

# ★ 40<sup>th</sup> ★ Anniversary

## EDITION

# VIEWPOINT

A Publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association

Vol. 41, No. 1

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July 2019



## Hello, Viewpoint

### 40 years ago, neighborhood in transition needed a chronicle

By Dennis Renault

My wife, Marty, and I knew right off the bat that Curtis Park was going to be

our home when I landed the job of political cartoonist for McClatchy Newspapers in Sacramento in 1972.

The community people, the character of its homes, the park and the small elementary school were all welcoming signs. Additionally, it's an easy bike ride to downtown employment at public or private jobs.

Younger couples were moving into the area, fixing up homes built in the 1920s and '30s that had been in decline – some recently with original owners. The 1970s were a time of change, but who would record it and why? Hello, *Viewpoint*.

Also in decline were two significant landmarks, first the 1923 Sierra School, with its two stories of broken windows and leaking roofs, which had closed because of the earthquake risk and was being considered by the state for a Department of Motor Vehicles parking lot. Second, the Western Pacific Railroad yard, dating from early in the 20th century, was causing serious health concerns for the neighbors. Hello, again, *Viewpoint*.

There was no place to go but up and there was nobody to chronicle this transformation except a little monthly publication that would initially be printed on an old mimeograph machine at a helpful neighbor's office and distributed free by volunteers. Other volunteers wrote stories profiling their neighbors and their families, reported on the evolution of the old elementary school into the Sierra 2 Center for Arts and the Community, and then described fundraising activities such as the annual Home Tour and the Pickle Family Circus – plus a lot of parties in the

former school's cafeteria.

The effort to save the school building led to the creation of a neighborhood group, initially called Sierra School Neighborhood Association and later Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association. Neighborhood leaders encouraged residents to participate in decisions at both community and municipal levels. With a residential population of folks working at legislative, municipal, academic, construction and media jobs, in addition to shop owners, sales people, other employees and retirees, the organization developed a talented volunteer workforce to support the neighborhood and its concerns.

After 40 years of *Viewpoint* delivery, neighbors can likely add to their own list of things this little newspaper has represented in print.

To all those neighbors who work or have worked on this powerful little newspaper collecting news, writing and editing the stories, displaying them in an attractive manner, distributing monthly copies to front porches and selling advertising space – Happy Fortieth Anniversary, *Viewpoint*, and many, many more to come!

*Dennis Renault, now living in Monterey, was the first editor of Viewpoint and the catalyst to motivate neighbors to develop what he calls "a truly neighborhood newspaper."*

## Excerpts from four decades of our neighborhood publication

**1979** Douglas DeVries: "As president of SSNA and as your neighbor, I take great pride in the fact that this neighborhood now has an organization to represent it in dealing with city and school district matters affecting our daily lives, such as retention of Sierra School for community purposes." (July)

"Sacramento did a terrible thing when they took out the electric trolleys," says Mrs. Mathews of Fifth Avenue, who used to take the streetcar to work every day at McClellan Field in 1945, when the tracks ran up and down Fifth Avenue. (July)

**1984** SCNA President Mark Helmar wrote to U.S. Rep. Robert Matsui expressing resident concerns about the termination of the post office at 2527 21st St. (October)  
*Sacramento Union* reporter Anne

Richards, a former *Viewpoint* staffer, still faces the possibility of jail as this issue went to press. She refused to turn her notes over to the defense in the death-penalty trial of James M. MacInnes. (December)

**1985** City Councilman Joe Serna will chair a citizens advisory committee that will work with city planners and the Union Pacific Railroad in designing a plan for development of the railyard. (May)

Former SCNA board president Carol Conti will be acting executive director of Sierra 2 for a few months. Her appointment by the board followed the resignation Sept. 18 of former executive director Carol Ann Reyner. (November)

**1986** Community review of the proposed agreement

between the City of Sacramento and the Union Pacific Railroad continues to move forward with a focus on how the agreement can be revised to protect neighborhood residents and the city from potential toxic substances hazards that may exist on the railroad acreage slated for urban re-development. (July)

**1987** Councilman Joe Serna reported that a jogging track has been approved for Curtis Park. The proposed track will cost the City of Sacramento approximately \$112,000, with projected completion date expected in 1988. (April)

Cable television service will be coming to Curtis Park just in time for Christmas. The monthly cost ranges between \$2 and \$51. Installation is another \$30. The "basic" service, which offers 40 channels, can be bought monthly for \$14.50. (October)

**1988** The Union Pacific Railroad was allowed to remove 17,000 gallons of waste oil from a sump north of the main building area. The waste oil was transported to a waste oil recycler in Bakersfield. (March)

A number of SCNA board members expressed concerns regarding the noise, traffic, trash and vandalism that accompanied the Pink Floyd concert in Hughes Stadium. (June)

**1989** Curtis Park home prices are some of the fastest rising in the Sacramento area real estate market. A home on Ninth Avenue purchased 2 ½ years ago for \$80,000 sold recently for \$120,000. (June)

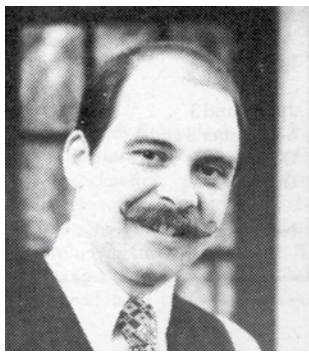
Sierra 2 Executive Director Carol Conti moves on this month to a similar position at the YWCA at 17th and L streets. (June)

*(Continued on next page)*

# Abandoned Sierra School prompted creation of neighborhood association

By Mark Helmar

Forty years ago, Sierra School had been abandoned because of the seismic safety law for schools. The Sacramento City Unified School District contemplated disposing of the property. Rumors in the neighborhood included a low-income housing project or a parking lot for the Department of Motor Vehicles.



Mark Helmar, 1984

A few concerned residents gained access to the school and were appalled at its sad condition – broken windows, water damage, structural deterioration and general disrepair. Undaunted, they recruited other neighbors to assess what could be done. Working with the school district and the city, these neighbors spearheaded a community effort to save the school from the wrecking ball.

Volunteers began cleaning up and repairing the classrooms, offices and corridors in the old building. With architectural and construction input, they transformed the Sierra School auditorium into the 300-seat 24th Street Theatre.

These efforts led to the formation of the Sierra School Neighborhood Association. SSNA became responsible for leasing the property – still owned by the school district – staffing the building and finding suitable tenants to rent the classrooms and other spaces,

thus transforming the abandoned school into the Sierra 2 Center for Arts and Community.

SSNA focused on arts-related and community service organizations for Sierra 2. Early tenants included Matrix Women Artists, Capital City Ballet, Braille Transcribers, Italian Cultural Society, First Step Nursery School and At Six restaurant. Curtis Hall and the Green Room (now the Garden Room) were available to rent for individual or group meetings, parties and receptions.

SSNA's southern boundary originally was Donner Way. When several residents living around Curtis Park asked to join SSNA, its board agreed to extend the boundary to Sutterville Road and the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association came into being.

Besides operating the Sierra 2 Center, SCNA has tackled many issues of community concern. Periodic traffic problems required working with the city's traffic engineers to mitigate adverse impacts on neighborhood thoroughfares. The railyard brought light and noise problems when "Trailers on Flat Cars" began loading operations in the late night and early morning hours. And SCNA played an active role in the decades-long process of cleaning up the toxic wastes in the railyard.

SCNA also sought ways to improve the neighborhood. Promoting the health of trees in the neighborhood and park and planting replacements became a priority. Fundraising efforts twice featured hosting San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus for a weekend of madcap performances, with thousands of dollars raised for a playground on the Sierra 2 Green.

In addition to fundraising, SCNA sponsored



Photo/Dennis Renault

"fun raising" events like the Pumpkin Toss contest. Amateur "propulsion engineers" showcased machines to fling pumpkins the farthest distance. The record toss ended up going over the Sierra 2 Green fence into the adjoining street.

Today, SCNA continues to build upon the legacy of community service and improvement started four decades ago. SCNA events have expanded to include wine tastings, arts and crafts sales, Music in the Park and home tours.

Traffic problems and tree issues will always need attention. And providing thoughtful input to the city on matters such as the build out of Crocker Village or the siting of a homeless shelter will continue to be the hallmark of SCNA.

*Mark Helmar of Rochon Way was on the SCNA board during the 1980s and was president in 1984. He and his wife, Sharon, and sons Jason and Jacob were involved in planning and participating in all of the renovations, events and meetings to develop and maintain Sierra 2.*

**1990** SCNA endorsed the closure of Sixth and Seventh avenues between East Curtis Drive and West Curtis Drive in response to increasing levels of drug and gang activity. (February)

The owner of La Scala Café at Sierra 2 has given notice of intent to sell or close the business by June 30. (April)

SCNA will renovate Curtis Hall, the old Sierra School cafeteria. The total cost is estimated at \$250,000. (May)

**1991** Railyard excavation brings new findings: more asbestos still remains in subsurface. (February)

New carpet, padded seats, air conditioning and a sound monitor system are being installed in the 24th Street Theatre. (April)

The Union Pacific Foundation grants \$5,000 to SCNA to help in renovating Curtis Hall and Courtyard. (May)

Figaro's Courtyard Café is now open at the former location of La Scala in the Sierra 2 Center. (October)

SCNA's first Wine Tasting fundraiser, "Sample the Sierras," was a success. More than 300 people attended, raising \$3,000. (November/December)

**1992** Sierra 2 Center and 24th Street Theatre have been tagged with graffiti in 13 places. (April)

The closure without warning of First Step daycare has stunned parents, who are scrambling to find other arrangements. (October)

**1993** Two new cafes are about to open at Second Avenue and 24th Street: New Helvetia South and Café Milagros. (July)

Daily Grind coffee boutique will open in Sierra 2 in space vacated by Figaro's Courtyard Café. (August)

**1994** The Sacramento City Unified School District is considering the sale of Sierra 2, which could bring \$1.5 million to the district. It is one of four sites considered to help pay for a new administration building at 520 Capitol Mall. Sierra 2 costs the district \$20,000 a year to maintain. (February)

Debate continues on the location of Curtis Park playground site. A meeting discussed plans and need: the 1990 Census shows 760 kids under 13 live in Curtis Park, an increase of 35% since the 1980 Census. (September)

**1995** A March 10 windstorm knocked down a huge elm tree in Curtis Park – probably more than 100 feet tall. (April)

Rosalie Asher has lived since 1927 in the home her father built at 26th Street and Third Avenue. She remembers the potbelly stove that warmed the old two-story Highland Park School across 24th Street from Sierra School. (October)

**1996** The playground project receives \$65,000 from city bond measure; neighbors have raised \$15,000 to date. (May)

A Montgomery Way heritage oak tree, thought to be the oldest oak in Sacramento, is cut down because of extensive root damage. (October)

The Bret Harte School pancake breakfast raises \$6,000 for library and classroom supplies; 1,600 attended. (November)

**1997** Leita Carley Cutter dies at age 99. Her late husband, Curtis H. Cutter, joined with her father, James C. Carley, to subdivide and develop Curtis Park. (March)

Neighbors have turned a vacant lot into a community organic vegetable garden at 2872 Marshall Way. (June)

**1998** RT shares plans for a new light-rail station at Freeport Boulevard and 21st Street to be in operation in 2003.

Union Pacific Railroad refuses to clean up the majority of railyard contamination. UP wants city approval to build condos on soil so polluted that homeowners would be prohibited from gardening. (December)

**1999** Neighbor Genevieve Shiroma is sworn in as a member of the SMUD board. (February)

The city removed a Fourth Avenue tree infected with Dutch elm disease, the first discovered in the neighborhood since 1992. (July)

Another infected tree on 11th Avenue was removed. (September)

The Switchin' Yard benefit concert netted \$4,500. Maria Muldaur headlined the July 17 concert to benefit efforts to monitor railyard development and fund potential legal action. (September)

(Continued on page 11)



## Notes from June 5 meeting

## SCNA takes no position on removal of giant cedar

A giant Deodar cedar tree at 25th Street and Donner Way was posted for removal due to possible structural damage. A visible crack high on the trunk caused the homeowner to ask for the private protected tree to be cut down due to concerns over potential public harm due to falling branches or major failure of the trunk. Some families call this majestic old tree “one of the guardians” of Curtis Park. A neighbor filed an appeal. The board discussed the issue but did not take a position on appealing the tree removal.

At the city’s appeal hearing June 7, it was noted that no aerial inspection was performed to determine the extent of the cracks or if bolting and pruning could mitigate this structural issue. Tree support systems can be used to provide supplemental support and can reduce the risks. Curtis Park residents asked for the city to require an aerial inspection by a certified arborist and expressed their concerns

about losing another majestic tree in our shrinking canopy. City officials said they would make a decision within 30 days to ask for further inspection of the tree or grant the removal request.

## Measure U

Councilmember **Jay Schenirer** and neighbor **Mimi Budd** led a board discussion on where the new tax revenue from Measure U should be spent. Budd asked the board to write a letter asking the city to dedicate funds toward the priorities articulated in their Measure U campaign.

Schenirer gave an update on the status of Measure U, economic development projects, and the budget and audit committees.

City Council passed the budget that the city manager proposed. Starting Sept. 15, free transit passes will be available for students who live or go to school in the city. Library hours will be extended. Projects are underway to improve code enforcement and

## Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the SCNA board will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 10 in the Garden Room at Sierra 2.

community centers in underserved neighborhoods.

SCNA board President **Andi Liebenbaum** wrote a letter to City Council and Mayor **Darrell Steinberg** regarding uses of Measure U funds. “As projects are identified for possible Measure U investment, our elected and appointed city leaders must remember that the dollars generated by the new/ additional half-cent Measure U sales tax are to be used to create an inclusive economy that works for and values all of Sacramento’s residents,” she wrote. “That means historically, chronically or newly depressed and

struggling neighborhoods need the investments of infrastructure, programs, services and opportunities that Measure U can fund.” (The complete letter can be found at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org).)

## Viewpoint

*Viewpoint* is celebrating its 40th anniversary in July. Hundreds of volunteers throughout the years have kept the community newspaper going. According to production manager **Carol Blackman**, *Viewpoint* has 17 active writers, including Sierra 2 staff and at least five board members. From time to time, neighbors submit opinion pieces. About 90 volunteers distribute the paper, under **Gerre Buehler’s** management for more than three decades. **Fran Coletti** has handled ads and billing for a number of years.

—Charles Angelis, board member  
for Kate Van Buren, board secretary

## President’s message

## NextDoor is a place we must be neighborly

Most days, NextDoor restores my faith in humanity. Often, the first posts of the day are my neighbors asking for advice on home repairs, improvements and maintenance, or trying to connect pets, pictures and other items with their missing humans, or posting funny cat memes.

Many times, NextDoor allows neighbors to look out for one another, warning of police activity, sharing cooling shelter information on excessively hot days, and providing personal safety tips. NextDoor helps neighbors find work, helps friends find housing, shares dates and locations for trainings, classes and other opportunities for fun and self-improvement.

Most of the time, NextDoor works as designed. Most of the time I feel my NextDoor neighbors genuinely care about me and all members of the community. At those times, NextDoor works as a network for good people trying to be nice to and for one another.

There is also a less kind side to NextDoor. While it doesn’t come out often, mean words sting when our NextDoor neighbors vilify one another for differences of opinion.

NextDoor is and should continue to be a place where reasonable neighbors can disagree and share their

**ANDI  
LIEBENBAUM**  
SCNA Board  
President



differences. Disagreement, like diversity, enriches us and gives us opportunities to learn and be exposed to people, ideas and experiences different from our own. But sometimes NextDoor neighbors start insulting one another for their differences, and once the insults begin, the NextDoor “neighborhood” breaks down.

On one recent thread, the conversation transitioned from “our dog is missing” to “check Front Street Shelter” to “I bet the homeless stole him.” I am aware that a homeless person could have an animal that belongs to one of my neighbors. The issue, from my perspective, wasn’t the thought that a person who is homeless might have taken the pet. It was the derision that the words imply, that only homeless people steal our pets.

I recently was on the “giving” end of mean-spirited words, and when the people I attacked shared their hurt and concern with me, I was disappointed in myself and pledged to do better. I’m fortunate that my neighbors were willing to speak with me, to expose their disappointment, and to trust that I truly would prefer to be a nicer person.

I hope all of us would choose to be nicer. The world is harsh enough, and our NextDoor neighbors should be people we can talk to with civility and respect, even when we disagree.

## VIEWPOINT

Editors	Dennis Cusick Susan MacCulloch
Production	Carol Blackman
Proofreader	Fran Coletti
Contributors	Valerie Burrows Katie Byram Erik Fay Mindy Giles Adrianna Gonzalez Rosanna Herber Heather Hogan Eric Johnson John Mathews Craig McCulloch Nancy McKeever Bruce Pierini Dan Pskowski Ginger Rutland Judy Scheible Jay Schenirer Terri Shettle Kate Van Buren
Ad Manager	Fran Coletti
Distribution	Gerre Buehler
Photography	Rudy Calpo Will Carlton Joan Cusick Caroline Dunivant Judy Harper

Please send news about babies, new neighbors, milestones and special events, plus letters to the editor and essays to [denniscusick52@gmail.com](mailto:denniscusick52@gmail.com).

## Sword school at Sierra 2 offers historical European martial art

By Craig McCulloch

Neighbors may have seen two men fencing on Saturday mornings around 10 a.m. on the basketball court behind Sierra 2. They are usually dressed in the full regalia of equipment with face masks, fencing jackets for chest protection, heavy gloves and blunted sword tips.

They are students at the Sacramento Sword School at Sierra 2. The school website says, "Our focus is the study of traditional and historical European sword combat of the 16th through 19th centuries. We study historical knowledge and perspective, and use our collective fencing, martial arts, research and teaching experience to bring these arts to life."

The school's two owners and instructors are Eric Myers and Puck Curtis. Both are certified as masters at arms in classical Italian fencing through the San Jose State University masters fencing program. Both also studied martial arts in the Spanish and Portuguese traditions.

"The sport is more like an advanced game of tag," Eric Myers said. "You try to hit your opponent, while



Photo/Caroline Dunivant

Fencers practice weekly at the Sierra 2 Green.

minimizing your risk of a cut. Training involves the use of scientific analysis, and exercise of both the mind and body, with strategic moves like the game of chess."

Classes are held weekly from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays in Studio 2 in the Dance Wing. Classes are \$60 per month and have about six to 15 enrolled students. The minimum age is 14 with students up to 70 years encouraged.

For more details: [sacramentoswordschool.com](http://sacramentoswordschool.com).

## NextDoor City College accommodates needs of homeless students

By Craig McCulloch

Homeless issues continue to be a topic of frequent posts on NextDoor.com. Many focused on planning for the shelter proposed by Councilmember Jay Schenirer near Alhambra Boulevard and Broadway.

This location has not yet been approved by City Council, pending further state funding. A preliminary site analysis of the site has begun.

Sacramento City College has approved allowing homeless City College students to sleep in their cars on campus and to use nearby unlocked shower and bathroom facilities on campus 24 hours a day. There is pending state legislation (AB 302) to enact such accommodations into law for community colleges statewide. A student needs to be in good standing, currently enrolled, with all fees paid to qualify.

### Summer camps

A neighbor posted a query for information about summer camps for kids. About 35 responses were received with many camps recommended. Camp Sacramento, the YMCA, Sac State Aquatics Center at Lake Natoma and Soil Born Farms were each mentioned at least twice.

A new parent resource for summer camps was started in March called [www.simplesummers.com](http://www.simplesummers.com). It contains more than 700 camps with selections by the child's age, interests, price and dates. It is free to use.

## 3 finalists for name of Crocker Village park

The three finalists for the name of the new city park in Crocker Village are Rivett Park, Petrovich Family Park and Ray Eames Park.

All three names will be forwarded to the city's Parks and Community Enrichment Commission. The public may attend the commission meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 1 in City Council chambers and speak in support of any of the proposed park names.

The commission will recommend a park name to City Council for approval in late August or September.

## Pet Supplies Plus plans furry summer block party

By Mindy Giles

The new Pet Supplies Plus store leapfrogged Sutterville Road at the end of April and is now adjacent to the new Safeway store in Crocker Village.

The expanded space allows a wider brand selection of food and pet supplies, plus live animals, fish and more exotic pets, including gerbils, ferrets, rats, guinea pigs, dwarf hamsters and snakes.

With more than 10,000 square feet and 11 employees, the store has a wider selection of tools for handling the bustle of Crocker Village city living: calming collars, diffusers, sprays and balms.

Store team leader Deidre Dell is particularly proud of the store's Sunday adoption outreach. "We now offer adoptions of both cats and dogs with our partnered organization, All Creatures Animal Rescue," based in Rancho Cordova.



Photo/Joan Cusick

Michelle Wildman, left, of Pet Supplies Plus, greets the store's first "customer," Bear, accompanied by his owner, Kendra Nickel-Nguy.

ACAR focuses on animals left homeless after their owners died or moved out of their home. ACAR is committed to supporting anyone who needs to re-home a pet for any reason.

VIP PetCare services are still offered, including flea and tick control, vaccinations, heartworm prevention, microchipping, testing, deworming and nail trims. Dell notes the store will soon offer full training courses for puppies and adult dogs.

In July, on a date yet to be determined, there will be "a summer block party for those

positively hot fur babies out there," Dell says. "There is no cost. Neighbors should keep an eye on their e-mail as we have not picked a day yet. All our events are free and are held in our community room. We will be serving pup frozen yogurt and have free goodies to give away. We also feed the humans too."

## ADULT BALLET CLASSES

BALLET BASIC BALLET 1

FLOOR STRETCH & CONDITIONING

instructor: Katie Rogers

for information contact:

[Richard@TwoRiversDanceCenter.com](mailto:Richard@TwoRiversDanceCenter.com)

class location: Sierra 2 Center

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Flavor of the Month in JULY: Blueberry Cheesecake!



# SIERRA 2DAY



Pickling class, see page 8

## Senior Center offers new classes this summer

### Figure drawing

Instructor and local artist Joel Smith will teach participants how to work with live models, draw gestures, contour lines and lay-in drawings, and will provide tips on how to shade while working in charcoal. This multi-generational program is offered through the Senior Center, but is open to all who wish to participate.

Beginning Figure Drawing will be held 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, July 8-24, in Room 9. The fee is \$20 to drop-in or \$100 for all six classes. Materials are included. Register by calling (916) 452-3005 ext. 208 or emailing [Katie@Sierra2.org](mailto:Katie@Sierra2.org).

### Culinary Adventures

In the mood for a tasty, healthy and planet-friendly meal? Culinary Adventures with Heera has recipes throughout the summer. At 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 23, workshop participants will learn how to make homemade hummus.

Following the hummus tutorial, Heera will demonstrate three homemade salad dressing recipes, including one that is hummus-based. Participants will also enjoy a refreshing green salad with their choice of dressings and snacks. The workshop on Tuesday, Aug. 27 will feature curries

with cumin rice and a flavorful dish of curry with potatoes and peas.

Each workshop is \$15. Advance registration is required but participants can pay at the door. Register by calling (916) 452-3005 ext. 208 or emailing [Katie@Sierra2.org](mailto:Katie@Sierra2.org).

### Head Space

Head Space will meet throughout the summer to discuss a variety of topics that influence mental health outcomes. Everyone can attest to the impact vacation and leisure can have on one's mental health. At Head Space on Monday, July 15, evidence-based

information will be shared connecting the dots on how to maximize the benefits of rest and relaxation after vacation is over.

On Monday, Aug. 19, the group will discuss exercise, its benefits, the right workouts to do, how to avoid overdoing it and what happens in the brain and body when you exercise. Instructor Kate facilitates class the third Monday of every month. Wellness Program punch cards are accepted or a \$10 drop-in fee applies. Call 916-455-6339 or email Kate ([KLauter@sierra2.org](mailto:KLauter@sierra2.org)) with questions or to register for any class.

## Music in the Park concert July 28

Music in the Park returns from 6 to 8 p.m. July 28 with Dr. Rock & The Stuff. From Delta Blues of the 1920s through the British invasion of the 1960s to the current masters of rock and R&B, Dr. Rock & The Stuff draws from several eras to create a sound that is fresh, yet respectful to musical tradition.

Neighbors can grab a blanket and beach chairs and enjoy a fun-filled evening suitable for the whole family in William Curtis Park.

Mr. Cooper will start the show with dancing songs for kids.

Cook Realty will sponsor face painting and Councilmember Jay Schenirer will dish out free Gunther's ice cream.

The final Music in the Park concert of the summer will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 25 following Curtis Fest. On Air, which has been entertaining Sacramento audiences for nearly four decades, will jam the night away with classic rock and sizzling horns.

### Curtis Fest set for Aug. 25

The 13th annual Curtis Fest Artisan Fair, featuring more than 70 artisans, will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25 in Curtis Park.

This free event is open to the public.



Dr. Rock & The Stuff will perform 1920s Delta Blues, the British invasion of the 1960s to current rock and R&B.

Food trucks Culinerdy, Masa Guiseria, Kado's Asian Grill and Cowtown Creamery will be present.

Live music will be performed throughout the day at the musicians' stage.

The Kids Zone will have magic, bubbles, parachute play, balloons and face painting.

Music in the Park will follow with a performance by On Air from 6 to 8 p.m.

## Annual Wine Tasting fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 12

The 29th annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction, one of SCNA's major fundraising events, will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, at the Sierra 2 Center.

With more than 20 restaurants, 25 wineries and at least a dozen local breweries participating, guests can anticipate delicious food and drink along with an extensive selection of exciting items in the silent auction.

Look for a new "Early Bird Gets the Worm" early-entry option to be announced online at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org), in future Sierra 2 Center e-blasts and in the September *Viewpoint*.

Tickets to upcoming neighbor-hosted dinners will offer unique experiences. A raffle will round out the evening.

Proceeds help to support such community events as the Spring Egg

Hunt, Music in the Park and Curtis Fest. Funding is also directed toward local schools that assist with the event.

Tickets will go on sale Aug. 1 at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org). Call Sierra 2 Center at 916 452-3005 or visit the website for more information. Volunteers, sponsors and silent auction donations are being sought. To get involved, call 916 452-3005.

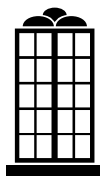


Photo/Heather Hogan

Crowd enjoyed last year's event.



## JULY 2019



# SIERRA 2 CENTER

## FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY

**CHILDREN****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**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. 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  
alohatyra@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., Room 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**AfroRhythmx 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**T'ai Chi Ch'uan**Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. Studio 1  
Bradford Louie, bwlouie@yahoo.com**New!****Hung-Gar Gung Fu**Sundays, 5:30-7 p.m., Studio 2  
Sifumarez@gmail.com, (916) 764-8749**ART****Glass Mosaic Classes**Tuesdays, Noon-3 p.m. Room 11  
karensarp51@gmail.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**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**YOGA****Iyengar Yoga**Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 3  
Gladys Callander: 916 743-0246

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**Aug. 4**, 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m.,

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tells the story of the war hero Col. Fairfax, unjustly framed, imprisoned and condemned to death for sorcery, and the plot hatched by fellow war hero Sgt. Meryll and his daughter, Phoebe, to free him by disguising him as one of the guardians of the Tower itself: the famous Yeomen of the Guard.



#### LEISURE

##### BOOK CLUB

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**July 8:** "Sophia Tolstoy"

by Alexander Popoff

**Aug. 12:** Educated by Tara Westover

**Sept. 9:** The March by E.L. Doctorow

##### NONFICTION BOOK CLUB

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**July 18:** "The Blue Zone Solutions: Eating and Living like the World's Healthiest People" by Dan Buettner

**Aug. 15:** Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong about the World – And Why Things are Better Than You Think by Hans Rosling

**Sept. 19:** The Distance Between Us by Rayna Grave

##### FILM CLUB

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 1:30-4 p.m.

**July 16:** "The Maltese Falcon" (1941)

**Aug. 13:** "The Sun Also Rises" (1957)

##### WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays,

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

##### LIFE HISTORY WRITING

Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

##### OPEN ART STUDIO

Fridays, (except the last Friday)

Noon-3 p.m., in Room 11

##### BEGINNING DRUMMING

Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 1

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

##### POTLUCK

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

##### EDUCATION

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Learn drawing techniques with charcoal and live models. Led by artist/instructor Joel Smith. **Fee:** \$100 for all 6 classes or \$20 drop-in/class

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4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Prices vary by workshop

#### MY STORY PROJECT

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.

#### AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

Monday-Tuesday, Aug. 26-27, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

in Room 10. **Fee:** \$15 (AARP members) or \$20 (non-members). **Register:** 916/804-9777

#### FITNESS

##### GENTLE YOGA

Wednesdays, 10-11:15 a.m.

Fees: \$10/drop-in; \$30/4 classes;

\$60/8 classes

#### WELLNESS PROGRAM

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

#### HEAD SPACE

3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 12:30-2 p.m., Room 12

**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.-noon in Studio 2

#### FEEL GOOD YOGA

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Room 12

#### STRENGTH AND BALANCE

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

& Thursdays in Room 11

#### ZUMBA TONING W/ KELLY

**July 5-Free Class**

Wednesdays & Fridays, 10-11 a.m., Studio 3

#### CARDS & GAMES

##### MAHJONG

Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon

#### FUN BRIDGE (RUBBER/CONTRACT)

Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.

#### PINOCHLE

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**Pet Portraits with Lizzy**

Local artist Lizzy Mailho will teach painting techniques while helping to create a personalized portrait of a beloved pet, favorite fur-friend or spirit animal. No experience is necessary.

**Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Room 11, Fee: \$50**

**Ceramics: Slab Building & Glazing**

Learn to make pottery and sculpt slab mugs and play with glazes and sgraffito techniques – hand decorating by scratching off the top layer of glaze to make contrasting patterns. This is perfect for all levels. All materials are provided.

**Tuesdays, July 16, 23 & 30, 6-7:30 p.m.**

**Room 11, Fee: \$80**

**Crafts with Karen:****Mini Cactus Paintings**

Crafts with Karen features painting cacti on mini canvas. It is great for beginners and kids ages 8 and up. All materials are included.

**Saturday, July 20, 4-6 p.m.**

**Room 11, Fee: \$35**

AT SIERRA 2 CENTER

# THE LEARNERY

*Cultivating Curious Minds*

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

**Midsummer Iced High Tea**

Celebrate summer by learning about the Scandinavian festive holiday Midsummer at the next High Tea event by The Novel Tea. Guests will start with a Scandinavian comfort food treat while learning about midsummer traditions, and then enjoy three traditional tiers of food while drinking tea and enjoying an afternoon with family or friends.

**Sunday, July 21, 1-3 p.m.**

**Garden Room, Fee: \$45**

**Kids Paint: Horses and Unicorns**

Kids ages 4 and up are invited to paint a majestic horse or magical unicorn. They will pick out their own colors to personalize their painting to create their art. All materials are provided.

**Saturday, July 27, 2-4 p.m.**

**Room 11, Fee: \$20/painter**

**DIY Pickles**

Discover the three P's of pickling: Prepping your materials; Preparing your ingredients; and Pressurizing your pickles so they will last through the winter. You will also go over a quick pickle or fridge pickle recipe. Some materials are provided but bring your own cucumbers (1/2 pound of fresh produce).

**Sunday, July 28, 2-3 p.m.**

**Garden Room, Fee: \$25**

**AUGUST SNEAK PEAKS:**

**Aug. 3: Crafts With Karen:**  
Llama Air Plant Holders

**Aug. 4: "Sacramento's Favorites" High Tea with the Novel Tea**

**Aug. 10: Happy Little Waves**  
Painting Class

**Aug. 17:**  
Crafts With Karen: Marble Ring Dishes

**For more information and to see more listings, visit [www.sierra2.org/thelearnery](http://www.sierra2.org/thelearnery).**

## SIERRA 2 CENTER

### FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY

### *What's new at Sierra 2*

**Chinese martial arts**

Hung-Gar is a gung fu style from southern China that focuses on low stances and strong forearms to defend yourself, your family and the weak. The benefits can include good physical health, stress reduction and self-realization.

Classes are taught from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Sundays in Studio 2. The fee is \$60 per month. Guang Ping Yang Tai Chi is also taught. Sifu Frank Marez has been teaching in the Sacramento area for more than 30 years.

For additional information, contact Frank at [Sifumarez@gmail.com](mailto:Sifumarez@gmail.com) or call (916) 764-8749.

**Night of creative collaboration**

The Entertainer's Mixer from 7 to 10 p.m. July 18 is for artists to collaborate and network, whether they are in the music industry, acting, dancing or spoken word.

Food and beverages will be provided for this event in Curtis Hall. Sacramento and Bay Area artists will be showcased in a special performance. This is a formal event

requiring all-white attire. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com). For additional information, contact Domonique Simpson at (916) 204-2640 or email [melaninmoviestar@gmail.com](mailto:melaninmoviestar@gmail.com).

**Elevating dance technique**

Join international fusion dancer, performer and instructor Ariellah as she teaches two workshops for an afternoon of conditioning and dance instruction. Classes will be from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 4 in Studio 2.

The first class, Mindful Conditioning, will focus on yoga, Pilates, dance and drill-infused strengthening and stretching exercises that directly correlate to fusion movements and postures. In the second class, Dynamic Combo Creations, students will receive elements, concepts and exercises to help create more original, creative and dynamic dance combinations.

Each workshop is \$40 for two hours of instruction or \$75 for both. To register, email Evelyn Renee at [evelynrenee13@hotmail.com](mailto:evelynrenee13@hotmail.com).

— Valerie Burrows



24th Street Theatre seats for sale



Renovated/reupholstered theater seats

## 24th Street Theatre chairs for sale: vintage seats can now be yours

Theater chairs recently removed from 24th Street Theatre are now for sale at \$75 each at the Sierra 2 office. These seats were originally from historic Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. Some recent buyers have been reupholstering them in Art Deco and Streamline style with more modern upholstery and colors.

Solid, clean and comfortable, these theater chairs are in very good vintage condition. They are usable as-is, but may need some touch-up paint. We have 176 seats with 25 end caps that can equal 12 rows of seats and can

be purchased as a single seat or row. There are combinations of floor or back mount, and spare parts available as well.

There is a discount for bulk purchase. The chairs are sold as-is; no returns and no delivery. One can create custom seats for home theater, lobby or garden.

Also for sale is a Yamaha MG16/4, Teatronics Producer three-light board, stage lighting instruments and (2) Peavey DTH speakers.

Interested? Please call Valerie at the Sierra 2 Center office: 916 452-3005.

— Valerie Burrow



# COMMUNITY CORNER

## Brother, sister graduate

Katie Brown, daughter of Steffan and Carmel Brown of Marshall Way, graduated from UC Santa Barbara with honors in sociology and psychology. She will return to Sacramento while she applies to graduate school.



Katie Brown

Katie's brother Kristoffer Brown graduated from the HISP program at CK McClatchy High School. Kris has committed to play soccer at Chico State University, where he will major in business.



Kristoffer Brown

## Baby changes everything

Nothing's been the same at the Highland Avenue home of Mark and Monica Guyot since son Cruz was born last Oct. 20, weighing 6 pounds, 15 ounces. Now 8 months old, he's the light of his parents' lives.

Mark and Monica moved to Curtis Park four years ago as renters. They loved the neighborhood and the house they were in, and about a year ago they were able to buy it from the owners who lived two doors away. While Mark's family lives on the East Coast, Monica's parents are in the Sacramento area.

Monica works for the San Juan Unified School District as a speech language pathologist. Mark works for McKesson as a pharmacy consultant.



Photo/Caroline Dunivant

Mark and Monica Guyot with Cruz

## Quieter, pollution-free yard care is coming

By Kathy Les

Imagine Curtis Park without the daily roar of gas-powered yard equipment – imagine less noise and more opportunity to hear the birds singing, less airborne pollution from leaf dust and a clearer view down the street. The Clean and Quiet Yard Care ad hoc committee established by SCNA in February is on the move toward making this a reality.

Committee members meet regularly to shape a strategy to educate Curtis Park neighbors about the harmful effects of gas-powered equipment and the corresponding health benefits of electric and manual yard care. As new information is found, it is added to the SCNA website: [sierra2.org/neighborhood-scna/advocacy/clean-quiet-yard/](http://sierra2.org/neighborhood-scna/advocacy/clean-quiet-yard/).

The committee is seeking lawn care providers who use electric and manual equipment. Fresh Air Yard Care tends Curtis Park yards using electric equipment, and this service has been so popular that other providers are needed to meet demand. If you know of an all-electric or manual lawn service, please contact [kathy.les321@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.les321@gmail.com).

Land Park Community Association also is working to inspire that neighborhood's homeowners and the city to move toward cleaner and quieter lawn care for adoption in the city's general plan update.

The two neighborhood associations hope other associations will jointly recommend policies that:

- Offer financial incentives for homeowners and lawn care providers to purchase clean electric equipment;
- Require active city enforcement of the city's noise ordinance;
- Transition the city's own park maintenance program from gas to electric equipment;
- Transition from gas equipment in the next five years on private and public property.

Existing city noise regulations require that gas-powered leaf blowers not be used within 200 feet of a residential property before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. on Sunday. Also prohibited are leaf blowers that exceed 65 decibels at a distance of 50 feet.

If you are interested in joining the Clean and Quiet Yard Care movement: [kathy.les321@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.les321@gmail.com).

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## Trees of Curtis Park

# There's hope for trees with structural defects

By Dan Pskowski

A Curtis Park resident recently filed a tree appeal involving a large tree on a neighbor's property that is healthy but has structural problems. The city's Urban Forestry section had granted a tree removal permit based on cracks in the main stem about 45 feet up the trunk.

Can a tree with a serious structural defect be preserved? An aerial inspection is required to accurately assess the presence of decay, the depth and the extent of the crack. If this portion of the main stem hasn't been seriously compromised, then a support system is required to preserve the tree and reduce the risk of limb failure. Support systems for trees such as cabling, bracing, and guying have been in use for more than 50 years.

Cables restrict the distance branches can move and, when installed across two branches with a weak attachment, will greatly reduce the risk of failure. Bracing involves the use of brace rods to fasten together a branch with a split or where two branches have split apart.

When bracing a tree, at least one cable is installed for added support. Guying is the installation of a cable

between a tree and external anchor to provide supplemental support.

Unfortunately, most arborists have little or no experience with support systems and recommend removal. Why? Support systems require advanced knowledge in decay detection and analysis. The arborist also needs to ensure that the support system will accomplish its objective of providing additional support without increasing the risk of tree and/or branch failure.

The installation of a support system does require periodic inspections by a qualified arborist. Trees are living organisms and not all potential hazards can be mitigated by the installation of a support system. There are risks associated with trees and no arborist can guarantee the structural integrity of any tree because they are exposed to environmental stresses beyond our control. However, the environmental benefits of trees far outweigh the risks associated with them.

If a resident has a large tree and is concerned about limb failure or its structure, I recommend seeking out an arborist who is qualified in the installation of support systems.



Photo/Dan Pskowski

A split tree limb can be saved with supports.

## In the District

# Measure U funds will address needs of neighborhoods

Summer is here – and we have a city budget for next year.

After much public engagement, public comment and discussion, the council approved the 2019-20

budget. This budget uses new Measure U dollars, about \$50 million a year, to invest in our neighborhoods with the greatest need.

We will be able to fulfill promises made to communities that have not been kept for many years.

I want to acknowledge and thank SCNA for sending a letter of support for these types of equitable expenditures.

Measure U funding will take

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Council  
Member  
District 5



multiple approaches. First, about \$10 million per year ongoing will support additional code enforcement officers, community service officers and other infrastructure investments to ensure city services are responsive to our neighborhoods. Second, the city, in collaboration with a newly formed Measure U Community Advisory Committee, will make capital investments with the goal of improving neighborhoods, catalyzing the local economy and creating jobs.

Some examples that I will be proposing for funding in District 5

include building a mercado on Franklin Boulevard (in partnership with the Franklin Boulevard Business Association and County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy), supporting La Familia's Workforce Opportunity Center across the street from the Maple Neighborhood Center, our MedZone project in Oak Park (in partnership with the Sierra Health Foundation Center for Health Program Management) and our Urban Ag Center in Mangan Park. We will also work with UC Davis to identify potential city investments in the Aggie Square project. Each of these projects, when operational and successful, will boost the economies and create jobs in their respective communities.

By bonding against \$16 million of annual debt service, the city will have

approximately \$250 million in one-time funds to invest in capital projects such as those listed above. This is in addition to \$20-30 million that can be invested annually in one-time or ongoing initiatives.

We must invest in our most at-risk neighborhoods. Without question, using the second half-cent for inclusive economic development initiatives will put pressure on our overall budget to ensure we adequately support all of our employees and meet our pension obligations.

The city has contracted with two organizations to offer recommendations for savings and efficiencies. We will get their reports this July, and I look forward to sharing those recommendations with the community for input and City Council consideration.

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# Early days are happy blur of fundraisers, cleanup work

By Judy Green Scheible

A long time ago at a place not too far away, my boyfriend and I searched for a bigger home. We'd been living elbow-to-elbow in Land Park. I stumbled onto a large, unloved home on Fourth Avenue in a neighborhood we didn't know – Curtis Park. We knew no one. It was 1977. Relatively new in Sacramento, we worked a lot and traveled overseas for vacation.

Then we got married and had two sons. That changed life inside and out.

Through my work colleague at *The Sacramento Bee*, Dennis Renault, I got roped into working on our neighborhood newspaper, *Viewpoint*. There's nothing like asking questions as a reporter and editing a newspaper to find out what's happening. And through my neighbors we got involved in a



babysitting co-op and in the newly formed Sierra School Neighborhood Association. My husband, Mike, served on the board.

Many details of those days remain a happy blur of fundraisers, huge flea markets on the Sierra 2 Green, renovating and converting the Sierra School building into Sierra 2 – fixing windows, painting, cleaning, hauling rubbish, etc. – and working with the school district and the city over various school and neighborhood issues.

What initially sparked the neighbors to join forces was the rumor the school and yard were going to become a parking lot for the Department of Motor Vehicles. At the time, DMV employees were parking everywhere in the neighborhood.

As the neighborhood association was developing, there were some fun, creative fundraisers to help pay for the playground and the salaries of the small staff. One of the most memorable efforts was the Pickle Family Circus. The colorful, circular tents were set up on the Sierra 2 Green. There were no animals, but lots of acrobats and clowns. Neighbors living near the park helped with housing, food and other amenities for the

performers. All the shows were sold out.

During those early years, neighbors worked together to design and build the first playground. There were many nights when volunteers showed up with shovels and wheelbarrows to push donated cement from Teichert trucks into the forms built for the perimeter, and later to distribute huge piles of sand around the swings and slide. The playground that exists today is the third generation of equipment.

Through all the volunteer teamwork for the wine tasting, home tours and campaigns to persuade the city to help us make our neighborhood a good place to live and play, we all thrived. Our sons joined their friends in summer night street hockey matches on rollerblades, on baseball and soccer teams, skateboarding and picnicking in treehouses and at concerts in the park.

To this day, those early friendships and our commitment to the neighborhood remain solid. We were lucky a long time ago to land in a place not so far away.

*Judy Scheible is a retired Sacramento Bee reporter and editor. She has had several tours as editor of Viewpoint over its four decades.*

**2000** RT progresses toward a new Fourth Avenue light-rail station. The tracks, which are being laid from Meadowview north, are expected to reach Fourth Avenue within a couple months. The line is scheduled to open September 2003. (May)

Dog owners, known as the Sierra Curtis Dogxilliary, appeared at the SCNA board meeting to request an expansion of hours for dogs to be exercised at the Sierra 2 Green to 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. (October)

**2001** Curtis Park will be part of the first inventory of historic buildings outside the central city. The city approved a second staff position for the inventory project and authorized funding for a survey of neighborhoods with historic buildings, including Curtis Park and Oak Park. (September)

'Juggling Joe' is back on top after a short break. Gunther's owners Rick and Marlena Klopp watch as the sign

is secured in place after renovation in October. Marlena says, "After 8 years, the neon had to be reblown and the wiring fine-tuned to perfect the movement of flying ice cream scoops." (November/December)

**2002** After 26 years in hiding, the Sierra School sign made a surprise reappearance at the SCNA general meeting. Trey Bonetti learned of the sign's existence at the most recent reunion of Sierra School graduates. He donated \$200 toward the sign's restoration. (December)

**2003** PG&E crews are installing new gas lines in Curtis Park. The goal is to phase out all cast iron and pre-1931 steel distribution mains. (March/April)

The Union Pacific railyard was sold in March to developer Paul Petrovich. (June)

Light rail is up and running. (November)

**2004** The application by Petrovich Development Co. to develop the 72-acre railyard was submitted to the city June 1. The proposal calls for 230 single-family homes, 310 multi-family residences,



Elm trees crush a Fifth Avenue house in 2008.

five acres of mixed-use development and an acre of commercial development. A 6-acre park would serve as a storm water retention basin. (July)

**2005** Old streetlights in Curtis Park are getting a makeover. The lamp bases will be sandblasted, painted and installed on poles with new wiring and 120-watt photovoltaic bulbs that turn themselves on and off. (March)

Following the death of Roz Colleti of 26th Street, an avid participant and supporter of the Senior Center, \$1,500 in donations in her memory were received. (March)

**2006** Sierra 2 staff member Nathan Cordero found a Native American mortar under the 24th Street Theatre. The discovery may be a 1,000- to 3,000-year-old relic. It was donated to Sacramento State University's anthropology department for further study. (May)

**2007** Curtis Oaks celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first electric streetcar subdivision with the Curtis name. It included the area bounded by Portola Way, Donner Way, 24th Street and Franklin Boulevard. (March)

A project is approved to convert Freeport Boulevard and 21st Street to two-way traffic across the railroad and light-rail tracks at Fourth Avenue and 21st Street. (June)

**2008** January storms tear into Curtis Park. Fifth Avenue (near 26th Street) home was crushed by two fallen elm trees. The home was so torn by the trees that the city declared it uninhabitable. The owners were forced to find another place to live until repairs can be made. (February)

Developer Paul Petrovich has removed multi-family housing from the plans for Curtis Park Village. He says that including multi-family housing would increase his project costs significantly because he would have to build more affordable housing units. (June)

**2009** The SCNA board selected Terri Shettle to be executive director of the Sierra 2 Center. (September)

On Dec. 6, 1909, the tract map was recorded for the West Curtis Oaks subdivision. The 100th anniversary of West Curtis Oaks will be marked next year in support of the Home and Garden Tour with a walking tour map and other historic activities. (December)

(Continued on page 12)



Paul Petrovich, right, discusses his plans with SCNA.



# Highland Park came first, then Sierra School

By Dennis Cusick

Take a walk down Donner Way from 24th Street toward Franklin Boulevard. On your left are early 20th century bungalows, many with second-story entrances. On the right are some of the revival styles of the 1920s: Tudors, colonials and stucco moderns. Keep walking and you'll find houses recently renovated and one built in 1986.

Donner Way, like the neighborhood around it, is a place where changing architectural tastes and technologies have blended together.

For more than a century, people have been building homes in the area, from Victorians to ranch houses, from simple cottages to elaborate mansions.

There is a sense of history to the place. The subdivision names, Curtis and Heilbron, and street names, Portola, Sloat, Donner, Marshall, Curtis, Rochon, Burnett and Markham, recall the state's and the neighborhood's pioneers. Four were governors of California: Spanish explorer Gaspar de Portola, the first colonial governor; John Sloat, the first U.S. military governor; Peter Burnett, the first state governor; and Henry Markham, a late 19th century governor.

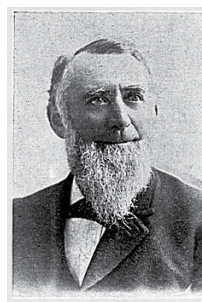
Mention of the Donner party recalls the extreme hardships early settlers endured. James Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill. And French-Canadian immigrant Napoleon Rochon operated a saloon in the 1870s along what is now Franklin Boulevard.

Most important to the neighborhood was wheat farmer and cattle rancher William Curtis. His farms covered thousands of acres in Sacramento County and in Arizona, but the homestead he called his "Home Farm" included about 200 acres between Portola Way and Sutterville Road, 24th Street and Franklin Boulevard. Just before he died, in 1907, Curtis sold the northern edge of his homestead, what would become Portola Way, Fifth Avenue and the north side of Donner Way, which explains why homes there generally are older than homes on the south side.

Curtis Oaks was by no means the first subdivision in the area. In the late 1880s, Highland Park and Ingram Tract had been laid out south of Broadway (then known as Y Street), between St. Joseph's Cemetery and Franklin Boulevard.

The advent of a municipal power plant made electric streetcar systems feasible, and Curtis Oaks subdivision plans included streetcar tracks of the Oak Park line down the middle of Fifth Avenue.

The pace of development accelerated with West Curtis Oaks to the west of 24th Street. In 1911, the city and its nearby suburbs – East Sacramento, Oak Park, Highland Park, Curtis Oaks and West Curtis Oaks – voted in favor of annexation.



William Curtis, left, had a Victorian home on his farm.

The remainder of William Curtis' property was developed between 1919 and 1926, in sections east and west of William Curtis Park, which was created down the middle of the former "Home Farm."

Heilbron Oaks was named for cattle breeders Adolph and August Heilbron. The Heilbron Oaks subdivision map, was filed in 1923, included land for Sierra School, which replaced the wood-frame Highland Park School, across the street at 24th Street and Third Avenue, also came from the Heilbron Tract.

With the exception of the Crocker Village development, the neighborhood hasn't changed much since the 1920s. The trees are bigger and the cars more numerous. Corner groceries came and went, as did a number of gas stations. The original families grew up and out, gradually making way for the next generation and the ones after that.

*This article is adapted from a neighborhood history first published with a 1988 SCNA fundraising calendar.*

**2010** The 70th anniversary of Gunther's Ice Cream sparks sweet memories and a street celebration. The first employee, Marjorie Schnaible, 92, says, "I still think the shop serves the best ice cream." (May)

College Cyclery celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. (June)

**2011** The Curtis Hall renovation is nearly done. By mid-January, the project was on schedule for reopening Feb. 4. However, the bathrooms are not expected to be functional until Feb. 18. (February)

The city will begin replacing nearly 100-year-old water mains and installing water meters at the south end of the neighborhood in 2012. (December)

**2012** Novelist Eva Rutland, who lived in Curtis Park since 1952, died March 15 at age 95. Daughter Ginger Rutland lives on Donner Way. (April)

Gregg Servis of Seventh Avenue found two dead crows in his yard. When Mosquito and Vector Control tested the birds, both were infected with West Nile Virus. (July)

**2013** Construction activity has increased in the Curtis Park Village development, including laying



the foundation for Crocker Drive, which will connect the residential area with the commercial area. (November)

**2014** BlackPine Communities started construction on new homes adjacent to Curtis Park Village the first week of August. Slab foundations were poured on 12 "cottages" along 24th Street south of 10th Avenue. (September)

**2015** In mid-June, the city Planning Commission approved Paul Petrovich's application for a conditional use permit for a 16-pump gas station in the Curtis Park Village commercial center. (July/August) On Nov. 17, City Council devoted more than four hours to the gas station proposal before voting 7-2 to reject it. (December)

**2016** The new senior housing complex in Crocker Village is expected to open April 1 with every apartment taken. More than 200 applications were received for the 90 one- and two-bedroom units. (February)

The resurfacing of Curtis Park's streets has been in progress since mid-October. Delays were caused by heavy rain in October. Temporary measures have been taken until work can resume. (December)

**2017** Long awaited renovations on the 24th Street Theatre continue. First up is replacement of the roof at a cost of \$25,000 to \$27,000. New seats are expected to cost \$85,000, with \$40,000 of that from a matching grant. (November)

**2018** Crime in Curtis Park has decreased by as much as 50 percent in some categories over the last six years. Robbery, burglary, larceny and drug

crimes are all down significantly from 2012 levels. (March)

The state has declared a fresh-produce quarantine for a 123-square-mile area including Curtis Park following the discovery of 15 Oriental fruit flies in the Lemon Hill community in August. (October)

**2019** At the membership meeting, Executive Director Terri Shettle announced the Sierra 2 Center and SCNA are financially strong. The meeting was postponed to Jan. 15 because of poor air quality from the Camp Fire in November. (February)

The aisles of the new Safeway store in Crocker Village are named after a number of Curtis Park streets, including Donner Way, Marshall Way, Portola Way and even Moo Alley. The store's opening ceremony was March 5. (April)

