

VIEWPOINT

A Publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association

Vol. 40, No. 7

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

March 2019

Mexico's consul general values neighbors in Curtis Park

By Mat Cusick
and Carlos Alcala

Liliana Ferrer often talks about good neighbors. As the senior representative of Mexico in California, Ferrer sees the relationship between the two governments in terms of neighbors who must work together, in spite of a troubled history and hostility from the current resident of the White House.

"We have historical ties that go back hundreds of years, and we will be neighbors forever," says Ferrer. "Mexico wants to build bridges, and good neighbors find ways to resolve challenging issues and collaborate as a team."

Ferrer and her family moved to Curtis Park in 2017 after she was appointed Mexico's consul general. Her husband, Douglas Smurr, grew up in Sacramento. He is an attorney who has specialized in Mexico and Latin America. Their daughter, Maria Cecilia, attends Sacramento City College and plans to transfer to a University of California campus. Son Alex is in the HISP program at C.K. McClatchy High School.

To Ferrer, Curtis Park is not just a neighborhood. It is a political ally, a great place to raise children, and a lesson in history. The family home on Markham Way represents part of that history, she says. Some of that is architectural, but she was also fascinated to learn that the



Liliana Ferrer and husband Douglas Smurr enjoy taking their dog, Maya, for walks in the neighborhood. Ferrer calls Maya "la Consentida," the spoiled one in the family.

Photo/Caroline Dunivant

perimeter of John Sutter's original land grant, given to him by the Mexican government in the 1840s, runs right by her home.

Ferrer embodies bridge-building in both her personal and professional life. Born in Mexico City, she attended Del Campo High School in Carmichael while her father, Carlos Ferrer, served as

consul general of Mexico in the 1980s. She studied international relations at UC Davis, and continued for a master's degree at UC San Diego, where she was a fellow at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies.

Ferrer has spent more than 25 years in Mexico's foreign service, including at the consulates in Los Angeles and San

Please see Consul, Page 12

Crocker Village 65-foot sign wins conditional approval

By Viewpoint Staff

A Sacramento zoning administrator has approved with conditions a request by Petrovich Development Co. for a variance to allow two freestanding signs – one 65 feet, the other 35 feet – in the Crocker Village shopping center.

Unless appealed to the Planning Commission within 10 days of the Feb. 20 decision, the approval will be final.

During a one-hour hearing, zoning administrator Joy Patterson listened to remarks by project planner Robbie Thacker; Brian Holloway of Holloway Land Co., representing Petrovich Development Co.; developer Paul Petrovich; builder Mike Paris of BlackPine Communities; three residents of Crocker Village; and one resident of Curtis Park.

Thacker's staff report focused on the 35-foot overpass on Sutterville Road, which he said would prevent eastbound traffic from seeing the smaller Crocker Village signs. The report noted that the sign variance was not detrimental to health and safety and was consistent with land-use policy.

Holloway noted that developer Petrovich was willing to waive "at least two signs" in exchange for the variance allowing the 65-foot sign.

Supporting comments came from

Please see Sign, Page 3

Seasonal recipes from our neighbors



Home chefs turn farmers' market produce into tasty dishes
Page 10

Newspaper carriers decide to stop delivery

The Rodriguez family delivered the news in Curtis Park for 15 years
Page 11



Home Tour canceled

Not enough homeowners were ready to show their homes
Page 3



Fred Thomas,
Jeffrey Avenue



Richard Kong and Audrey
Wong, Marshall Way



Leslie Jacobs,
Montgomery Way



John I.,
11th Avenue



Paul Lepinski and Maureen Cleary,
Montgomery Way

Photos/Joan Cusick

Neighbors express mixed views about new electric scooters

By Judy Scheible
and Craig McCulloch

The Uber-owned company that manages rental of the bright red Jump Bikes has added about 100 electric scooters for Sacramento's urban riders.

The city plans to have an ordinance ready soon that will keep scooters off sidewalks and parked in racks. For now, scooter riders must follow the same rules as Jump Bike riders.

The scooters may be rented using the smartphone app for Uber. The rider must first register with a driver's license and credit card on the Uber app. The app will locate scooters and bikes that are available to rent. They may be reserved with a push of a button. The scooters are unlocked by scanning a barcode on the scooter. A couple of short kicks gets the scooter rolling, powered by a small electric motor that will not exceed 15 mph.

The renter must be 18 years or older. Helmets are encouraged for rider safety, although state law does not

require helmets to be worn by people over 18 years.

The rental charge for the scooters is \$1 to unlock it and 15 cents per minute of operation.

In other cities, residents have complained about scooters or bikes parked on sidewalks where they may pose a trip hazard or block wheelchair access. A planned Sacramento ordinance would impose a fine of \$27.50 on the company for scooters not parked in a rack and left on the sidewalk. The scooter companies may impose additional fees on the rider.

In mid-February, two *Viewpoint* staffers walked about Curtis Park to ask neighbors what they thought about the new e-scooters buzzing around town.

Fred Thomas, a retiree who lives on Jeffrey Avenue, south of Sutterville Road, said he thinks the scooters are dangerous. "There are no helmets, and there is so much traffic," he said.

McGeorge School of Law professor Leslie Jacobs, who lives on Montgomery Way, said the scooters, like the bikes,

present a dilemma. "They are all dangerous," she said. "All bikes and scooters need to share the road." She said scooter riders might be tempted to show off a bit. Jacobs said she rode scooters in San Diego along the Pacific Beach boardwalk, but not on the street. Although she said she likes "green stuff," she thinks solving environmental problems with traffic is difficult.

Richard Kong of Marshall Way said he had yet to decide how he feels about the scooters, while his wife, Audrey, said she thinks they are OK.

John I. of 11th Avenue, a retired driver for FedEx, said he thinks the scooters are too small to be in traffic. He wants to see how they are used, where they are left when a rider is finished with them. "I like the (Jump) bikes," he said.

Paul Lepinski and Maureen Cleary, semi-retired software developers who live on Montgomery Way, said they are a little uneasy about the scooters. Paul said he's unsure about "all these motorized vehicles on the street." Maureen said she thinks they are OK if the riders follow the traffic rules.

Crocker Drive residents' concerns include traffic, lighting, parking

By Erik Fay

The Curtis Park Village Community Association held its quarterly meeting Feb. 12 in a model home on Crocker Drive. More than two dozen residents attended.

In attendance were Mike Paris and Dan Murphey, president and vice president of BlackPine Communities, and Stacy Longley of the property management company for CPVCA.

CPVCA President Louis Lane led

the meeting through agenda topics such as the proposed 65-foot shopping center sign, speed and traffic calming in the alley behind the homes that have been built, parking in the alley, and lighting in the parking area. The discussion involved options such as installing arm gates at points of entry to the alley, speed humps and increased signage.

Residents expressed support for the 65-foot shopping center sign and its proposed location. Many said the sign is needed for the success of the shopping center and the entire development.

Paris said permits have been obtained for BlackPine to build on all vacant lots in the development in 2019. The development will have three new areas, with homes in two areas similar to the cottages on 24th Street and the existing Estate homes, but without a rear alley.

BlackPine plans to begin selling the homes in June. Home designs have not been released pending a final planning

report, but within a month should be posted on the BlackPine Communities website.

The BlackPine officers said the higher grade in the unbuilt area was a mistake and will come down. The grade will be balanced for the whole area for drainage. The shape of the water detention basin will be adjusted and function when dry as a passive recreation area.

A dog park and a children's

playground are being planned.

The developer has set aside the oblong lot at Donner Way and Crocker Drive for a special project.

SCNA President Andi Liebenbaum spoke about the history of SCNA and the need for SCNA to reach out in a meaningful way to Crocker Village residents. She invited residents to attend SCNA board meetings and urged them to consider serving on the SCNA board.

Correction:

In the February issue, the caption on page 2 in the annual meeting story should have said Linda Bell commented on the need for legal responsibility for the many forms of bicycling in Sacramento.



New carrier on Crocker Drive

Kimberley Bond, who has lived in Crocker Village for a year, is now delivering *Viewpoint* to the homeowners on Crocker Drive. See story, Page 11.

Photo/Joan Cusick



Neighbors enjoy Mahoney’s crab while the Doug and Jeanne Project performs.

Crab feed raises \$5,000 for Sierra 2

By Viewpoint Staff

About 160 people gathered Feb. 9 in Curtis Hall for the fourth annual crab feed at Sierra 2 Center, the first of several fundraisers this year for SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center.

Mahoney’s Seafood provided 480 pounds of crab. Attendees also enjoyed salad, beer bread and pasta provided by Encore Catering.

The Hop Gardens on Franklin Boulevard donated craft beer, Crystal Basin Cellars in Camino provided wine, and Burly Beverages donated One-Two Punch from its

tasting room on Del Paso Boulevard. The Doug and Jeanne Project provided musical entertainment during the evening. Students from McClatchy High School’s HISP program and the men’s and women’s tennis teams served attendees and benefited from the event. Twenty-four desserts for the dessert auction were donated by SCNA board members, Sierra 2 staff, community individuals, and two Sierra 2 Center in-house businesses – Sugar Plum Bakery and La Famiglia Catering. The fundraiser raised about \$5,000 to benefit Sierra 2 Center programs.

Curtis Park Crime Changes Comparison of 2017 with 2018

Crimes	2017	2018
Robbery	10	5
Assaults	18	19
Burglary	32	23
Larceny	61	62
Vehicle Burglary	40	48
Stolen Vehicle	21	44
Vandalism	21	23
Drugs	6	11
Grand Total	209	235

SOURCE: Sacramento Police Department

Viewpoint wants your story ideas

Viewpoint appreciates neighbors who submit news about their babies, new neighbors, milestones and special events. This includes letters to the editor and opinions.

Please send your ideas 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.

Sign: Positive impact anticipated

(Continued from page one)

three Crocker Village residents – Kevin Miller-Coe, Shannon Baker and Alberto Martinez – who said they liked the sign’s design. Miller-Coe added that members of the Crocker Village homeowners association feel the success of the retail center will have a positive impact on property values.

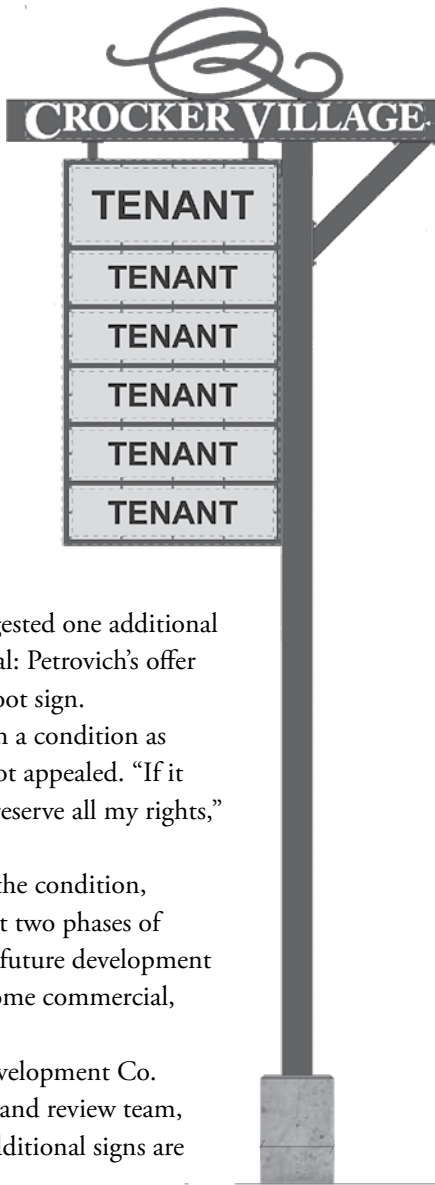
“I own more homes out there than anybody, and not by design,” quipped builder Paris, who said BlackPine Communities is selling a lifestyle to Crocker Village residents. “Everyone has moved there with knowledge of the shopping center. It’s a lifestyle they have accepted and wanted.”

Curtis Park resident Nancy McKeever, the only speaker to question the variance, suggested one additional condition to the zoning administrator’s approval: Petrovich’s offer to “give up” two signs in exchange for the 65-foot sign.

Petrovich said he was willing to accept such a condition as long as the zoning administrator’s ruling was not appealed. “If it goes to the Planning Commission, I want to preserve all my rights,” he said.

Zoning administrator Patterson agreed to the condition, allowing only the two detached signs in the first two phases of development. The condition does not apply to future development in the designated “flex zone,” which could become commercial, office or residential space.

The administrator also asked Petrovich Development Co. to submit an overall signage plan to the design and review team, allowing an advance comment period before additional signs are submitted for review.



Home tour takes a break after 32 years

By Connie Noble

SCNA’s annual home tour will not happen this year because not enough homeowners were ready to show their homes.

For 32 consecutive years, residents throughout Curtis Park opened their homes to the delight of tour-goers for one of SCNA’s major fundraisers.

“The timing wasn’t right to produce a full complement of homes as usual,” said home tour chair Lori Harder. “When talking with neighbors about joining the tour, many are open to the idea and want to lend their support, but also want to take the opportunity to make an improvement or complete a landscaping project,” Harder said.

SCNA staff and volunteers will work with homeowners so the home tour can resume in 2020 and again be a significant source of funding for SCNA.

SCNA Events 2019

Pajama Parade
and Egg Hunt
April 20



Big Day of Giving
May 2

Notes from Feb. 6 meeting

BlackPine to build homes at north end of Crocker Village

BlackPine Communities President **Mike Paris** told the SCNA board his company has agreed to build all the homes at the north end of the Crocker Village development. Paris estimated construction would begin on the new homes in early June.

Brian Holloway, an adviser to Petrovich Development Co., presented a packet of information on future signage for Crocker Village. Holloway said he would let the board know the daily number of out-of-town shoppers the commercial area expected. Board members agreed that a successful, vibrant shopping center was very much wanted.

New SCNA President **Andi Liebenbaum** said she would meet homeowners in Crocker Village with Councilmember **Jay Schenirer**. She also planned to attend their February homeowners association meeting to

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.

start building bridges of communication with our new neighbors. The board wants to have *Viewpoint* delivered to Crocker Village residents so they know about the programs, classes and events Sierra 2 provides.

Neighborhood Concerns

The Neighborhood Concerns Committee will host a Cops & Coffee event Wednesday, April 10, in Curtis Hall (see page 12). More information will be posted on the sierra2.org website.

John Mathews met with an

architect in Curtis Park to review a preliminary concept for a community bulletin board.

Neighborhood Concerns would like to partner with other neighborhood associations to host a job fair for the businesses going into Crocker Village.

Development

The Development Committee continues to expand and refine donor benefits. **Kat Haro** is working with Executive Director **Terri Shettle** and staff member **Heather Hogan** on evaluation benchmarks for events. They are also creating a volunteer database to ease staff members' workload.

Governance

The Governance/Personnel Committee is undertaking a

comprehensive review of priorities and policies to better fit with the Strategic Plan and upcoming fiscal year 2020 financial planning. SCNA board member recruitment and development is among the critical goals the committee has been structuring the past few months.

Senior Center

Angela Mia reported that Senior Center overall attendance in 2018 increased 19 percent from 2017.

The My Story Project will be scaled back to one or two days per month to open up the room for other activities.

The holiday craft fair netted \$2,139 with the addition of more vendors. Next year's craft fair will start earlier in the day and will spill out into the courtyard.

— *Kate Van Buren, board secretary*

President's message

Our community is defined by how nice we are to each other

My neighbor Trent brought me an avocado pit he had sprouted in his kitchen. He did it to be kind. We had not known each other long, and we did not know each other well, but he saw that I was planting fruit trees in my front yard and he wanted to contribute. We engaged in the simple experience of neighbors being nice to one another.

When I was elected president of the SCNA board, I wanted to engage in the simple experience of being nice to some of my new neighbors. On a particularly cold and wet Saturday, District 5 Councilmember **Jay Schenirer** and I visited the new homes along Crocker Drive. While Jay had met many of the residents before, this was my first experience to meet my new neighbors, see some beautiful homes, and introduce myself to the residents and the neighborhood association. Several days later I was invited to attend the Crocker Village homeowners association meeting.

ANDI LIEBENBAUM
SCNA Board President



At the Crocker Village HOA meeting, I was pleased to share some of the priorities of SCNA's Strategic Plan. Our focus is to develop new and reliable revenue streams to fund association programs, encourage more Curtis Park residents to become involved in association activities and leadership, and promote neighbor inclusivity. Because inclusivity is such a critical element in our Strategic Plan, I shared the SCNA board's recent decision to gather feedback from Crocker Drive residents to better understand concerns and expectations associated with the Crocker Village development.

I heard that many Crocker Drive residents bought new homes across the street from what they believed was an imminent commercial development that would (a) bring convenience and wellbeing to their lives; (b) add to the value of their investments; and (c) convert an abandoned rail yard that attracted illegal camping and dumping into a community asset.

Some of the new residents have a great deal of frustration with SCNA for delaying Crocker Village development by waging a legal battle. As I said to Crocker Drive homeowners, we did not do a good job of soliciting a broad spectrum of perspectives as we developed our approach to demand quality in the development of Crocker Village.

And while the SCNA board acted in good faith, motivated by the belief that any developer should develop with integrity, we did not reach out to our neighbors most directly impacted by the successes and delays of Crocker Village. We failed to engage in the simple experience of neighbors being nice to one another.

Several weeks after Trent brought me the avocado sprout, he brought me a strawberry plant. He has lived in Curtis Park much longer than I have. I think he just wants me to feel at home. I baked him an angel food cake for Christmas. Trent and I now greet each other regularly. Simple acts of neighbors being nice to one another, whether through plants, pastries or participation, are perhaps the best definition of community.

SIERRA 2DAY



New senior program focuses on mental health wellness

By Kate Lauter

The Sierra 2 Senior Center is unveiling a new program, Head Space, which focuses on mental health wellness and well-being.

Created by Sacramento State intern-turned-employee Kate Lauter, Head Space

will take place from 12:30 to 2 p.m. every third Monday. It provides information on improving our mental health through a variety of ways. Stress, exercise, diet and sleep are some of the more common areas where individuals may struggle and get down on themselves. Inserting positive changes in these and other areas such as mindfulness, spirituality, and leisure activities has been shown to improve mental health outcomes, especially in older adults.

Head Space offers a place for older adults to discuss their own mental health struggles or concerns, ask questions and hear from others who may have

experienced the same things. This group is the first wellness class offered that primarily focuses on mental health wellness instead of physical health and well-being. Each session of the program is individually designed and consists of pertinent information relating topics to their influence on mental health. The program

aims to remove the stigma attached to mental health issues through open dialogue among peers. Finding comfort in discussing personal troubles and concerns may make it easier to talk about mental health, especially with loved ones and medical providers.

All are encouraged to attend the first class on March 18. This program is designed as a 12-part series, so attendance is encouraged for all sessions, but not required. The first session will cover information on general mental well-

being, gratitude journaling and more. Free “emergency stress kits” will be handed out to all attendees.

RVSP online at www.sierra2.org/senior-center or call 916 455-6339 so we can prepare materials accordingly. Wellness Program prices apply: \$10/drop in; \$35 for 5 classes; or \$60 for 10 classes.



Photo/Kate Lauter

Jack Rader, Senior Committee member, shows free stress kit from Headspace.



Photo/Sandrine Lee

Catherine Russell is set to perform jazz and blues with her band at 7 p.m. March 26.

Grammy-winning vocalist coming to 24th Street Theatre

By Viewpoint Staff

Jazz and blues vocalist Catherine Russell will perform in the newly restored 24th Street Theatre at 7 p.m. March 26.

Russell is touring behind her new record, “Alone Together,” her seventh studio album. She draws on composers and lyricists Irving Berlin, Eddie de Lange, Jimmy Van Heusen, Nat Cole and Louis Jordan.

Russell and her touring band have visited four continents, appearing in major festivals, while also selling out concert halls in San Francisco, New York and Moscow. She has worked with David Bowie, Steely Dan, Cyndi Lauper, Paul Simon, Jackson Browne, Michael Feinstein, Levon Helm, Wynton Marsalis and Rosanne Cash.

In 2012, Russell received a Grammy as a featured artist on the soundtrack of the TV series “Boardwalk Empire.”

The show is promoted by Swell Productions, a partnership of Mindy Giles of 10th Avenue and Steve Nikkel of 23rd Street.

Opening the show is Sacramento’s own Proxy Moon, four multi-instrumentalist musicians with diverse backgrounds. The band uses traditional and non-traditional instruments, including “the junk,” made up of a ball-peen hammer and heavy iron coupler.

Tickets are \$40 general admission.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit swell-productions.com/shows/catherinerussell.html.

The Side Door books 5 artists

By Viewpoint Staff

The Fifth String at 2900 Franklin Blvd. continues to offer live entertainment in its 140-seat “listening room,” The Side Door.

The five shows booked for March are:

- March 8: Mike Beck, guitarist and songwriter
- March 15: Chris Trapper, acoustic troubadour
- March 22: One Button Suit, Sacramento-based string band
- March 23: Adam Block, Sacramento singer/guitarist
- March 30: Nell & Jim Band, folk, bluegrass and Americana

All performances start at 7 p.m. For ticket information, visit www.thesidedoor.net.

MARCH 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. 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

Moodment Dance Workshops

Saturdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Studio 2
moodmentdance.com

Treat Dance Class

Fridays (except the last), 8-9 p.m., Studio 1
Ashley Battle, (916) 399-6474

AfroRhythmz Dance Class

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Studio 1
225 263-1707

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
embodystaichi.com

T'ai Chi Ch'uan

Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. Studio 1
Bradford Louie, bwlouie@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

FURNITURE REPAIR



Retired Cabinetmaker/ Curtis Park neighbor offers:

- Chairs and tables repaired and re-glued
- Missing parts fabricated
- Spindles turned
- Cabinet hardware replaced, or installed on new cabinets

MARK MANN
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916 457-4907



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AT THE 24TH STREET THEATRE



WE GOT TALENT 2!

March 16

Showtime: 6-8 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 (\$15 at the door) 5-12 years old
\$20 (\$25 at the door) 13 years and up
Advance tickets: haitiearlylearningproject.com
Info: 916 912-3658

Come out, enjoy and cheer on some of Sacramento's best talent in this family-friendly event. Event proceeds will provide scholarships, student and school supplies, and continued teacher support in northern Haiti and Sacramento local Early Childhood Educator Scholarships and Recognition.



HAPPY SLIP LIVE

March 22

Showtime: 8-9:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 general admission; Meet and greet: \$25 (includes merchandise and a photo with Christine)
Purchase: eventbrite.com
Info: happyslip.com

Christine Gambito, also known by her screen name HappySlip, is a Filipina-American Internet personality, actress and comedian. As a pioneer on YouTube in 2006, she was the first personality to create a one-woman show and act as multiple characters in her sketches. She was nominated for YouTube's Best Comedy award in the same year. Now with more than 100 million video views across the web, she prefers to perform live for audiences in her one-woman show.



CATHERINE RUSSELL

March 26

Showtime: 7:30 p.m. show/6:30 p.m. doors

Tickets: \$40/eventbrite.com
Info: swell-productions.com

Jazz and blues vocalist Catherine Russell brings her band to perform. Russell is touring behind her new record, "Alone Together," her seventh studio album. She draws on composers and lyricists Irving Berlin, Eddie de Lange, Jimmy Van Heusen, Nat Cole and Louis Jordan.



SIERRA 2 CENTER FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY *Senior Center*

LEISURE

BOOK CLUB

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

Mar. 11: "Rabbit Cake" by Annie Harnett

April 8: "The Soul of America"

by Jon Meacham

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB

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

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

April 18: "The Swerve: How the World Became Modern" by Stephen Greenblatt

FILM CLUB

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

Mar. 19: "The Philadelphia Story" (1940)

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

2nd & 4th Wednesdays,

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Room 11

• Now an extra hour longer! •

LIFE HISTORY WRITING

Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

OPEN ART STUDIO

Fridays, (except the last Friday)

Noon-3 p.m., in Room 11

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TAI CHI (Beginner, Intermediate & Mixed)

Mondays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2

11 a.m.-noon Studio 3

Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., Room 12

PILATES WITH LAUREN

Tuesdays/Fridays

11 a.m.-12 p.m. in Studio 2



YOGA + YOU

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Room 12

STRENGTH AND BALANCE

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& Thursdays in Room 11

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Join Tonja Wilcox for a couple hours of pure creativity, using blobs of watercolor paint, a fine-line pen, and a little imagination to make whimsical birds and flowers. Introducing ink will take your watercolor painting to a whole new level. Beginning to intermediate painters welcome.

Saturday, March 2, 3-5 p.m.

Room 11, Fee: \$40

Gouache Painting

Over two classes, discover the joys of painting with gouache – paint almost identical to watercolor except it has white pigment giving it a bold, opaque and matte quality. It's quick drying, great for laying detail, and can be easier to use. Come try it for yourself with instructor Cate Schmiedt.

Saturday, March 16 & 23, Noon-3 p.m.

Room 12, Fee: \$50

St. Patrick's Day High Tea

Enjoy three tiers of delicious Irish tea food while you learn about tea culture in Ireland. Listen to stories about tea from an Irish expert who will discuss all things tea, from the role of tea in popular culture in Ireland to the role tea plays in rural life.

Sunday, March 17, 1-3 p.m.

Garden Room, Fee: \$40

"Girl Power" Embroidery

Crafty, powerful women unite! Stitch an empowering reminder of your awesomeness and add a few decorative flowers and designs. Phrases to choose from include: GIRL POWER, THE FUTURE IS FEMALE, FEMINIST AF, or NASTY WOMAN. Learn basic stitches as you complete your project. All materials included.

Saturday, March 30, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Room 12, \$35

Succulent & Cacti Watercolor Workshop

Tonja will teach a couple types of succulent and cacti styles, then guide participants through creating a beautiful prickly pear painting that's ready to frame, hang and show off to your friends.

Saturday, March 30, 3-5 p.m.

Room 11, Fee: \$40



Coming April 20–

Pet Portraits with Lizzy

Paint a realistic portrait of your favorite pet, whether it's a dog, cat, chicken or iguana! Artist Lizzy Mailho will guide you through this process, sharing techniques for capturing fur texture, lifelike eyes, and the details that make your furry friend unique.

Saturday, April 20, 11a.m.-3 p.m.

Room 11, Fee: \$60

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

What's new at Sierra

Celebrating link between creativity and textiles

The Sacramento Center for the Textile Arts will bring its monthly meetings to the Sierra 2 Center starting in March. SCTA is a nonprofit organization that shares textile knowledge and skills with the Sacramento area.

Study groups meet the second week of each month. They select a textile topic to study together. For five months each year, they invite an



outside speaker with advanced textile skills to share their knowledge through a lecture, demonstration or workshop.

The Beading Study Group meets the second Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. in Room 10. The Surface Design Study Group meets the second Thursday from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in Room 11. The Needle Arts Study Group meets the second Monday from 6:30 to 8:30

p.m. in Room 9. (It is mostly knitting and crocheting, but welcoming to embroidery and lace making as well.)

SCTA is open to developing new groups. If you have a textile passion not listed, please contact SCTA about your idea for a new group. Find out more about SCTA at www.sactextilearts.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SacramentoCenterForTheTextileArts/.



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In the District

It's time to welcome Crocker Village to the neighborhood

It is no small effort to be invested in a neighborhood, especially one with as much potential as Curtis Park. As we all know, what is now Crocker Village was once a vacant brownfield site.

As we watch the progress of Crocker Village and anticipate the future development by BlackPine Communities of more than 200 single-family homes, now is a good time to take stock and think about how we move forward as a community.

I've discussed these questions with Andi Liebenbaum, the new SCNA board president. Given my commitment to all of Curtis Park, here are my thoughts about what could be:

- **Ensure that Crocker Village residents feel like they're part of the Curtis Park neighborhood.**

I know that many who live on Crocker Drive do not feel a part of the Curtis Park community. Further, they feel some of the

animosity against the developer has shifted to them. Until last December, these residents weren't receiving *Viewpoint*.

I want to thank former SCNA President Eric Johnson for personally delivering the December *Viewpoint* and adding Crocker Drive to the delivery list. I was happy to see a number of Crocker Drive residents attend the SCNA annual meeting and receive a warm welcome when introduced. However, we need to do more.

In February, Andi and I went door-to-door, introducing (or reintroducing) ourselves to let the Crocker Drive folks know we'd like them to feel part of the neighborhood and SCNA. Andi also attended their monthly homeowners association meeting and connected with

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its leadership.

I have asked BlackPine President Mike Paris to co-host a few events with my office for all Curtis Park residents, to showcase plans for the upcoming

residential development.

- **Create a process where potential problems are solved in a collaborative and amicable manner.**

Given the size and complexity of the development, and the intense interest of many of our neighbors, questions and concerns will undoubtedly arise as we move forward. We were successful many years ago in coming to an agreement over issues surrounding the removal of heritage trees. My hope is to create a working group that could offer (non-binding) solutions when issues arise.

I would propose membership of the working group to include Mike Paris, two representatives of SCNA, two representatives of the Crocker Village homeowners association, and my office, with communication among these groups.

- **Learn from this experience—and improve it.**

Clearly, there are many lessons learned from the past 12 years. I'd like those who have been most involved with the process to work with my office and City Urban Design Manager Bruce Monighan to develop a set of recommendations for the city in working with the planned unit development process. As the commercial and residential developments open and more activity comes from Crocker Village, let's keep working toward effective and better projects.

Even with multiple lawsuits pending, I believe it is time to move forward. The Curtis Park community can come together.



By Dan Pskowski

Trees of Curtis Park

Large trees have some risk, especially after high winds

When I inspect large trees, the homeowners usually ask if their trees are safe. As an arborist involved with trees for more than 38 years, I realized not to use the word "safe" when evaluating a tree's structure.

Arborists assess risk looking for signs or indications the tree could shed a limb or fall over. Arborists understand trees are subject to environmental stresses beyond our control.

We cannot predict with absolute certainty a tree's structural integrity. A healthy, structurally sound tree can blow over by the uplift of the surrounding root system during a winter storm. This type of failure is called windthrow and occurs when the soil is saturated and doesn't have sufficient strength to keep the root system firmly anchored in the ground.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) has developed a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification. The arborist attends a three-day course focusing on tree risk assessment, mitigating risk and using the two-page ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form. This comprehensive form considers many factors to establish an overall tree risk rating of low, moderate, high or extreme.

Last summer I took the course and passed the exam to become a qualified tree risk assessor.

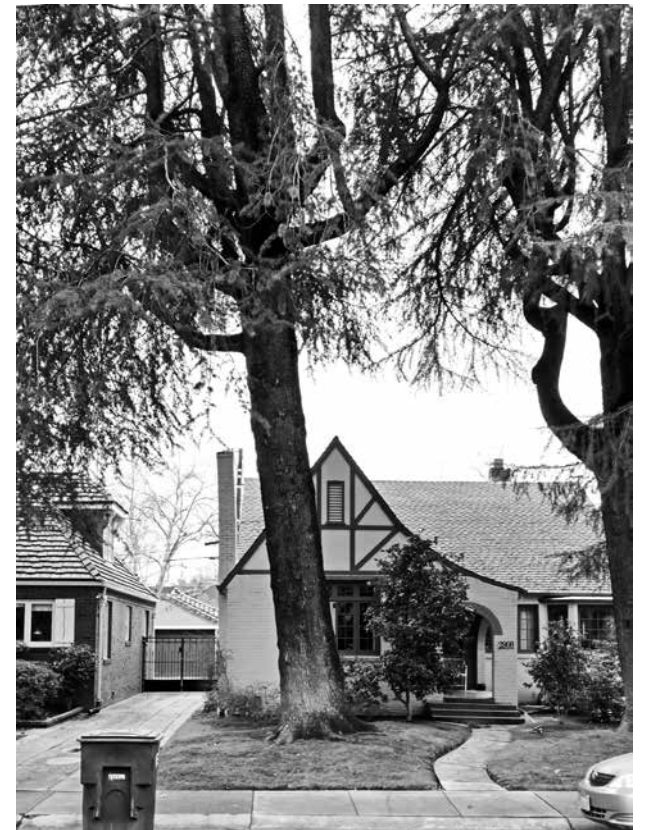
I recently inspected a deodar cedar for a Curtis Park resident who was concerned about the tree toppling over because of a trunk lean. This particular cedar has a phototropic lean, which is a natural growth response to the surrounding environment. In this particular case, the tree was growing toward the sun away from an adjacent cedar.

My inspection determined that this cedar was not loose in the ground. The overall risk assessment of this tree is moderate.

Why wasn't it rated high due to the size of the tree and the existing lean? Because this tree is growing between two other deodar cedars of similar size. The adjacent cedars buffet the leaning one from the prevailing winds. Furthermore, the root systems of all three trees are grafted to each other, which provides better anchoring spread over a much larger area than if it were a single tree.

This homeowner also had the tree pruned in the past, which reduced the wind sail.

But no matter what risk rating a tree receives, I recommend that homeowners should inspect their trees after the wind exceeds 20 mph. Look for soil mounding,



Photo/Dan Pskowski

Leaning cedar is buffeted by adjacent cedars.

broken or hanging branches, and cracks in the wood.

Addressing these problems before the next wind could prevent damage to your car or home and, in certain circumstances, save the tree.



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Neighborhood chefs offer favorite farm-to-fork recipes

By Bruce Pierini

Our Curtis Park urban lots are, on average, small and often shady. In our household, we can only grow herbs and citrus for the kitchen. Those wonderful old oaks, elms and ash trees hog the available sunlight, but they're so beautiful I don't mind going to the two closest farmers' markets for some of the best organic produce in the region.

When we have out-of-town guests, they clamor for a shopping spree at the Sunday morning, year-round extravaganza under the freeway at Fifth and W streets. Alternatively, I head to the seasonal and much smaller Oak Park Farmers Market in McClatchy Park on Saturdays.

Those of us interested in fresh and creative cooking have to jump over our parents' generation – remember most of the Post-World War II moms freed themselves from garden and kitchen duty largely by relying on canned and processed foods. It was our grandparents' generation that many of us are emulating – backyard gardens, canning or freezing tomatoes, eating close to “just off the tree” stone fruit, corn, tomatoes and an array of fresh produce.

I was interested in which particular foodstuffs or ingredients some neighborhood home chefs sought from local farmers. This is what they said.

Q. Which is your favorite farm-to-fork ingredient or food from local farmers? Can you tell us how you use them?

Salad greens of all kinds. I love the silken beauty of lettuce – Little Gems, Oak Leaf, Butter – whatever is on hand. I have a favorite vendor at the Oak Park Farmers Market, Root 64, based in Colonial Heights. I dive for their stand first and gather up the lettuces of the week. I'm especially happy when I find their bags of pre-washed and cut lettuce for easy lunchtime salads. I survive on green salads for lunch and dinner all summer long – salads tossed with my homegrown tomatoes and avocado, dressed simply with olive oil and rice vinegar, coarse salt and pepper. That's all. It's my sustenance. It makes me feel close to the earth.

– **Kathy Les, Portola Way**

Sautéed greens. I use chard, spinach, even kale. Remove the stems. Chop up some red onion, dice some garlic and sauté in some olive oil. Add chopped greens and sauté until wilted. (Kale will require more cooking, even some steaming with a bit of water while covered.) After cooking, dress them with olive oil, some balsamic vinegar, and Parmesan cheese.

– **Peter Winslow, 25th Street**

Too many eggplants? Even the Japanese variety? Try making Caponata – a piquant Sicilian relish for crostini or a savory pasta sauce. Simply cube the eggplants (skin on), salt them, and let drain. Sauté them in olive oil; add onion and celery and continue sautéing until all the veggies are soft. Incorporate diced tomatoes with juice and pitted ripe green olives (not cocktail olives) and simmer to thicken. Finish with capers, chopped basil, and an ounce or two of vinegar to develop a subtle sweet-and-sour aspect to the dish. Serve at room temperature on crostini, warm and toss with your favorite pasta, or use in a vegetarian lasagna.

– **Mark Helmar, Rochon Way**

Anticipating the arrival of spring and summer, I am eager to begin making fermented, spicy and crunchy kosher pickles. Having run out sometime in the fall, the hunt for fresh organic pickling cucumbers begins. The key is to buy them fresh, small about the size of your thumb and very hard. Sea salt (2 tablespoons per quart of water), water and a little time in a jar are all it takes to transform a cucumber into an amazing pickle. Wash the cucumbers in cold water and make sure the blossoms are removed. I use a one-gallon jar with an airlock in the lid. I fill the jar with cucumbers, leaving a

couple of inches of space below the top. Add a bunch of smashed garlic, some red pepper flakes and a teaspoon of pickling spices. Add a couple of bay leaves for their tannin, which helps keep the cucumbers crunchy. Pour in the water. The cucumbers will float, so put a Ziploc bag full of the saltwater brine on top to keep them submerged. Close the lid, add some water to the airlock and place the jar on the kitchen counter. In about five days, test for taste. Keep testing, if necessary, until you find the taste you like. At that point, put them in jars and keep them refrigerated.

– **Peter Blackman, 26th Street**

Our weekly winter trips to the Sunday farmers' market invariably result in a pound or two of Brussels sprouts. While I'm drawn to those big beautiful stalks, I always buy them loose. My favorite way to prepare them is by roasting in a moderately hot oven. The sprouts become tender inside and crispy, caramelized outside. After trimming and halving the sprouts, I toss them with olive oil, salt, freshly ground pepper, and maybe some sprigs of thyme from the garden. Then I drizzle on some aged balsamic vinegar, flavored with figs, and roast about 40 minutes at 400 degrees.

– **Anne Mazur, 10th Avenue**

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Rodriguez family ends 15-year run of delivering the news

Day after day, the white pickup truck moved slowly down the neighborhood streets, the quiet of the early morning darkness interrupted by the “thwack” of newspapers landing on front porches.

For 15 years, Alma and Juan Rodriguez of East Curtis Drive delivered newspapers to parts of Curtis Park – *Sacramento Bee*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *USA Today* and *Barron's*.

And then on Feb. 16 they attached a handwritten notice to the newspapers: “Our last day to be your carriers is Sun. Feb. 17th.” The note said it was “very difficult to get coverage” when family emergencies forced them to be away, “so we decided we’d better stop.”

In the early days, their three sons and two daughters, then ages 14 and younger, helped with deliveries.

“We actually started this so the boys could work,” Alma says. “They were baseball players, pitchers, so they could throw the papers.”

Alma had a day job as a supervisor in the state

controller’s office while Juan worked in construction. Because delivering newspapers is early morning work, sleep schedules had to be altered.

Sometimes they would see garage doors left open, with houses dark and suspicious people lurking around. “We not just delivered, but we’d go around the block and let them know we were watching them,” Alma says.

Subscriber Carlos Alcala of Marshall Way recalls one day when he received *The Bee* but not *The New York Times*. “When I called them,” he wrote in a Facebook tribute, “they said they hadn’t been given enough papers. They went to Starbucks and got me a *Times*, on their dime.”

At the end, the Rodriguezes’ circulation area was from Fourth Avenue to Sutterville Road, and from 21st Street to Franklin Boulevard.

In their note to subscribers, the Rodriguezes wrote that they “greatly appreciate your generosity, especially



Alma and Juan Rodriguez of East Curtis Drive. Photo/Joan Cusick

your prayers.” The note suggested customers with particular delivery preferences – “on the driveway or walkway... over the gates etc.” – contact the new carrier, Joe Flenory, at 916 628-7101. – Dennis Cusick

For the love of old houses

Barbara Alexander moved into her Third Avenue house in mid-September after doing some remodeling and needed repairs, including a new roof. She continues to upgrade her home, painting several interior rooms.

A couple of years ago she bought a house in Natomas to be closer to her daughter, son-in-law and their children, but discovered suburbia was not to her liking. “I love the old houses, big trees and the park,” she said of her new neighborhood.

She lived for many years on the outskirts of Petaluma, where she gardened her property into habitat for wild animals, including feral cats. She also put in other plants and bushes to attract butterflies and wild birds. She has plans to add native



Barbara Anderson of Third Avenue Photo/Will Carlton

plants to her front and back yards.

Her current cat, Honeybunny, is a former feral cat who decided to enjoy the creature comforts as an inside cat.

Since retiring 20 years ago, Barbara has been involved in many volunteer activities. She is a former caretaker of the rose garden in the Sacramento City Cemetery on Broadway. Currently she volunteers at the SPCA thrift store at 15th and E streets. – Craig McCulloch

Crocker Drive volunteer

Kimberley Bond, who has lived in Crocker Village for a year, is now delivering *Viewpoint* to the homeowners on Crocker Drive.

Kimberley lived in Oak Park from 2008 to 2015. She was on the Oak Park Neighborhood Association board of directors for four years. After moves to Yuba City and Grass Valley, her love for Sacramento led her to return to the city with her husband, Steve.

A dedicated bicyclist, Kimberley believes in riding to nearby errands, living by the motto, “If it’s under 5, don’t drive.” She works as a landscape designer, which allows her to put her commitment as a native plant advocate to good use.

Steve Bond is an elite 5k/10k runner. He finished 10th in Run Sac last year at the age of 62.

While looking forward to the

completion of the construction across the street, Kimberley and Steve are enjoying the continuing serenade of the railway frogs at night. – John Mathews



Kimberley Bond Photo/Joan Cusick

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Bret Harte News

PTA offers Family Movie Nights, all-you-can-eat pancakes

By Adrianna Gonzalez

One of the goals of Bret Harte Elementary School and its PTA is building community. The PTA leadership and school staff have put together community-building events for the school year that everyone is invited to attend.

Family Movie Night – Once a month the PTA invites the entire school to a free Family Movie Night. The next Family Movie Night will be Friday, March 29, in the multipurpose room, featuring “Smallfoot,” an



animated film perfect for the whole family. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the movie starts at 6 p.m. Students are encouraged to bring pillows, blankets or sleeping bags to sit on the floor. Concessions will be available for purchase with cash only. Parents or guardians must stay with their students during the movie. The entire family is welcome to meet other families and watch this movie together.

Pancake Breakfast – The PTA’s annual all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast will be from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 27, at Bret Harte.

Tickets are \$5 per person for scrambled eggs, bacon, fresh fruit, coffee, milk, juice and pancakes. Tickets will

be sold in advance at the school office. Students and parents will also take home tickets to sell door-to-door in the next couple weeks. You may also purchase tickets on the event day. The entire neighborhood and surrounding communities are invited.

The breakfast is a fundraiser to support such activities as Family Movie Night, STEM Night, Harvest Festival, Garden Curriculum and End of the Year School Dance.

Volunteers are needed for a successful pancake breakfast. If you are interested in lending a hand, call the school office at 916 277-6261, or email PTA President Daniel Savala at daniel.savala.206@my.csun.edu.

Consul: She has rank of ambassador

(Continued from page one)

Diego, as well as eight years at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C. Last year, outgoing Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto recognized her experience and skills, elevating her to the rank of ambassador.

As a foreign service officer, “that’s the apex of our career,” she says. It also means a greater responsibility for serving her compatriots and getting things right.

Ferrer’s appointment to be consul general in Sacramento followed an assignment as deputy chief of mission at the Mexican Embassy in Paris.

The Mexican Consulate, located in Natomas, serves nearly one million Mexican nationals living in 24 Northern California counties.

Part of Ferrer’s job is to help California’s Mexican

immigrants remain in the state, which is a subject of collaboration between California and Mexico.

Ferrer says it is a mistake to think of immigrants simply as “some sort of foreign group, where in reality, they’re your neighbor and they’re your kid’s friend at school and they’re your kid’s teacher at school, and they’re the nurse that took care of you.” Ferrer reminds that “these are members of your community ... and they’re just asking for a chance to continue ... being part of your community and being your good neighbor.”

Ferrer said her family relishes the progressive feeling of both the neighborhood and California as a whole, as well as the willingness to support Mexicans in this country.

“California has played a leadership role in standing up for what is right,” she says.



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