE FRIDAY

10 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 16. FREE for all seniors in Sacramento. Pick up schedule online or at Sierra 2 Senior Center.

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THE LEARNERY

Cultivating Curious Minds

Advance registration is required for all classes. Register at 916 452-3005 x208, in person at the Sierra 2 Center office or online at sierra2.org/thelearnery.

Theater chair UPcyclePOP workshop

In this hands-on collaboration with UPcyclePOP, participants will take a piece of local history and transform it into an updated and stylish chair. The vintage theater seat, tools, a base for the chair, light food and drink, and assistance will be provided. Students bring their choice of paint and fabric.

As part of the 24th Street Theatre fundraising campaign, Sierra 2 is selling the old seats for \$75 each. These pieces of history are in good condition and purchasers can choose to buy individual seats or have them connected, from sets of two to rows of four or more.

Many people love the idea of owning a vintage seat, but don't know what to do with it. SCNA and UPcyclePOP saw an opportunity to teach furniture



flipping and reupholstery skills while raising funds for the theater.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m., UPcyclePOP, 7300 Folsom Blvd., \$155/person

Basics of backyard composting

Join members of the Master Gardeners Compost Project as they share UC research-backed information about composting veggie scraps and yard trimming in this free workshop. There will be time for questions and troubleshooting issues. Advance registration required.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 10-11:30 a.m., Room 12, no cost.

Tea 202: Tea and food pairing

The Novel Tea will lead a flavor exploration guiding participants on pleasing food and tea combinations. Black, Oolong and green teas will be paired with sandwiches, sweet and savory scones, and several sweets. Winning scones from The Amazing Scone Baking Race will be tasted. Learn about the competition and enter to compete at thenovelteashop.com.

Sunday, Nov. 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Garden Room, \$40/person.

Watercolor holiday cards workshop

Join Tonja Wilcox to create eight original holiday greeting cards and a set of gift tags to personalize your gift-giving this season. Festive drinks will be provided.

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 6-8 p.m., Garden Room, \$40/person



HOLIDAY GIFTS & GOODS, formerly the Holiday Craft Fair, will be from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8 in Curtis Hall and Room 10.

About 30 vendors and local businesses will sell their wares, stocking stuffers and handmade goods that make one-of-a-kind gifts.

Sierra Art Parlor operator and Learnery art class instructor Cate Schmiedt will offer a hands-on crafting station.

Festive food and beverages will be served.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

Proceeds benefit the Senior Center and the Learnery.



Photo/Heather Hogan

Cristina Arizmendi's ceramic pieces nearly sold out at the 2017 Holiday Craft Fair.

Last Free Friday of the year features coupon-clipping, yoga workshop

By Katie Byram

The last Free Friday of 2018 will be 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16 in multiple rooms at the Sierra 2 Center. Guests can look forward to a handful of special activities in addition to such regularly scheduled classes as Pilates with Lauren, Open Art Studio, Pinochle, and the new Zumba Toning.

Attendees will get money-saving tips in our Senior-to-Senior Couponing class with Janice Joe. Passionate about coupon-clipping, website codes and finding sales, Janice has given classes at local libraries and churches for years.

Our Wellness Program yoga instructor, Heera Kulkarni, will lead a special yoga workshop focused on posture and back care. Guests will learn 10 easy poses and stretches for daily back pain relief and alignment.



Heera Kulkarni will lead the yoga workshop.

Judy Bujold of Captured Moments will offer her digital scanning services for free. All are invited to bring up to five photos to be scanned and put on zip drives.

Join our intern Kate Conley for a fun art and journaling activity

that boosts mental health and happiness.

Eskaton Monroe Lodge on Freeport Boulevard is the event sponsor. It will provide a baked potato bar with a variety of toppings. Tea and cider will be available.

A detailed schedule of activities can be found at sierra2.org or at the Senior Center.

Free Fridays help us expand our reach into the senior community so more people can benefit from the low-cost and free activities and social groups that enrich lives.

Given the relatively high turnout of attendees, we will likely continue to host these free events in 2019.



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Crocker Village Update

Public comment due Nov. 9 on Petrovich sign proposal

Viewpoint Staff

Public comment is due by Nov. 9 on Petrovich Development Co.'s request to place extra-tall signs in its Crocker Village shopping center adjacent to Sutterville Road.

Petrovich requests two similar signs of different heights: a 35-foot-tall pylon sign at Crocker Drive and Sutterville Road; and a 65-foot-tall pylon sign at the southeast corner of the grocery store to be visible above the Sutterville Road overpass.

Both signs are proposed to be the sort that list six or more store names, commonly found along highways announcing major shopping malls.

The Crocker Village commercial area is zoned Shopping Center – Planned Unit Development. PUD guidelines provide neighborhood-specific design detail that prevails over general shopping center zoning to promote traditional neighborhood style and function. Pylon signs 35 or 65 feet tall are not considered appropriate or an allowed exception under the PUD guidelines.

The guidelines call for signs to be nonintrusive to vehicular or pedestrian traffic or to neighbors. Signs attached to buildings, either mounted flat or projecting from the building, awning signs, and window signs are encouraged. This type of signage is considered most appropriate in traditional walkable areas and is seen along Sutterville Road and other streets surrounding Curtis Park.

The submitted proposal is being reviewed by the SCNA Neighborhood Concerns Committee, which will meet with city staff to discuss the variance as well as signage throughout Crocker Village.

Petrovich's request for a variance for the extra-tall signage argues that it is based on improving public safety. Petrovich says a 65-foot-tall sign displaying store names and logos will make drivers aware of the shopping area in sufficient time to change lanes.

"From day one of this project's inception 15 years ago ... activists have used traffic as their main rallying cry" to oppose his plans, Petrovich wrote in support of his request, according to *The Sacramento Bee*. "The last thing any of us who are rational needs to do is give them a real reason to



Graphic/USS United Sign Systems (Courtesy of City of Sacramento)

The city plans to float a balloon in early November to demonstrate the height of the proposed 65-foot sign.

complain as opposed to false arguments."

Petrovich's variance request was distributed for public comment Oct. 19. A public hearing with the zoning administrator will likely be in late November or December.

The SCNA web page Sierra2.org will post links to documents for review and comment as they become available.

Two lawsuits filed by Petrovich Development Co. regarding the Crocker Village project are pending.

In August, the Third District Court of Appeal issued

a briefing schedule in the city's appeal of a Sacramento Superior Court decision in January that the process resulting in the city's denial of a conditional use permit for a proposed gas station in the Crocker Village shopping center was flawed.

A tentative ruling was expected in November followed by oral argument in Sacramento Superior Court on another Petrovich lawsuit, which seeks millions of dollars of damages from the city, SCNA and other named and unnamed individuals resulting from the city's denial of the conditional use permit for the gas station.

In the District

City needs to develop public input and public trust

Over the past few months, my colleagues on City Council and I have been working on increasing public transparency and accountability, to ensure that city funds are spent appropriately and efficiently, and that community members are involved throughout these decisions to ensure equitable investments.

This year the city will collect approximately \$1.1 billion, with about half going to the general fund, much of it from tax revenues, and much of the rest coming through fees. From these funds, a bit over half pays for our employees, nearly one-quarter goes for services and supplies, and the remainder is spent on debt service

**JAY
SCHENIRER**

City
Council
Member
District 5



(9 percent), capital projects (8 percent), and other costs of doing business.

Each year, all city funds are audited to ensure they are spent in accordance with federal and state law and city ordinances.

I am proud of the fact that year after year, our audits are clean, including audits of the city's Measure U funding.

However, we can and must do better on two fronts – engaging the community on our priorities and measuring how effective our spending is. To that end, in October the City Council took two significant steps regarding how city funds are spent, both from Measure U and the general fund.

First, leveraging the recommendations

and community input from the city's Project Prosper initiative, and best practices from around the country, City Council adopted a framework to measure success in the investments we will make to support business and job creation in the city's economic corridors. We will use a data-driven decision-making process to understand the potential and realized costs and benefits of every decision.

Second, City Council created a community advisory committee to advise on the spending of Measure U funds should the ballot initiative pass in November. The committee's creation came from local advocates' recommendations, with the goals of increased community involvement and transparency in how funds are spent. The 15-member committee will include one member appointed by each City Council member and the mayor and six at-large members ultimately appointed by City

Council. At-large members will have expertise in housing, youth development, community health, homelessness, economic and workforce development, mental health, community-based crime reduction, and environmental justice. In addition, one member will be between the ages of 16 and 24. This will give city leaders a robust set of voices to inform our decisions and priorities regarding future Measure U funds.

Our success requires a major cultural shift in how city staff work, to become more outward facing and collaborative – both internally and externally. It will require patience and perseverance and will be an iterative process as we begin implementation. I believe the two initiatives complement one another and begin building an infrastructure that will significantly increase our chances of success and quality of life for the city and all its residents.



Laurie Cole, left, of Third Avenue samples salads from Selland's Market Cafe at this year's Wine Tasting this year.

Photo/Carol Blackman

Wine Tasting attendance down, revenue expected at \$40,000

By Terri Shettle

About 350 people attended the 28th annual Wine Tasting, Silent Auction and Beer Garden event at the Sierra 2 Center on Oct. 6.

SCNA expects gross revenue to reach \$40,000 from the combination of ticket sales, sponsorships, neighborhood dinners and silent auction receipts.

Seats remained available for The Donner Party (Jan. 12), Six on Sixth Dinner (Feb. 2), Casino Royale (Feb. 23), and the Curtis Park Craft Beer Crawl (May 4). For more information or to purchase tickets, call 916 452-3005.

When all receipts and expenses have been reconciled, SCNA's Development Committee will discuss the discretionary allocation of funds for the additional beneficiaries with a recommendation to the board.

The Wine Tasting is SCNA's cornerstone fundraising event, providing funds for financial stability each year.

Attendance was down from previous years, but this allowed participants to spend more time with food and wine vendors and have greater ease of moving about in a more

intimate setting.

SCNA relies heavily on the generous support of the sponsors, particularly the major sponsors.

The Diplomat Steakhouse and Ironstone Vineyards hosted the VIP tent.

Cook Realty once again served as the presenting sponsor. For the sixth year in a row, McDonald Plumbing HVAC sponsored the beer garden, which featured special beers from Rob Archie's Urban Roots. TowerPoint Wealth and Steffan Brown Realty were the other major sponsors.

Other supporters included Grateful Dog Daycare, Larry Easterling, Rosanna Herber in partnership with Genevieve Shiroma, and Realtor Steph Baker. Sponsors not only provide funding to offset the event's expenses but also serve as ambassadors to create the fun environment.

Kristy Harris recruited the variety of restaurants and wineries. Cheri Davis organized the nine neighborhood dinners. Marjorie Perez of Something Planned Events stepped in on relatively short notice to pull it all together.

Next year's Wine Tasting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 12.



Trees of Curtis Park

Inspect trees after winter storms

By Dan Pskowski

Our rainy season begins with the onset of winter. As the storms bring precipitation and high winds, some residents with mature trees become concerned about falling branches or the entire tree blowing over.

Inevitably branches fall and occasionally trees blow over in Sacramento. Sometimes these trees land on homes and can cause extensive damage. Can branch and tree failures be prevented?

Arborists know that trees are subjected to environmental stresses beyond their control. No arborist can guarantee a tree's structural integrity. However, a property owner can avoid damage from branch or whole tree failures by inspecting trees once the wind has subsided. Look for branches snapped off by the wind that get hung up on another branch or branches that are split. If you observe any of these situations, you can act before the next storm takes down the branch.

When the ground becomes saturated from heavy rains and accompanied by high winds, trees blow over. "Windthrow" is a type of failure associated with the uplift of the entire root plate caused when the soil does not have sufficient strength to keep the root system firmly anchored in the ground. A large amount of soil that adheres to the root plate is characteristic of a soil failure.

There are signs one can look for in a tree that is about to blow over. The tree was vertical and now has a significant lean



To prevent dead branches from falling, they must be removed as soon as possible.

and the soil is heaved. Watch for cracks in the soil or soil that has pulled away from the sidewalk's edge or curb. Large amounts of soil on the sidewalk or other hardscape material not attributed to natural soil

erosion are cause for concern.

Trees also blow over due to girdling roots or root diseases that compromise the structural integrity of the anchoring roots. A girdling root is one that circles the tree's base and doesn't allow natural root formation. A tree that fails in response to girdling roots snaps off at ground level and there is no uplift of the soil.

When trees fail due to root diseases, there is also little root plate uplift. There are above-ground signs, usually around the tree's base indicating there could be a problem. Mushrooms or conks, which form on the external surface of the tree's base, are the spore-producing body of the decay fungi. Their presence indicates that a professional arborist needs to do some investigative work. This may involve excavation of soil around the tree's base, or the use of instruments to determine internally how much decay is present.

It's important to inspect your trees after a storm. If something appears out of the ordinary, then call in a professional. The city's Urban Forestry staff will inspect city trees, those located in the park strip between the curb and sidewalk, and trees on the front lawn that are within the street right-of-way. Call 311 or email 311@cityofsacramento.org.

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Photo/Will Carlton

New to 25th Street are William Breazeale and Greg Jecmen.

Mediterranean-style home fits tastes of art curators

Art curators Greg Jecmen and William Breazeale moved into their circa-1930 Mediterranean revival home on 25th Street in August.

Greg retired in March from his 34-year career at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. He then sold his home in Silver Spring, Md., and moved to Sacramento to join William. The couple met in 1995 while both were working at the National Gallery.

Greg was the National Gallery's associate curator of Old Master prints and drawings and print room supervisor. He curated exhibits, supervised the study room, taught classes and assisted museum visitors. In his free time, he served as an usher at the Kennedy Center for 25 years.

William moved to Sacramento in 2005 to accept a position at the Crocker Art Museum. He is a curator for European art. He specializes in Old Masters' drawings. The Crocker's Old Masters collection is noteworthy. The first drawing to enter the United States by Albrecht Dürer, the German Renaissance's greatest artist, has been in the Crocker collection since 1871. William has organized several Old Masters shows at the Crocker, the most recent exhibit in 2016.

The couple were drawn to Curtis Park because of their appreciation for pre-World War II homes. "We were attracted by the architecture but also by the mature tree canopy and the beautiful gardens," Greg said.

Their home features a number of fruit trees and established flowers. Greg said he looks forward to more gardening time in his retirement.

— Susan MacCulloch

Elite runner sets records

Elite runner Jenny Hitchings of 10th Avenue earned special mention in the Oct. 8 issue of *Sports Illustrated* magazine for her three recent record-breaking performances for her age group 55-59.

The first record fell Aug. 11 when Jenny won the Susan B Anthony 5K with a time of 18:05, breaking the age-group record of 18:32.

In the Sept. 9 Buffalo Stampede 10 Miler, her time of 1:01:20 broke the record of 1:02:39.

On Oct. 7 in the Urban Cow Half Marathon, her time of 1:21:14 broke the record of 1:23:09.

She also won the Mountains 2 Beach Marathon from Ojai to the Pacific Ocean in Ventura in May with a time of 2:51:28.

Jenny coaches young runners at Cal Middle School and Sutterville Elementary School and also does private coaching.

Jenny and her husband, Andy, have two daughters: Molly, 26, who lives in Austin, Texas; and Maggie, 23, who lives in New York City.

— Judy Scheible



Jenny Hitchings of 10th Avenue at the 2018 Urban Cow Half Marathon.

New neighbors discover Cutter Way

Caroline and Todd Dunivant and their children Lula, 4, and Cash, 2, are the newest residents of Cutter Way.

They house-hunted in different parts of Sacramento before settling on their beautiful English Revival-style home. Caroline says they knew Cutter Way was special because when they first drove up with their Realtor they immediately noticed all the neighborhood activity – neighbors speaking to each other in front of their homes and children playing on lawns.

Todd is general manager of the Sacramento Republic FC soccer team. Caroline is a freelance art director and graphic designer.

Caroline is originally from Iowa, Todd from Colorado. Todd was a professional soccer player for 14 years, playing for teams in San Jose, Toronto, New York and Los Angeles, before retiring from soccer in 2015.

Caroline worked in marketing and advertising for leading national companies. They met in Los Angeles, moved to San Francisco and came



Photo/Alyssa Ashbaugh

Caroline, Cash, Lula, and Todd Dunivant.

to Sacramento when Todd accepted his current position.

They have been enjoying exploring the neighborhood coffee shops and restaurants since they moved in. They recently hosted a "Day of the Dead" party for co-workers and neighbors, which included a piñata swinging from one of the trees in their front yard.

— Erik Fay

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Bret Harte news PTA goal is 100 members

By Adrianna Gonzalez

Bret Harte Bears Parent Teacher Association's membership drive is underway for the 2018-19 school year. You are invited to join, along with friends, grandparents, businesses and other community members to enrich the lives of all the school's children. This year's goals are to maintain a strong and supportive PTA, and to promote parent involvement in the school, home and community.

Last year's membership goal of 50 members was reached. This year's goal is 100 members. There is no obligation to volunteer when you join the PTA, and you don't have to be a parent. Participation is appreciated for those who can volunteer. If your schedule prohibits volunteering or attending general association meetings, your membership helps out financially by making a donation. All are welcome to attend the monthly PTA meeting held at 6 p.m. every second Monday of the month in the Parent Room.

Your membership dollars support programs such as the Garden Curriculum, Harvest Festival, Family Movie Night, Pancake Breakfast, Family Dance Night and much more. The PTA appreciates your membership and welcomes new ideas.

Yearly membership is \$10 per person, which supports PTA's efforts on the local, state and national level. Stop by the Bret Harte office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to complete a member form. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted.

For more information, contact PTA president and Bret Harte parent Daniel Savala, Daniel.savala.206@mycsun.edu or call the Bret Harte office, 916 277-6261.



'Autumn is the mellow time.' — William Allingham



Photo/Will Carlton

Biking their usual route, from left, Jessica Bender, Rosco, Jacob and Otto Helmar cross paths with regular dog walkers Laurie with her dog, Daisy, and Sherry with her dogs, Percy and Ziggy, of Third Avenue.

SCNA to post signs with dog park rules

Viewpoint Staff

Dog lovers in Curtis Park have an area behind the Sierra 2 Center where their canine friends can run free in the mornings and early evenings.

The Sierra 2 Green is not a city or county dog park. The Dogxilliary, as the group is called, has a special agreement with the city to use this area for dog training.

All owners must be registered via email at Dogxilliary@gmail.com to enjoy the off-leash privilege. This is in addition to having a city pet license.

SCNA's Neighborhood Concerns Committee is seeking someone who is skilled in graphics to create new signs that

include dog park rules. Contact NCC@Sierra2.org.

Dog park hours are 6 to 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to sunset.

Owners and handlers are personally and legally responsible for their animals. They use the facilities at their own risk. Dogs must have a current license, the license must be on the dog's collar, and the collar must be on the dog.

Aggressive dogs are not allowed in the dog park. The owner or handler of any dog exhibiting aggressive or unruly behavior is required to remove the offending animal immediately.

Owners and handlers must clean up after their dogs.

Dogs may be off leash only within the designated fenced area. No off-leash dogs are allowed in the playground.

When the soccer field is in use, dog owners must put their dogs on a leash and leave the area. It is permissible to be in the south end of the green between the oak tree and the fence as long as dogs do not interfere with soccer players in any way.

For every two dogs brought to the park, there must be at least one owner or handler.

Children under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Female dogs in season are not allowed at the facility.

Soccer practice, games and community events have priority over dog park use.

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DINE...
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Casa Garden Restaurant & Event Venue operates solely to benefit the Sacramento Children's Home