

VIEWPOINT

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February 2019

Looking at Sierra 2 through my kindergarten eyes

By Ginger Rutland

Nearly every day I pass the Sierra 2 complex and feel a twinge of nostalgia. I knew it when it was an elementary school. Our family moved to Sacramento in 1952, when I was 4 years old. We lived in a ramshackle, two-story house on 27th Street, a half block from Broadway on the edge of Curtis Park.



Ginger Rutland at 4 years old

I was a student at Sierra School from kindergarten through the fifth grade, when, in 1958, our family moved to the house my parents had built in the new suburb of South Land Park Hills.

But back to Sierra School. As Mom accompanied me, my twin sister Patty-Jo, older brother Billy, in kindergarten that year,

and Elsie, in third grade, Mom was, no doubt, filled with trepidation. An attractive, well-educated, middle-class, black woman, Eva Rutland had been born and raised in the segregated South.

As she walked through the doors of Sierra's elegant Spanish Revival structure, she entered an integrated world for the first time. She was afraid white people wouldn't be kind to her children. To protect us she became a hyperactive joiner. She recounted it in her memoir, "When We Were Colored, A Mother's Story": "With integrated schools, and all, one felt one should, well, integrate... I started joining as soon as I reached California."

And join she did. At Sierra, she was PTA president, vice president, program chairman, education chairman, parent education chairman, founder's day chairman and corresponding secretary. That doesn't include Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Little League — the list is exhaustive.

Mom was also a writer. In her PTA days she wrote

Please see Memories, Page 8



Outgoing SCNA President Eric Johnson outlines the Strategic Plan, one of his goals during his tenure. The committee chairs presented their goals for 2019 and encouraged neighbors to bring their ideas and join them to help carry out these goals.

Photo/Joan Cusick

SCNA finances strong despite revenue drop

By Erik Fay and Susan MacCulloch

Wind and rain didn't deter approximately 50 neighbors on Jan. 15 from attending the SCNA annual membership meeting, which was postponed from November because of poor air quality from the Camp Fire.

SCNA Executive Director Terri Shettle reported that the Sierra 2 Center and SCNA are financially strong, with 80 percent of SCNA income derived from Sierra 2 operations. SCNA's budget is just over \$1 million per year.

About \$90,000 was raised for the ongoing renovation of the 24th Street Theatre.

Senior Center attendance grew 23 percent and Sierra 2 room rental income was up 14 percent. In the first full year of the Learner's operations, 552 students attended 55 classes.

However, SCNA revenues dipped. The annual major fundraising events — wine tasting and the home and garden tour — have been underperforming. Legal costs

Please see Meeting, Page 2

Petrovich sees value of compromise

Developer offers his perspective on settling dispute on Crocker Village sign. Page 3



New SCNA president seeks more diversity

Andi Liebenbaum in her first column encourages neighbors to reach out to someone new to join the board of directors. Page 4



Curious alley names make their way in neighborhood

Quaint passages can be hard to find. Page 11

Neighborhood Concerns Committee aims for job fair, traffic improvements

By John Mathews

In the upcoming year the Neighborhood Concerns Committee will continue to work with neighbors to address their concerns about problems and issues in Curtis Park and the surrounding community. NCC will also address the following issues in 2019.

NCC will continue oversight of the Crocker Village development as it progresses through the year.

The committee will explore having SCNA host a job fair for the local community. We will ask Safeway and other businesses moving into Crocker Village to participate.

Another Cops and Coffee event is in the works. The first one in 2018 was a success, bringing together local police officers and Curtis Park neighbors for informal, friendly conversations. We hope to host two C&C's this year.

NCC will continue to work with the City of Sacramento's Traffic Engineering section on a variety of traffic concerns in the neighborhood. Traffic Engineering investigates each concern whether it be the installation of speed bumps, pedestrian crosswalk lights, or traffic

signage and determines what action, if any, is required. NCC has also met with the Land Park Community Association to address traffic issues on main arterial streets that affect both neighborhoods.

NCC is involved with maintenance and park improvement issues for William Curtis Park. This includes fungicidal treatment of the English elms at the north end of the park to prevent Dutch elm disease. NCC is working on a kiosk for the park where neighbor events could be displayed. NCC will coordinate a Saturday volunteer work day in the park when a maintenance issue comes up that the City Park staff is unable to address.

SCNA will work with other neighborhood associations to again host community forums on issues such as crime, the homeless and drugs.

The committee is helping the Dogxilliary dog group get their website up and running again and will pursue new signage at the entrances.

And NCC will publish public service announcements via emails, *Viewpoint* and the SCNA website.

Please consider volunteering for SCNA neighborhood events in 2019.



Photo/Rudy Calpo

HOME TOUR set for April 17

The volunteer committee is working away to present a fun day of activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 27. Attendees will enjoy food trucks, live music and vintage cars.

The annual home and garden tour is an important fundraiser for SCNA and Sierra 2 Center, with a goal of \$15,000 in sponsorships and ticket sales. Sponsorships range from \$250 to \$2,500. For more information, contact Executive Director Terri Shettle at 452-3005 or terri@sierra2.org.



At the annual meeting, board director Bruce Pierini, left, asks for the presenter to expand on the school board topic. Linda Bell of Fourth Avenue, right photo, asks about the homeless situation.

Photos/Joan Cusick

Meeting: Presentations on many topics bring questions from the audience

(Continued from page one)

related to lawsuits regarding Crocker Village also added to expenses. A new special events coordinator position was recently posted, and plans for posting a director of development position.

The board announced that the SCNA bylaws have been changed to comply with the California Corporations Code's requirements for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Dues-paying members attending the annual meeting will no longer vote for board members. Instead, only board members will vote on its new members.

Three elected officials provided updates about city and county issues.

City Councilmember Jay Schenirer announced that outgoing SCNA President Eric Johnson's name is being considered for appointment to the city planning commission, District 5, subject to full council approval in February.

Schenirer noted that Regional Transit use has decreased even with cleaner cars and other improvements. He has proposed increasing ridership by offering free rides for students from kindergarten through grade 12. He also discussed the homeless challenge and the need to find 100 beds for homeless people in each City Council district.

County Supervisor Phil Serna said

the county has received an additional \$5 million to enhance services to the homeless population on the American River Parkway and address the challenges of the homeless living on the parkway.

Sacramento City School Board Member Lisa Murawski said the board is reviewing spending reductions to cover deficits for 2019-2020 school year. Ninety percent of the district's budget is earmarked for salaries and health care benefits, so there is not much flexibility.

SCNA Treasurer and Finance Chair Jonathan LaTurner said a local accounting firm has been retained to help increase the SCNA budget and install new internal controls.

Board Secretary Kate Van Buren, who is also on the Facilities Committee, said SCNA may be due a \$10,000 refund from the city for previously paid water costs for the Sierra Green. The Sierra 2 Center will need a new roof within five years, and the cost will be negotiated with the city.

John Mathews of the Neighborhood Concerns Committee addressed the possibility of Sierra 2 hosting a job fair for businesses going into Crocker Village. He also discussed the success of the Cops and Coffee event and how the police officers serving the neighborhood enjoyed the opportunity to speak with neighborhood residents.

Petrovich sees value of compromise over shopping center sign

By Paul Petrovich

POINT OF VIEW

It is amazing what can be accomplished through compromise to meet all parties' objectives with a positive result when animosity and personal attacks are not present.

Crocker Drive residents, the Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association and people living in Curtis Park not associated with SCNA activists suggested that we move the extended-height monument sign in the Crocker Village shopping center 180 feet north against the anchor building under construction, away from the Sutterville Road overpass, and 200 feet west, against the railroad tracks and further away from all homes.

After many experiments, I agreed with these suggestions for the sign that would now not be visible from any home.

Clearly, people living on Crocker Drive should have the most say in this matter as people living the closest to the project and having purchased their homes with the full knowledge of the project. All the homeowners we worked with recognize the safety issue of people needing to understand where the shopping center is so as not to jam up an already overly congested Sutterville Road. But for this sign, customers would miss the left turn into the project and need to travel through Curtis Park itself, something I want to avoid.

It is a reasonable compromise to move the sign further away in two directions from any source of perceived sensitivity to make people feel better about it and to be sure it's a non-issue. The sign's new proposed location is 750 feet from the nearest brownstones on Crocker Drive. It is also more than 850 feet from the closest home in Curtis Park.

I am hopeful that city staff is not influenced by the unethical and hateful reporting *The Sacramento Bee* did on

the sign, describing it as "looming" over homes. This is what set off a mob outrage unnecessarily. It's this sort of unethical reporting by *The Bee* that has created so much angst and headache for all involved. Curtis Park residents are also being misled by their own *Viewpoint* newspaper as was the constant mission for the past 15 years.

I honestly don't know how the activists maintain their hatred for everything associated with this project and me, including well-vested property rights. They are so blind in their hatred they fight efforts that will actually help the Curtis Park neighborhood, such as erecting a sign that virtually guarantees no one will drive through Curtis Park when they miss the turn into the shopping center due to the huge overpass blocking the project. They are working against the best interest of the people they represent to satisfy their personal animus.

There are about 2,000 households in Curtis Park. The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association has only 500 members, many who don't agree with SCNA's attacks on this project. The SCNA board is attacking this sign dishonestly, without the facts, is misleading its constituents, and is doing so without any communication with me.

As for the height and design, the sign will be constructed of a single-legged steel beam made to look like an old industrial beam during the Industrial Revolution.



Photo/Will Carlton

The flag, the height of a 65-foot-tall sign, is seen from Sutterville Road overpass on Jan. 21.

It incorporates the elegant scrollwork that is on top of the existing arch over Crocker Drive's entrance. It has a cross beam of the single pole to hold the placards.

The total signage for tenants does not exceed the square footage allowed by the city code for a typical 35-foot monument sign virtually anywhere in Sacramento. It is identical to the signs that are approved by right except it is 30 feet taller so it can be seen over the 35-foot-tall Sutterville Road overpass that blocks the visibility to the left-turn access into the shopping center.

Absent this massive overpass and visual impediment, this application would not be necessary nor would it be made.

Paul Petrovich is president of Petrovich Development Co. This is a condensed and edited version of a letter he sent to a city official.

Safeway announces Crocker Village store will open in March

By Viewpoint Staff

The long-awaited Safeway grocery store in Crocker Village Shopping Center is expected to open in early March.

Safeway will be the anchor tenant of the 260,000-square-foot shopping center. Other smaller shops may open soon, as tenant improvement permits have been requested for Peter's Coffee, Firehouse Subs, Five Guys Burgers, Panda Express and Benfield Pet Hospital.

"We're excited to open a new Safeway in Crocker Village," Brad Street, Safeway division president of Northern California, said in a news release. "This is an ideal location being centrally located and close to downtown Sacramento. We look forward to being part of the neighborhood and welcoming residents to our new store."

Safeway says its 55,000 square-foot store will create more than 150

full- and part-time jobs. Job fairs will be conducted prior to the store's opening. The store will have a Starbucks kiosk and pharmacy, but will not have a gas station.

"I had to decide whether to walk away and let the activists win or make a significant financial and economic concession totaling millions of dollars to Safeway to get them comfortable with moving forward without the fuel station for now," Crocker Village developer Paul Petrovich wrote in a news release.

Petrovich said a revised lease gives Safeway "the ability to close their store if the fuel center is ultimately denied. That would be a sad day for the community and me after all this effort and investment when the city has never denied a gas station in its entire history and to do so illegally."

A lawsuit in which Petrovich challenged City Council's 2015 decision to deny a conditional use permit for a gas

station is pending in the Third District Court of Appeal.

On Jan. 15, Petrovich Development Co. submitted to the city a revised site plan and documentation for the second phase of the commercial area, north of the current construction. Proposed improvements in the revised plan include wider walkways along storefronts for amenities such as art, arbors and seating, an enlarged corner public space at 10th Avenue and Crocker Drive, and more attractive exterior building design and materials.

All single-family housing planning approvals have been granted for the entire Crocker Village residential area. BlackPine Communities has announced the final phases of its homebuilding in Crocker Village, with homes ranging from 1,628 to 2,785 square feet. Home prices are expected to start in the high \$400,000s.

The zoning administrator hearing to decide the fate of Petrovich's request for

a variance to place a 65-foot sign along Sutterville Road overpass, originally set for Dec. 13, was delayed in response to concerns expressed by SMUD about possible conflicts between the proposed sign and Public Utility Commission safety rules governing the existing distribution line and underground electrical facilities in the area. Petrovich submitted a revised variance request Jan. 15 for a 65-foot sign at the southwest corner of the grocery.

The city will recirculate the revised variance request for review. A new hearing date to discuss the necessity for a variance will be set with the zoning administrator. Public comments may be submitted up to the time of the hearing and may be emailed to Zoning Administrator Evan Compton at ecompton@cityofsacramento.org.

The revised zoning variance application will be posted on SCNA's web page. SCNA's comment letter will be posted when it is submitted to the city.

NOTES FROM DEC. 5 MEETING

Andi Liebenbaum elected SCNA president; VP not determined

SCNA's executive board for 2019 was selected with unanimous consent. The new SCNA president is **Andi Liebenbaum**. **Jonathan LaTurner** is treasurer, **Kate Van Buren** is secretary and **Kat Haro** is member at large. The vice president is to be determined when the incumbent, **Bruce Pierini**, returns from his travels.

Facilities

Facilities Chair **Andrew Booth** developed a statement of work to clarify what SCNA and the city are each responsible for. The Facilities Committee acts as advisory oversight for the building and grounds and will collaborate with the Finance and Development committees for upcoming capital improvements. Currently, there is no clear understanding of SCNA's duties as tenant in respect to large maintenance issues.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the SCNA board will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 6 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2.

Neighborhood Concerns

John Mathews reported that the committee would like to co-sponsor a job fair, host two Cops and Coffee events, create and distribute public service announcements, host community forums, re-engage the Sierra 2 Dogxilliary, and organize neighborhood park projects in 2019.

Development

Development Chair **Kat Haro** advised that the committee will focus on how to execute and support efforts to be a community hub, reach out on a

regional level to educate people about what is going on at the center, create a volunteer database, and audit events to ensure they are relevant and valuable to the public.

Finance

Finance Chair **Jonathan LaTurner** will continue financial oversight, budgeting, planning and monitoring. Innovative Solutions was hired to provide strategic accounting services, which will give Executive Director **Terri Shettle** more time to focus on other issues. Jonathan is also co-chair of the Governance Committee, which ensures staff follows protocols.

The board voted to transfer its finances and credit card processors to SAFE Credit Union, which will save up to \$4,000 per year in fees.

The board approved a revised Investment Policy Statement.

Senior Center

Angela Mia said the Senior Center continues to be a channel of communication to a growing population. It provides relevant programming and provides revenue. The annual appeal letters have been sent out.

Home Tour

Home Tour Chair **Lori Harder** would like board members to speak with neighbors about opening their homes in April. The Home Tour is one of SCNA's largest fundraisers, and draws hundreds of people from all over the region, highlighting the uniquely welcoming ambiance of Curtis Park.

— *Kate Van Buren, board secretary*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Should SCNA board be more diverse? If so, how?

The SCNA board, and by extension the Sierra 2 Center and SCNA's programs, would benefit from increased diversity because working among people with personal, cultural, ethnic, and experiential differences leads to rich, enlightening, exciting, rewarding, educational conversations, programs and solutions.

Our lenses are just that — ours. The world is an incredibly rich and diverse place, and we know — inherently as Americans — that diversity is at the core of our nationhood and has resulted in our greatest achievements. We also know from history and personal experiences that the more divisive and separate we are, the more negative we become, the more we fail, and the more we have to be ashamed of.

So, yes, I believe without hesitation that in our tiny slice of the universe, if the SCNA board and the programs and services we offer can become more diverse, the better, stronger and more successful we shall be.

How do we go about encouraging people who are different, people we may not know, to join our efforts? We must ask. This is hard. It's not simply a matter of asking our neighborhood friends to join the board (although we must do that, too). We also must ask neighbors we don't

**ANDI
LIEBENBAUM**
SCNA Board
President



know. On my street (28th Street between Broadway and Second Avenue), I don't know many of my neighbors well, but it is clear from walking the neighborhood that I have neighbors who are young and others who are senior citizens. At a minimum, I am aware that I have Caucasian, African American and Asian neighbors. On my street there are homeowners and renters, some folks with higher incomes and many with lower incomes.

I love my street for its diversity. And I believe all of these differences, all of our lives' experiences, make us richer and make my street exemplary.

My first challenge, as both SCNA board president, and to you as my neighbor, is to seek out someone I/you do not know and try to get to know them. I/you should seek out someone clearly different from me/you and ask them if they have any interest in serving on our neighborhood's board of directors. When they tell me/you they're not familiar with the association, I/you have our first topic of conversation with our new friend.

If you have questions for the SCNA board or would like to address me directly, please submit your questions and comments to president@sierra2.org.

I look forward to this year of service and to increasing diversity within and throughout the work of SCNA.

VIEWPOINT

Editors	Dennis Cusick Susan MacCulloch
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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.

WANTED: Viewpoint seeks a distributor to share the delivery route along Crocker Drive. If you want to volunteer, contact denniscusick52@gmail.net



SIERRA 2DAY

Senior Center gets spicy with art, food classes at Free Friday event

By Katie Byram

Senior Center participants can enjoy another year of Free Fridays, thanks to a sponsored partnership with Eskaton Monroe Lodge. The first event kicks off Friday, Feb. 15, taking place in a variety of rooms at the Sierra 2 Senior Center.

Attendees can save a punch on their Wellness Program punch card and enjoy a free class of Pilates with Lauren at 10:30 a.m. in Studio 2 or Zumba Toning with Kelly at 2 p.m., also in Studio 2. Wear comfortable workout clothes for both classes and bring a yoga mat for pilates. Lauren Byram's pilates class has proved to be one of the most popular fitness offerings in the Senior Center since it began last January. Zumba Toning has been on the schedule for just a few months but is also quickly gaining students, offering an enjoyable way to add a little cardio to seniors' lives.

At 11:35 a.m., Heera Kulkarni will lead a special food workshop called Spice It Up. The health benefits of 10 popular Indian spices (many gaining popularity in the U.S. in the last couple years) and how to use them in food and drinks will be covered. Heera will also prepare and serve a spiced non-dairy Indian beverage (golden milk) that's often used as a home remedy against colds. The drink is known for its health properties; the high levels of antioxidants help reduce inflammation while other spices work to level blood sugar levels and improve digestion. This kind of information will be detailed in Heera's workshop.

After lunch, attendees can take an art class with Cate Schmiedt aka Cate the Funmaker. Cate will lead an introductory drawing class focused on florals and trees. This is a preview to a new weekly class called Art & Funmaking on Thursdays at 1 p.m. starting Feb. 21 in Room 11. Cate has a background in art and art instruction. Her goal as an art teacher is to help others get in touch with their creativity in a low-pressure, high-fun environment. Art mediums vary by month (drawing, painting, collaging, etc.) and participants are welcome to drop into class as they'd like.



Photo/Caroline Dunivant

Music keeps going on 78 RPM records

DJ Cactus Pete has loyal following for weekly round-up at neighborhood bar

By Mindy Giles

Cactus Pete Stegall, a 78-year-young gent spinning 78s at an unassuming neighborhood bar on Franklin Boulevard, has had a pretty swell beginning to 2019.

Last month, Pete was nominated for a SAMMIE (The Sacramento Area Music Awards) in the category "Creative Achievement in Support of the Music Scene." Voting is open until March 12.

The Hideaway at 2565 Franklin Blvd., just south of Broadway, has provided a regular home base for four years, though Cactus Pete also has entertained patrons of the Crocker Art Museum, The Golden Bear and private parties.

Every Tuesday night from 8 to 11 p.m., The Hideaway offers the crucial intersection of hillbilly, country and jazz music that floats above the clink of cocktail glasses and pints of PBR under the guidance of Cactus Pete, a renaissance man/visual artist/DJ.

Consummately dapper, often in vintage bow tie or 1940s silk tie and Stetson hat, he is a gentle intellectual. His deep brown eyes sparkle: "It's all about the music. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the music."

He often kicks off "Cactus Pete's 78 RPM Record Round-up" with "Black Mountain Rag," a traditional instrumental 1940s bluegrass tune, this time by Curly Fox. He moves into classics by Bob Wills & Tiny Moore (Western Swing), Pete Johnson (boogie woogie piano), Fletcher Henderson, Hank Thompson, Louis Jordan and Benny Goodman (jazz); Ernest Tubb, Loretta Lynn, Buck Owens and Merle Haggard (Honky Tonk), and on to the iconic Hillbilly Country band Maddox Brothers & Sister Rose, the amazing Oklahoma family band that rode the rails to get to Modesto during the Great Depression.

Cactus Pete uses a vintage Hilton 75 mono turntable with a two-channel PA system, turnover needle, continuous variable-speed control and a tone arm with adjustable counter weight to bring out a special sound in old records.

Cactus Pete works on playlists, but like any great free-form radio host, he absolutely knows what to play next. "It starts on a whim, sometimes I wing it," he muses, but his categories and sub-genre categories are voluminous. The rare art of the perfect segue lives on within him – he is no stranger to stream of consciousness.

Cactus Pete's renown has helped to build his record collection – fans often bring him boxes of the black shellac to research. In fact it was geeky record/vintage culture collector/musician Mark Miller of Curtis Park who bequeathed him the rare Hilton 75 – a vintage mono turntable with a two-channel PA system built in. With a turnover needle, continuous variable-speed control, a tone arm with adjustable counter weight and a chassis replete with a 75-watt amplifier and jacks for external speakers, Pete rides in style and grace. "It has decent bass that really improves the sound of these old records," Pete says.

Looking around the room on any given Tuesday, one can see plenty of Pete's colleagues, many who live in the neighborhood: record collector/musician Rick DaPrato (owner of Delta Breeze Records in Midtown), writers (Barbara Steinberg, Peter Newton), fellow visual artists (Mickey Abbey, Greg LaTraille) and well known area musicians (Peter Petty, Sasha Prawalsky, Zack Sapunor, Richie Lawrence, Tim Foster, Patrick Skiffington).

Oak Park filmmaker Aaron Zeff is working on a documentary about Pete. It will cover his life as a young baseball pitcher in Eureka, a serious art student at Sacramento State College in the 1960s, as scenic director at the MGM Grand as well as an art professor at the University of Nevada-Reno in the 1970s, a member of a NYC Art Collective in the 1980s and a visual artist in Sacramento since he returned in 1989 and, of course, his lifelong love of jazz and country music.

FEBRUARY 2019



SIERRA 2 CENTER FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY



CHILDREN

Princess & Me Dance Classes
Sundays, Studio 1
10:45-11:15 a.m. (Pre-Ballet)
11:30 a.m.-noon (Pre-Ballet)
12:15-12:45 p.m. (Ballet 1)
whimsyandwishes.com, 916 470-9189

Capital City Music Together
Children 5 and under.
For schedule:
Jennie Ribadeneira, 916 990-3222
capitalcitymusictogether.com

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

Sacramento Native American Believers Fellowship
Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 10
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

OTHER

Cochlear Community Meetings
6-8 p.m. Feb. 21, May 23, Aug. 15, Nov. 7
Curtis Hall. cochlear.com/US/events

Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation
1st Sunday of the month, 1-4 p.m. Curtis Hall
knowthyselfassoul.org

DANCE

Adult Ballet
Two Rivers Dance Center
Saturdays, Studio 2
10:15 a.m., Ballet 1. 12:30 p.m., Ballet Basics
info@tworiversdancecenter.com

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

Polynesian Dance
Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Studio 2
alohatya@aol.com

River City Taps – Adult Tap Dance
See website for class schedules. Studio 1 & 3
www.rivercitytaps.com
richard@rivercitytaps.com

Auntie Amy's Hula
Thursdays, 3-4 p.m., Studio 1
Amy Cornellier, 916 792-5561

Kalanjali: Dance of India
Saturdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Rooms 11
510 526-2183, katherine.kalanjali@gmail.com

Tartan Hearts
Scottish Highland Dance
Sundays, 9-11 a.m., Studio 3
tartanhearts@gmail.com
facebook.com/TartanHeartsDance

NEW: Moodment Dance Workshops
Saturdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Studio 2
moodmentdance.com

ART

Glass Mosaic Classes
Tuesdays, Noon-3 p.m. Room 11
karensarp51@gmail.com

YOGA

Iyengar Yoga
Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 3
Gladys Callander: 916 743-0246

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

MARTIAL ARTS

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
Martial Sword Arts of Europe
Thursdays, 6:15-8:15 p.m., Studio 2
Maestro Eric Myers: 916 276-2247

Unified Chinese Martial Arts
Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Thursdays, 8:15-9:15 p.m.
Saturdays, 9-10 a.m.
Studio 2
Shifu Byron, lohan36@sbcglobal.net

Beginning Tai Chi
Sundays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Studio 3
embodytaichi.com

T'ai Chi Ch'uan
Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. Studio 1
Bradford Louie, bwlouie@yahoo.com

NEW: Treat Dance Class
Fridays, 7-9 p.m., Studio 1
Ashley Battle, (916) 399-6474

NEW: AfroRhythmx Dance Class
Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Studio 1
225 263-1707

FITNESS

Zumba with Toya & Linda
Mondays/Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Studio 2
LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.com

Bellyfit®
Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Sundays, 4-5 p.m. Studio 1
randirobinson@mac.com

Dancehall PowerUp
Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 p.m., Studio 3
LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.com

Motivational Aerobic Dance Exercise
(Classes resume in March) 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Mondays, Room 10. Wednesdays, Studio 1
Kia: keynorrisfitness@gmail.com

Zumba
Fridays, 6-7 p.m., Sundays, 11 a.m.-noon, Studio 2
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
Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Studio 1
Lauren, 916 956-0876

Zumba Gold
Thursdays, 4:45 p.m. (50-min. class) Studio 2
info@tworiversdancecenter.com

Stilettos with KG – Ages 18+
Wednesdays, 8:45 p.m., Studio 3
krystal, kgstilettos@gmail.com

Floor Stretch & Conditioning
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Studio 1
info@tworiversdancecenter.com

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Feb. 9

Showtime: 11 a.m.

Info: 916 292-8443; Christiansciencesacramento.com

International Christian Science speaker Phillip Hockley shares his view of God's effect on well-being and how to find new ways to help and heal those who are suffering.



Phillip Hockley

LION KING JR.

Showtimes: Feb 23: 10 a.m.; 12:30 p.m.; 3 p.m.;

5:30 p.m.; 8 p.m. Feb 24: 10 a.m.; 12:30 p.m.; 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 Student; \$12 Adult. youngactorsstage.com



This Young Actors Stage production brings the African savannah to life on stage with Simba, Rafiki, Timon, Pumbaa, and an unforgettable cast of characters as they journey from Pride Rock to the jungle, and back again, in this inspiring, coming-of-age tale. With an inspirational message of hope, renewal, second chances, love reunited, responsibilities fulfilled, and loyalty, it is a show unlike any other from its global inspirations and language, to its magnificent score.

What's new at Sierra

Auntie Amy's Hula

Hula is a choreographed interpretation of a poetic text – or mele – telling a story through hand and body gestures and rhythmic patterns. This ancient traditional dance and art form was once used to share Hawaiian history and genealogy before written records existed.

Hula is also considered an excellent form of exercise. The graceful nature of the dance requires slow precise movements, intense focus and muscle control. Hula improves both coordination and muscle awareness, much like yoga.

Two hula workshops will be held on Feb. 24 in Studio 3. The first, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., is for ages 5 to 11.

The second workshop, from



2:30 to 3:30 p.m., is for ages 12 and up.

Instructor Amy Cornellier has performed and taught Auntie Amy's Hula for 30 years. Students will learn the history of hula, the meaning of the gestures, movements of a Hukilau song.

Each workshop is \$15 and includes a CD of the Hukilau song performed. To register, call Amy at 916 792-5561.



LEISURE

BOOK CLUB

2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Feb. 11: "Isaac's Storm" by Erik Larson

Mar. 11: "Rabbit Cake" by Annie Harnett

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB

3rd Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Feb. 21: "The Undoing Project: A Friendship that Changed our Minds" by Michael Lewis

Mar. 21: "James Jones: A Friendship" by Willie Morris

FILM CLUB

3rd Tuesday, 1:30–4 p.m.

Feb. 19: "Return to Me" (2000)

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Tuesdays, 1–2 p.m.

Studio 1

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

POTLUCK

Last Friday of the
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FITNESS

FITNESS WALKING

Thursdays, 9 a.m. Fees: free to walk;
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Wednesdays, 10–11:15 a.m.

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Studio 3

10–11 a.m., Thursdays in Room 12

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10:30–11:30 a.m. in Studio 2

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Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Room 12

(Room 9 on 4th Fridays)

STRENGTH AND BALANCE

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& Thursdays in Room 11

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4th Tuesday, 11:10–11:50 a.m., Room 9

ZUMBA TONING W/ KELLY

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

CARDS & GAMES

MAHJONG

Mondays, 10 a.m.–Noon

FUN BRIDGE (RUBBER/CONTRACT)

Thursdays, 1–4 p.m.

PINOCHLE

Fridays, 12:30–3:30 p.m.

EDUCATION

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

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

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Sunday, Feb. 10, 2-3 p.m.
Studio 2, \$25/couple

Mark Making: A Drawing Sampler

Led by instructor Cate Schmiedt, this all-fun, no-pressure art class will introduce beginning and intermediate students to the drawing basics of line, shade and color. Students will also explore a variety of techniques and media, such as charcoal pencils and pen & ink.

Tuesdays, Feb. 12-April 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Garden Room, Fee: \$80

AT SIERRA 2 CENTER The LEARNERY Cultivating Curious Minds

Intro to Watercolors

Tonja Wilcox kicks off a new year of watercolor classes with this intro workshop. To get you started, learn about supplies, basic color theory, and techniques. Complete a small finished project. Materials included.

Saturday, Feb. 16, 3-5 p.m.
Room 11, Fee: \$40

Chocolate Tea

Chocolate is the candy of choice in February. We're celebrating with a tea event dedicated to the love of chocolate. Guests will enjoy three tiers of delicious teas and tea foods that complement chocolate. The Novel Tea, a local, loose-leaf tea company hosts this event.

Sunday, Feb. 17, 1-3 p.m.
Garden Room, Fee: \$40

Beginning Spanish

This class is for those with little to no experience with Spanish. With fun exercises and activities, you'll learn a new language in a simplified, comfortable and fun environment. Led by Deb Fountain.

Tuesdays, Feb. 19-March 26, 6-7:20 p.m.
Room 12, Fee: \$100

Celestial Embroidery

Basic stitches are covered as participants create their cool star-themed hoop projects with birth-sign constellations and celestial patterns using dark denim and metallic thread. Included are customized patterns and supplies. With Cate Schmiedt.

Saturday, Feb. 23, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Room 12, Fee: \$35

For more information and to see more listings, visit www.sierra2.org/thelearnery.

Memories: I now take yoga in my 4th-grade classroom



Eva Rutland directs parents in a PTA skit at Sierra School, one of a series of "P.E. Pills" productions promoting simple virtues.

(Continued from Page 1)

a series of skits performed at Sierra and other elementary schools throughout the city. It was called "P.E. PILLS." "P.E." stood for Parent Education. The series of programs, sponsored by the PTA, were designed to help parents be better parents.

As I read the plays today, the parenting problems in the skits seem dated and, frankly – sorry, Mom – rather silly. A red-haired youngster is distraught because kids at school call him names. (Carrot top! – Oh, horrors, the shame of it.) A mother who tells little white lies incessantly herself tries to cure her own son of lying. And finally, another mother of four children whose house is in complete disarray – beds unmade, kids late for school, Dad can't find his blue tie – is at her wits end. No drugs, no divorces, no homelessness – the bland '50s. By the end of the skit, problems solved with the help of P.E. Pills.

Along with the old script, I found a photograph of my mother. She's the one arching backward to show the other PTA members how to play their parts. The photo was taken on the stage at Sierra 2, the same stage where I performed in 1950s era Christmas Pageants – that's what we called them in

those days – not Winter Programs. Some 30 years later, my own daughter danced in a ballet recital on that same stage.

I really love the Sierra 2 theater space, and I'm happy it's being preserved. When I walk through Sierra 2 hallways to a yoga class in what used to be my fourth-grade classroom or to a performance in the old kindergarten room where our beloved Miss Joann presided, I'm filled with wistfulness. It's been 65 years, but Miss Joann still sends birthday cards to my sister and me.

I've adapted my mother's memoir into a play. A lot of what happens in that play took place right here in Curtis Park and at Sierra 2.

It premieres March 20 on the Sacramento Theatre Company's Pollack Stage. Whether you are new to the neighborhood, or were one of the thousands of children who attended Sierra Elementary over the years, I invite you to join me in one mother's stroll down memory lane.

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IN THE DISTRICT

A weekend of marches

In late January, I participated, along with tens of thousands of Sacramentans, in two events – the Women’s March on Saturday and the “MLK March for the Dream” March on Monday. Both of these

community events once again demonstrate who we are as a community and city and our support for each other. Between the two marches, well over 60,000 of our neighbors came together not only to create community, but also to make a strong statement that we simply must do better – to achieve equity and opportunity for every person in this city – regardless of race, gender or income.

A great sight at the Women’s March was when nearly 20 women elected leaders from the Sacramento region stood on stage, many recently elected in November. We know that we need better gender equity throughout our elected positions, boards and commissions. Similar to the national political scene, this wave of elected women is happening, and we will be a better community for it.

**JAY
SCHENIRER**

City
Council
Member
District 5



The MLK March once again reminds us how far we have to go to ensure that all Sacramentans have the opportunity and resources for success in school, career and life.

With the passage of Measure U, the city has the ability to make a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors who have the greatest need. My colleagues and I have talked at length about “inclusive, neighborhood economic development.” If done right, this translates into meaningful dollars being invested in our neediest neighborhoods to create jobs for adults and increased support for Sacramento’s young people.

These marches bring folks together and build community. It is now our collective responsibility to turn our words and enthusiasm into actions. We will soon be making funding decisions to implement the policies to uplift neighborhoods, with input from community advisors and technical experts. I invite your thoughts on these critical issues as we move forward.



Photo/Mike Scheible

Giant elm falls

The loud noise sounded at first like thunder, but the subsequent shaking of the house made the residents think of an earthquake. When Colleen Riley looked out her front window, all she could see were branches. She and her partner, Stefanie Cook, discovered the giant elm tree in front of their house on Fourth Avenue had fallen over during the windy storm Jan. 6. “We love this neighborhood,” Colleen said. “Within five minutes four families had checked in on us, and we all wound up in our kitchen drinking wine.” Colleen and Stefanie’s house suffered roof and porch damage.

BRET HARTE NEWS

Bret Harte PTA sets fundraiser for Feb. 6

By Adrianna Gonzalez

Another “Give Back Night” fundraiser for the Bret Harte PTA will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6 at Mendocino Farms Sandwich Market, the newest restaurant in the Ice Blocks on R Street.

The restaurant is offering a special 50 percent giveback for Bret Harte on all dine-in and carryout orders for the fundraiser night.

A printed flier (at right) must be presented to the cashier upon ordering for the school to earn credit for the fundraiser. The fundraiser flier is also available at the school front office as well as at the Sierra 2 Center office. The more people who attend, the more funds the school will receive.

A fundraiser at Mendocino Farms on Nov. 4 raised \$1,436 for the Bret Harte PTA. Mendocino Farms Sandwich Market is at 1610 R St., Suite 125.

For more information about this event or to pick up a flier, contact the Bret Harte office at 916 277-6261.

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You must present this printed flier to the cashier in order to be included in the total proceeds. No coupons, discounts or other offers are valid during Mendocino Farms' Give Back Events. 3rd party delivery orders are not eligible.

VALID FOR DINE IN OR TO-GO ORDERS

NextDoor Gem Car Wash to be self-service

By Craig McCulloch

Gem Car Wash on Freeport Boulevard has changed Owners and will convert to a self-service car wash, according to reports on NextDoor.com.

In the business conversion, the existing buildings are to be demolished. Gem has been a full-service car wash for 56 years. It has a long list of satisfied customers, many of whom have grown to appreciate the service and attention to detail in car care. On NextDoor, customers have been lamenting the coming changes.

Approval for this request is pending review by the Planning Department. The comment period has expired.

About 30 employees work at Gem Car Wash. The new self-service car wash would have only four employees. There will be stalls for drivers to self-vacuum their cars.

**Join neighbors to become
an SCNA member:**
sierra2.org or call 916 452-3005.

POINT OF VIEW

Neighbors lament hazardous effects of leaf blowers

By Kathy Les and Hal Thomas

In the pastoral Curtis Park neighborhood, there is daily a disruption to the normal peace and quiet – the sound of mow-and-blow equipment raging above regulation sound levels, moving leaves about into piles.

Most Curtis Park homes have relatively small yards landscaped with low-maintenance plants on streets lined by trees that shed leaves mainly in summer and fall. Yet for the sake of tidy yards, mow-and-blow services are employed year-round to trim slow-growing or dormant grass and blow away leaves that usually collect again just hours after the blowing is complete.

Nearby neighbors endure excessive noise levels when two-stroke gas engines heave and ho their high-pitched throttling.

Nearly every day of the week, mowing and blowing occurs within a block of our home. The afternoons are also filled with this noise, often from 2 to 4 p.m. Most homeowners are likely not at home when noisy services are tidying up their homes, so they don't experience the noise and the particulate pollution.

A friend visiting from out of town was annoyed at the frequency of the noise near our home. According to a *Sacramento Bee* article in 2017, smog-producing particles and fumes from gas mowers, blowers and off-road engines in 2016 were 81 percent that of a standard sedan car.

Not just homeowners, but workers too suffer the excessive noise and fumes. They are subjected to damaging noise levels and toxic fumes. They are asked to work in inclement weather, contributing to climate change

even when there is little need for mowing and blowing in the dormant months of December through March.

The Sacramento noise ordinance specifies that motorized equipment must not be used before 9 a.m. and noise levels within 50 feet must not exceed 65 dBA (even that's loud). Measuring noise levels with a cell phone sound meter, we have found noise levels at 75-90 dBA both inside and beyond a 50-foot radius.

We have witnessed neighbors blowing leaves from within a five-foot range into a pile that ultimately must be hoisted by hand into a green bin. For that they and we endure 20-30 minutes of needless pollution.

We employ a lawn service that uses electric equipment with considerably less noise (55 dBA) and no toxic output into the air. Our service will even rake leaves by hand.

What is the answer? Neighbors may want to choose an electric mowing service over gas-powered. One can ask the existing service switch to electric. Neighbors may purchase manual or electric equipment and enjoy the old-fashioned pleasure of working in your yard on a weekend afternoon.

There is nothing like the smell of freshly cut grass when not filled with carbon-intensive gasoline. Or one can choose to rake leaves; the exercise is freeing and often leaf amounts do not warrant motorized equipment to tidy up a yard.

We are interested in hearing from others who seek a remedy for the motorized noise in violation of city ordinance. We seek solutions that reduce carbon fuels contributing to climate change. Please feel free to email us with your ideas: Kathy.les321@gmail.com or hthomasattorney@aol.com

Sutterville Road traffic not among this neighbor's joys

By Bruce Espenshade

I moved to Curtis Park in the summer of 2016 and have come to enjoy many things about the neighborhood, including the park, my neighbors, many different styles of homes and the proximity to downtown.

One thing I do not enjoy is the traffic and speeding on Sutterville Road. Since Feb. 2018, I have sent letters to Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Councilmember Jay Schenirer without recognition or response.

I have also contacted the Sacramento police about this matter. The representative I spoke with told me they were aware of the matter but did not have the police staff to deal with it and referred me to the community center. I wrote to the Sierra 2 Center without any response.

I have spoken with neighbors about this matter and they agree that things should change.

Trying to cross Sutterville Road should not endanger one's life. There should be a crosswalk where there once was before the city removed it at East Curtis Drive and Sutterville Road. There should be reduced lanes with bike lanes similar to the Broadway plan. There should be enforcement of the 35-mph speed limit. People speed at all hours of the day as they jockey for position on their way to Freeport Boulevard and Sacramento City College, and as they head to Highway 99.

With the new development of the Crocker Village shopping center, I expect that traffic and speeding will only worsen.

I would be happy to go door-to-door to have a petition signed for making changes. I would happily speak at any of the

community meetings to bring attention to these problems and to find ways in which we can bring change that promotes safety and maintains the integrity of the community that so many of us are fortunate to enjoy.

If the city can change the traffic pattern on Freeport Boulevard, make changes on 24th Street to slow the traffic down by building an oversized roundabout and adding speed bumps, and by agreeing to make significant changes to Broadway, then I should expect the city should address the traffic and speeding on Sutterville Road.

After many months, I recently received word from Mr. Eric Poon from the Sacramento Police Department who tells me that there has been a new sign added to Sutterville Road to address this issue. However, personally, I have not noticed any difference in the behavior of most motorists. I told him I think a speed limit radar device, similar to the one on Freeport, might be helpful.

Next, Mr. Poon indicated that there would be a crosswalk with stop traffic function added at East Curtis Drive for pedestrians to cross Sutterville Road. When I asked him about reducing the lanes as has been done with Freeport and soon to be done with Broadway and Franklin Boulevard, he told me that that would not be possible. Certainly fewer lanes would reduce the speeding.

Meanwhile, it's off to the races on Sutterville Road.

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Diagon Alley invisible, except to Google Maps

By Carlos Alcalá

As I understand Harry Potter lore, Muggles in London can't find Diagon Alley because its entrance is invisible, except to wizardly types.

Likewise, Muggles of Curtis Park may be told by Google Maps that Diagon Alley runs through the neighborhood but so far the signs are invisible here.

The map indicates Diagon is the alley between and parallel to Third and Fourth avenues, starting at 21st Street.

However, the only place there is a sign is in Oak Park, where Matt and Jamie Leonardo were building on the back of their lot, facing the alley.

Since the entrance to the new house was on the alley, the city required an address. An address required an alley name.

The Leonardos offered 18 possibilities, including Leonardo. The city said their second choice, Diagon, was fine. Rejected alley names included Vegan, Barack Obama, Pizza, Sutter Brown, Surveillance and Pee-Wee Herman.

As Harry Potter fans, the Leonardos were happy with Diagon. So far, no flood of international tourists looking for magic.

Curtis Park has another alley name with appeal. Or maybe that's with a peel.

Banana Alley is between Markham Way and Third Avenue, starting at 21st Street. Like Diagon, it's the product of planned construction on the back of a lot.

Property owner Alison Wolf didn't ask to name the alley, but the city told her she had to, and pay for the signs.

Unlike the Leonardos, Wolf didn't submit names. The city showed her some pre-approved names and let her pick. Apparently, Banana was best of the bunch. Wolf said Vodka Alley was another option.

By the way, there's another fruit street in Curtis Park: Sakura Lane, which almost bumps into Banana, coming from 24th Street. The name refers to blooming cherry trees in Japanese.



Photo/Caroline Dunivant

Jamie Leonardo and her daughter, London Leonardo, 2, with Indie Leonardo, a Pitbull mix, at alley sign.

Governor appoints Shiroma to state's utilities commission

By Judy Scheible

Gov. Gavin Newsom has appointed former SMUD board member Genevieve Shiroma to the state Public Utilities Commission, which regulates privately owned electric, natural gas, water, telecommunications and other services and utilities, including Pacific Gas and Electric Co.



Shiroma, who lives on Portola Way, had already started doing commission work before her Jan. 31 swearing-in. The position requires state Senate confirmation.

"I'm privileged and excited to help problem solve," Shiroma told *Viewpoint*. "Public service is what I am. My experience at the SMUD board, the Agriculture Labor Relations Board and the California Air Resources Board make me a good fit for this PUC job, especially during this time of great change with the climate and the digital divide."

Shiroma said she will resign from her position with the ALRB because the PUC job is full time.

Longtime Curtis Park residents will recall Shiroma was an advocate of increased safety in the Western Pacific Railroad yard four decades ago, and then for cleanup of toxics after the Union Pacific Railroad acquired the site. As a member of the SCNA board, Shiroma pushed for comprehensive testing of the entire railroad site for hazardous or toxic compounds. The resulting tests showed that 75 years of railroad use had left the site with troubling levels of arsenic, lead and petroleum hydrocarbons.

The railroad began the cleanup. It was completed after Petrovich Development Co. acquired the land in 2003.

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A crew installed the new theater sign in late November.

Photo/Joan Cusick

Theater sign includes design of entryway tiles

By Eric Johnson

As you walk past the 24th Street Theatre in the evening, you may notice a soft glow emanating from a new sign made by the local company Obra Art & Tech.

Obra was chosen after Sierra 2 looked at several local firms. The excitement and creativity of Obra's owners and their competitive bid put Obra over the top.

The new sign is part of the ongoing renovation of the theater. The previous foam letters were tattered and torn, blowing in the breeze, and would have cost \$12,000 to replace. The new sign, made of high-density urethane, was half the cost – despite the internal lighting – and will have a much longer life. It also will make it simpler to correct the date on the sign, as the theatre was founded in 1929.

Brandon Ortiz and Isela Perez, founders of Obra, worked closely with Sierra 2 staff to ensure the new sign fit in with the building.

"I gave Brandon and Isela a full tour of the center so they could bring in the history of the space," said Heather Hogan of Sierra 2's staff. "We picked up the floral icon, for instance, from the Andalusian tiles in the entryway."

Isela Perez said a lot of Obra's project time involved research and development. "Given the amount of sunlight that space gets, we wanted to do some interesting things with light and shadow," she said.

Brandon Perez added, "We looked to incorporate some of the Spanish feel of the building, and working on the computer let us incorporate most of the things we were asked to do."

'Paella for Paradise' raises \$7,000 for Camp Fire victims

By Viewpoint Staff

The Curtis Park neighborhood responded to the needs of Butte County fire victims with "Paella for Paradise," a sold-out fundraiser at Taylor's Kitchen.

The Dec. 2 event was produced by Steve Nikkel, a Curtis Park resident, co-owner of Swell Productions, server/bartender at Taylor's Kitchen and a known Spanophile and Paella freak. He was assisted by friends Rob Lind, executive chef at Ella; Isaac Hernandez, sous chef at Brasserie Capitale; and Bryan Fernando, sous chef at Taylor's Kitchen. Neighborhood vintners John and Lynn Giguere of Matchbook Winery and Scott Dilyard and Susan Joy of Venture Winery donated their wines.

"We had two big 32-inch rigs in the alley," creating versions of what Nikkel calls "California Paella," with lots of fresh green beans, red and green peppers, chicken and mussels atop the exquisite rice. "You could really feel the community in the room," Nikkel said. "Over \$7,000 was delivered to the North Valley Community Foundation in Chico."



Photo/Steve Nikkel

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