

VIEWPOINT

A Publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association

Vol. 41, No. 6

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

February 2020

Builder uses vintage designs in Crocker Village model homes

By Dan Murphy

Work has begun on the remaining new homes in Crocker Village, west of Crocker Drive. Five model homes for the tract are the most advanced in construction. Two are near the northwest corner of Crocker Drive and Fifth Avenue and three near the southwest corner.

Mike Paris, president of BlackPine Communities (the Crocker Village home builder), recently discussed the project's status.

When the design process began, Paris sought out information about these vintage homes, including the original magazine that featured many of the Dean & Dean designs for South Curtis Oaks. The 96 Crocker Village homes built so far include period design elements from this research.

Paris said the next 213 homes will be comparable to – or better than – those already built in design and quality. The concept for the development is “surban,” an industry term for “urban energy and walkability with the space and affordability of a suburban neighborhood,” according to the Washington Post. The new phase will allow more economic diversity among potential buyers, with a wider range of size, density and price.

Detailed designs will be available
Please see Construction, Page 2



Photo/Joan Cusick

Casting ballots at the SCNA Board election were (from left) Terri Shettle, Penny Westfall, Andrea Rosen and Carol Conti.

Members bring new era of democracy to SCNA board

By Dennis Cusick

Voters at SCNA's annual membership meeting created a full board of 23 directors for the first time in recent memory, perhaps decades.

The Jan. 8 meeting was scheduled only after the previous board concluded that its decisions in 2018 and 2019 to eliminate voting and membership had been improper.

Nine incumbents and 14 new members were elected.

Twenty-five candidates competed for the 23 positions – 11 incumbent

board members and 14 challengers, one of them was write-in candidate Susan French, who declared her candidacy during the annual meeting in Curtis Hall, which was moderated by Paula Lee of the League of Women Voters.

Votes were cast by 145 SCNA members.

Before the voting, candidates gave one-minute presentations on why they should be elected. Mike McKeever, who finished first with 127 votes, said, “I’m a very strong believer in the importance of active neighborhood associations,” which he called “the

bedrock of democracy.”

Receiving the fewest votes were incumbent President Andi Liebenbaum, with 49 votes, and incumbent board member Kimberley Bond, with 55 votes.

(Complete vote totals are on Page 2.)

The previous board had 14 members. Board member Andrew Booth resigned in December because of a change in his job responsibilities. Incumbents Steffan Brown and Angela Mia chose not to seek re-election.

Please see New board, Page 2

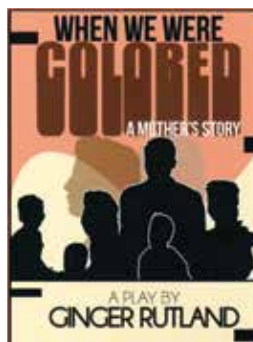
New marijuana dispensary opens

Curtis Park's first cannabis shop has opened on Broadway, just west of 24th Street.
Page 5



Here's a second chance to see neighbor's play

Ginger Rutland's restaging of mother's memoir opens Feb. 14 at Guild Theater.
Page 5



Hitchings breaks age group world record

Jenny Hitchings broke the marathon world record by more than a minute and a half.
Page 11



New board: Executive committee to begin anew

Continued from Page 1

One of the re-elected incumbents, Lori Harder, decided after the election to resign from the board. Her successor was expected to be appointed at the February board meeting.

The newly elected board chose Bill Hoover to be president; Kathy Les, vice president; John Bailey, treasurer; Kate Van Buren, secretary; and Andrea Rosen, member at large. Those five officers will make up the executive committee.

The January membership meeting was the result of a letter to the board in November signed by 32 longtime SCNA members. That letter challenged changes to the bylaws the board made in September 2018 and May 2019 that eliminated SCNA members' voting rights and then eliminated membership altogether.

Although the board announced the bylaw changes in the monthly "Board Notes" column in *Viewpoint* and at the 2019 annual meeting, the import of the changes was not widely known until late 2019.

The letter to the board said the board's actions to eliminate membership were "taken without following the procedures that are required by state law

SCNA election vote totals

Mike McKeever	127
Dan Murphy	120
Andrea Rosen	118
Erik Fay	117
Kay Les	116
Martin Pierucci	115
Dan Pskowski (I)	115
Nury Enciso	114
Gerre Buehler	113
Bill Hoover	112
John Bailey	108
Bill French	108
Bruce Pierini	107
John Mathews (I)	106
Charon Jenner	97
Eric Johnson (I)	82
Lori Harder (I)	76
Larry Easterling (I)	67
Alex Moos (I)	66
Susan French	64
Jonathan La Turner (I)	60
Kat Haro (I)	59
Kate Van Buren (I)	58
Kimberley Bond (I)	55
Andi Liebenbaum (I)	49

(I) = Incumbent
(145 members cast votes)



Photo/Viewpoint file



Photos/Joan Cusick

The new SCNA board elected officers at its first meeting, Jan. 22. Bill Hoover, above, will lead the board as president. From top left, Kathy Les became vice president; John Bailey, treasurer; and Kate Van Buren remained secretary. Andrea Rosen will be member at large on the executive committee.

and the bylaws to make these changes."

Then-President Andi Liebenbaum responded to the letter with a letter saying the concerns were taken seriously. "If we have erred, and correction of past actions is necessary, I am confident our

legal and nonprofit experts will guide us through that process," she wrote.

SCNA members received a letter from Liebenbaum in late December announcing the January board meeting, election of new members, and rescission

of the challenged bylaw changes. After consulting with legal counsel, she wrote, "The SCNA Board has determined that the appropriate action is to revert to the SCNA bylaws that were in force as of September 2018."

Construction: 28 homes have building permits; all on building schedule

Continued from Page 1

soon. Model homes should open by April.

Twenty-eight homes have building permits and are on the construction schedule. South of Ray Eames Park will be 83 smaller "paseo" units – homes centered on a common area with garage access from a rear alley. These will be comparable to BlackPine's Molly's Walk development in Roseville.

Most of the vintage homes in Curtis Park do not have attached garages accessed from the street. Instead, garages are mainly detached structures, usually accessed from rear alleys in Bungalow tracts and via driveways at the side of the home for the post World War I tracts.

Fifty-three of the 213 homes in the next phase will use street access



Model homes should open by April.

Photo/Dan Miurphy

to the garage. In most cases, these homes do not have a rear alley. This is because they abut the rail yard wall or an existing alley in a vintage

subdivision where use of the alley was contested.

Paris noted the street access garage in the model home under

Paris said the new units will have one or more new homeowner associations separate from the existing Crocker Village association.

construction neither protrudes nor dominates the street frontage. Moreover, no objection was raised in the design review planning process for the homes concerning access to such a garage from the street.

Paris said the new units will have one or more new homeowner associations separate from the existing Crocker Village association. If all goes as planned, all the new homes will be completed over the next three years.



Photo/Judy Scheible

Sierra 2 staff helps Santa

When it comes to generosity during the holidays, the Sierra 2 staff and neighbors make a strong team. This year neighbors brought in 147 gifts for children selected by the Salvation Army program. Sierra 2 staff managed the project. They set up the tree with gift tags, kept track of the gifts, stored them and then loaded them into the truck provided by neighbor Steffan Brown. Pictured above from left are staff members on loading day: Stacy Gray, booking specialist; Kate Lauter, assistant program manager; James Martinez, facility monitor; Shawn McFetridge, utility administrative assistant; and Katie Byram, program coordinator.



Crab Feed tickets available

There are still a few tickets for SCNA's fifth annual Crab Feed, from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, in Curtis Hall at Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St.

The Crab Feed raises funds for SCNA and Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community.

The food will include garlic bread, fresh green salad, pasta and Dungeness crab. There will be a no-host bar with beer, wine and soft drinks for purchase.

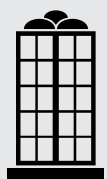
No outside beverages, please.

There will be a dessert auction after dinner.

Curtis Fest favorite Jon Merriman will perform live music.

Tickets are \$50 for an individual, unassigned seat and \$450 for a reserved table for eight. Tickets are available online and in the Sierra 2 Center office.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 452-3005 or go to sierra2.org.



SCNA board invites you to attend its meeting Feb. 5

Welcome to the new world of SCNA democracy. The SCNA board meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Room 10. With the new board of 23 members, the time is right to participate by attending the board meetings, getting involved in discussions and volunteering for a committee.

This is an exciting time for a full complement of board members who are inviting neighbors' ideas and would like to you to join them in making this year one of SCNA's finest.

Learn how the organization is governed, understand the board's priorities and how to get involved with your friends and neighbors.

SAVE THE DATE!

Curtis Park Home and Garden Tour returns April 25

By Lori Harder

Mark April 25 on your calendar for a fun day of activities. In addition to beautiful homes and gardens, enjoy food trucks, live music and vintage cars in the park. The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dozens of volunteers are needed to help monitor the homes in two hour shifts. Please contact Lori Harder at 916 801-7189 or email lorikoi@sbcglobal.net to sign up.

The home and garden tour is an important fundraiser for SCNA and the Sierra 2



Photo/Rudy Calpo

Antique Model A vehicles will cruise the neighborhood again on the home tour day.

High school senior hopes to bring neighbors together March 6

By Mae Krause

First Fridays were a tradition in my family when I was younger. I had at least two birthdays at First Fridays and always loved meeting friends and neighbors.

I've seen firsthand the fun you can have and the things you can learn through spending time with neighbors and friends. That's why, for my senior project at C.K. McClatchy High School, I am planning a new community event, designed for neighbors to socialize, meet and have a great time.

The Curtis Park Social will be from 6 to 9 p.m. March 6 in Curtis Hall at the Sierra 2 Center.

I hope you can join us for a potluck dinner, games and a chance to make new friends. Feel free to bring a dish to share. SCNA will sell beverages, including beer, wine and soft drinks. Basic supplies will be provided.

There may be some other surprises.

At right are a few works in progress of Camille Combrink's ceramic art that will be auctioned at the Curtis Park Social on March 6.



Mae Krause, left, with her friend Camille Combrink, a ceramic artist.

My classmate Camille Combrink is busy creating ceramic art that will be presented in a silent auction as a fundraiser for Sierra 2 Center.

This event is free to attend. All are welcome. We'll have crafts and games for kids as well, so bring the family.

I hope this can become another exciting tradition in Curtis Park.

Mae Krause is a senior at C.K. McClatchy High School.



Notes from Jan. 22 meeting

SCNA board elects new slate of officers

The SCNA board elected new officers at its Jan. 22 meeting: **Bill Hoover**, president; **Kathy Les**, vice president; **John Bailey**, treasurer; **Kate Van Buren**, secretary; and **Andrea Rosen**, member at large.

The board was given an overview of operations and the organizational structure, including board roles and responsibilities, financial history and the mission and vision of SCNA as described in the Strategic Plan.

Revenue from the Sierra 2 Center increased by 60% from 2010 to 2019.

Expenses went up 25%. For SCNA, revenues were mostly flat over the decade while expenses increased 66%. The Sierra 2 budget for the fiscal year in 2019 was more than \$875,000 and expenses were more than \$700,000. SCNA has donated \$33,000 to local schools, \$10,000 to community organizations, and spent \$40,000 to

treat the trees in Curtis Park for Dutch elm disease since 2010.

A motion passed unanimously to consider the hiring of a development director at the Feb. 5 board meeting.

Executive Director **Terri Shettle** reminded the board that the Crab Feed is on Feb. 22 and a few tickets remain available. C.K. McClatchy students will help serve. Volunteers are needed to pour beverages. Donations of desserts are needed for the auction.

Kathy Les has connected with the Land Park Neighborhood Association regarding the Broadway planning project and **John Mathews** will follow up.

Discussion of a board retreat will be on the February meeting agenda to get new board members up to speed. Board committees will also be assigned by the next meeting.

In attendance at the board meeting were

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the SCNA board will begin at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5 in Room 10 at Sierra 2.

Executive Director **Terri Shettle**; and SCNA board members **Kat Haro**, **Jonathan LaTurner**, **Mike McKeever**, **Dan Murphy**, **Eric Johnson**, **John Mathews**, **Nury Enciso**, **Susan French**, **Charon Jenner**, **John Bailey**, **Martin Pierucci**, **Alex Moos**, **Andrea Rosen**, **Gerre Buehler**, **Erik Fay**, **Bill French**, **Bill Hoover**, **Dan Pskowski**, **Larry Easterling** and **Kathy Les**.

Submitted by
Kate Van Buren, board secretary

Neighbors join 10,000 other protesters at Women's March



Photo/Joan Cusick

New SCNA Board member Gerre Buehler (right) and neighbor Linda Bell arrive at Southside Park for the Women's March to the Capitol on Jan. 18.

VIEWPOINT

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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.

Senior Center

The **SIERRA 2 SENIOR CENTER** is open to all seniors (ages 50 and up) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in Room 12 at Sierra 2. The center provides opportunities

to keep learning, exercise, meet new people and be actively involved with neighbors. Free (donations accepted) and fee-based classes and activities are on the calendar.

Sugar Cookie
Decorating
Class
on Feb. 1,
see Page 8



SIERRA 2DAY

‘When We Were Colored’ to be staged at Guild Theater

By Ginger Rutland

Hey neighbors – it’s back. I’m remounting my play, “When We Were Colored, A Mother’s Story,” at the Guild Theater in Oak Park. It opens Feb. 14 and will run a month, closing March 14.

I’m bringing it back because when it opened at the Sacramento Theatre Company last spring, most performances sold out and many people were unable to get tickets. I’m staging it again at the Guild in Oak Park because that neighborhood has special significance for me and for Curtis Park as well.



Ginger’s niece Chelsea Carbaugh-Rutland will play the lead role of Eva Rutland. Chelsea is Eva’s granddaughter.

In 1952, when my family first moved to Sacramento, we settled on the outer edge of Curtis Park, into a ramshackle two-story house on 27th Street just off Broadway and north of Second Avenue. Those were the days of blatant, government-sanctioned housing discrimination, and that small sliver of Curtis Park was where people of color could buy homes. In those days, there was no Highway 99. The main thoroughfare separating Oak Park from Curtis Park was Franklin Boulevard. The two neighborhoods coexisted quite amicably.

As a child, I remember walking to Gunther’s, where a single-scoop cone was just 10 cents. My biggest dilemma – chocolate or orange sherbet? We were regular patrons at the public library on 34th Street and Fifth Avenue and at the community center where I took ballet and tap dancing classes. Both have been absorbed by McGeorge School of Law. And just a block away, 35th Avenue was a thriving business corridor.

For me, this production is a step back in time, before Highway 99 and the W-X freeways sealed off Oak Park from its whiter and more affluent neighbors in Curtis Park and East Sacramento, before wrong-headed redevelopment and redlining propelled the decline of Oak Park.

The new production will be different. The Guild



Photo/Joan Cusick

Curtis Park’s first cannabis shop, MainStage Dispensary, is an inviting open space with friendly and knowledgeable Budtenders.

Not your mother’s Maui Wowie

New marijuana dispensary opens on Broadway

By John Mathews

MainStage Dispensary, Curtis Park’s first cannabis shop, has opened at 2320 Broadway, just west of 24th Street.

The permit was issued in April 2018. The 3,200-square-foot building, which has the Native American Ishi mural on the side, underwent an interior remodel and extensive security measures were added both inside and out.

Customers push a doorbell and are allowed entrance by the security guard. The amiable staff checks I.D.s and then customers step through another secure door into the sales area.

The inviting open space has display cases and a counter with friendly, knowledgeable “Wellness Associates,” or Budtenders, as they are also known. They help the buyer assess their

best choices, whether for medical or recreational use. They can suggest doses and will caution newcomers to start small and build up.

These days, cannabis comes in a wide variety of forms and for different purposes. Among them are pre-rolled joints, buds, extracts, flowers, concentrates, balms and infused beverages, all in varying strengths.

This is not your mother’s Maui Wowie. Today’s names for different varieties of cannabis are dizzying for anyone who has not closely followed the world of marijuana since buying dime bags of weed in college decades ago. Names such as Gorilla Glue, Ghost Train, Super Silver Haze and Forbidden Funk abound with plenty of food references such as Biscotti and Lava Cake. There is even a Dime Bag brand.

Parking is behind the building. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.

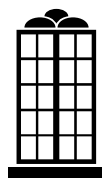
stage is bigger than the one at STC, so the sets and the music will be bigger and more elaborate. Most exciting for me, my niece Chelsea Carbaugh-Rutland will play the lead role of Eva Rutland, my mother and Chelsea’s grandmother.

So, Curtis Park neighbors, I invite you to step

across Franklin Boulevard, bypass that ugly divide that is Highway 99, and meet me at the Guild for a story about Sacramento as it was.

For tickets, go to: [tix.com](https://www.tix.com) or call 800-595-4849(4TIX); www.whenwewerecolored-theplay.com.

FEBRUARY 2020



SIERRA 2 CENTER FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY

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 9
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

OTHER

Puppy School classes

Wednesdays & Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Room 10
Sirius Dog Training, 800 419-8748
siriuspup.com

Cochlear Community Meetings

6-8 p.m., 2/6, Curtis Hall
cochlear.com/US/events

Know Thyself as Soul – Meditation

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

Amnesty International–Human Rights

First Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., Room 9
www.amnestysacramento.org
www.facebook.com/
AmnestyInternationalSacramento

Friday Way Out Group

of Alcoholics Anonymous
Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Room 11
Helen Sundet: 916 769-7471
helenm1619@yahoo.com

DANCE

Adult Ballet

Two Rivers Dance Center

Saturdays, Studio 2
10:15 a.m., Ballet 1. 12:30 p.m., Ballet Basics
richard@tworiversdancecenter.com

Intro to Adult Ballet

Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Studio 1
richard@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, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Studio 1
tartanhearts@gmail.com
Facebook: TartanHeartsDance

AfroRhythmx, HipHop, Samba Dance

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

Empire Pop Choir

Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Room 10
EmpireArtsCollective.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

Hung-Gar Gung Fu

Saturdays, 8-9 a.m., Studio 2
Sifumarez@gmail.com, (916) 764-8749

NEW:

Karate with Sensei Sean

Age is 12 & up
Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Studio 1
916 514-2001

CHILDREN

Capital City Music Together

Children 5 and under.

For schedule:

Jennie Ribadeneira,
916 990-3222.
capitalcitymusictogether.com

FITNESS

Zumba with Toya & Linda

Mondays & Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m.,
Studio 2
LaToya Bufford, toybufford15@yahoo.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

YOGA

Iyengar Yoga

Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Room 9
Gladys Callander: 916 743-0246

ART

Glass Mosaic Classes

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

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eskaton.org/eml

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AT THE 24TH STREET THEATRE

DISNEY'S FROZEN JR.

Feb. 22: 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m.,

3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Feb. 23: 12:30 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$12/General; \$10/Student

Tickets & info: YoungActorsStage.com

Young Actors Stage's Main Stage casts from local schools Phoebe Hearst, Caleb Greenwood and Crocker Riverside to perform this brand new Broadway Jr. release. With a cast of beloved characters and loaded with magic, adventure, and plenty of humor, Frozen Jr. is sure to thaw even the coldest heart.



LORIE LINE –

LIVING IN THE SUNSHINE

Feb. 27: Doors: 6 p.m., Show: 7

p.m.

Tickets: \$59 (\$54 groups of 10 or more)

Tickets & Info: Lorieline.com

Tickets may be purchased at the door if available.

Lorie Line will perform solo with her concert grand piano, playing all the favorites while sharing memorable stories that have made her music so special over the past three decades. Recently inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, Ms. Line is one of the most popular pianists on Pandora. Her music "spins" 1.7 million times a week to her faithful 780,000 Lorie Line Radio subscribers. Lorie has recorded 60 CDs and has published over 50 books of music. She has sold 6 million albums; she might also be the most published pianist in our lifetime. Don't miss this intimate evening of music where she will share it all with her beloved fans.

Age limit is four and up. No infants or toddlers please.



OUTTA THE VOX

Feb. 28:

Doors 6 p.m., Show: 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 (at the door if available, cash only)

Advance tickets:

outtathevox@gmail.com

Info: www.outtathevox.com

Chart toppers with an acappella twist! Come meet Sacramento's premier acappella ensemble Outta the Vox and their 2020 season singers. You'll hear some new tunes and old favorites.



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Activities are free except where noted.

(Donations appreciated)

Room 12 • 916 455-6339

seniorcenter@sierra2.org

LEISURE

BOOK CLUB

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

Feb. 10: "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

March 9: "The Leisure Seeker" by Michael Zadoorian

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB

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

Feb. 20: "The Hidden Life of Trees" by Peter Wohlleben

March 19: "The Feather Thief" by Kirk W. Johnson

FILM CLUB

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

Feb. 18: "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1951)

REIKI CLINIC

Friday, Feb. 7

10-11:30 a.m. in Room 9

Learn how to use healing Reiki energies.

Fees: \$10. Pre-registration is required.

Contact Katie at 916 452-3005 ext. 208

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

2nd & 4th 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

Mondays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 1

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

EDUCATION

MY STORY PROJECT

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

STITCHER'S CIRCLE

2nd Thursdays & 4th Mondays, 2-4 p.m.

A social group for sewers, knitters and more

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

March 9 & 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Room 10

Fee: \$15 (AARP members)

or \$20 (non-members)

Register: Jim Finnegan, 916 804-9777

FREE FRIDAY

Feb. 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Free for all seniors in Sacramento

Pick up schedule online or at the Sierra 2 Senior Center

HEAD SPACE

Feb. 14, 2-3p.m. (Free Friday)

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.

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MAT PILATES

Tuesdays & Fridays

10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Studio 2

FEEL GOOD YOGA

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Room 12

(No class in February; Resumes March 3)

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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.

SUGAR COOKIE DECORATING

Local bakers Candice and Justine of Sugar Sweetery teach the basics of icing, including how to pipe and flood on cookies, in this two-hour class for ages 10 and up. All supplies are included. You will leave with a set of seven decorated Valentine-themed cookies.

Room 7, Saturday, Feb. 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Fee: \$65

VALENTINE'S/GALENTINE'S TEA

Novel Tea offers high tea featuring treats and a presentation on Valentine traditions around the world and the very new tradition of Galentine's Day.

Garden Room, Sunday, Feb. 9, 1-3 p.m.
Fee: \$40 regular; \$15 kids (12 and under)

ROMANTIC FLORALS IN WATERCOLOR

Instructor Tonja Wilcox will guide students on how to paint flowers – roses, tulips, filler flowers and foliage – in a loose, romantic style. All materials are provided.



Room 7, Saturday, Feb. 15, 3-5:30 p.m.
Fee: \$40

CHOCOLATE APPRECIATION

Discover the history of chocolate, where it is grown, and the process for making chocolate. Taste white, milk and dark chocolates and find the unique flavor notes for each type. Then, get insight into the science and process of tempering chocolate, followed by a hands-on treat dipping activity. All attendees will receive a bag of chocolate treats to take home.

Room 7, Sunday, Feb. 16, 1:30-4:15 p.m.
Fee: \$45

WATERCOLOR FOR BEGINNERS

This intensive, six-week course is aimed at providing beginners and those with little experience the knowledge, skills and confidence to create with watercolors. Instructor Tonja Wilcox will break down materials information and provide a shopping list for the rest of the class projects. Students will learn color theory and mixing, building palettes, paint handling techniques, wash and stroke styles, and more.

Room 7, Thursdays, Feb. 20-March 26 (6-week series), 6-8 p.m.
Fee: \$150

LEATHER BEADED EARRING WORKSHOP

Embrace your own unique creativity while working with leather and seed beads to design your own pair of statement earrings. All materials are included.



Room 7, Saturday, Feb. 22, 10-11 a.m.
Fee: \$30

WATERCOLOR DOODLE BIRDS & FLOWERS

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. In this workshop, you'll learn how to pair ink and watercolors together to enhance details, figures and outlines in your paintings. Use your doodle skills to make your own wall art or custom greeting cards.



Room 7, Saturday, Feb. 29, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Fee: \$40

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

Seniors will be able to sample classes for another year of Free Friday events

By Katie Byrum

Senior Center participants can expect another year of Free Fridays, thanks to a continued partnership with Eskaton Monroe Lodge. The first event kicks off Feb. 14 with an event focused on self-love, heart health and romantic musings in creative endeavors.

Free Fridays are designed for participants to spend the whole day or drop into specific classes of their choosing.

The free day starts with a choice of two Wellness Program fitness classes at 10 a.m. in the studios: Zumba Toning or Mat Pilates.

Zumba Toning is a popular class for those looking to add a little cardio to their fitness routines. Instructor Kelly Pineda slows the dancing down and incorporates easy-to-learn dance moves.

The new Mat Pilates class stems from a partnership with Curtis Park-based Studio Laurus, tapping two instructors to teach at Sierra 2, with Nicole Kantz on Tuesdays and Om Paramapoonya on Fridays. Interested attendees should wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat.

After an hour of exercise, cool down in the creative writing class led by Brandy Tuzon Boyd, a freelance writer, journalism instructor and founder/publisher of the Natomas Buzz. This class will get the creative juices flowing with prompts focused on family, self-love, and old and current flames. If this offering proves popular, it may be added to the schedule as a regular class.

Eskaton Monroe Lodge will provide and serve a heart-healthy vegetarian meal at noon in Room 10.

From 1 to 2 p.m., local artist Tonja Wilcox will host a mini-watercolor workshop featuring her doodle birds and flowers. This type of art is relaxing and great for all levels of painters.

Seniors can also opt to play pinochle in Room 12 or bring an art project to the Open Art Studio in Room 11.

Wrapping up the day, program assistant Kate Lauter will host Heart Space, a special edition of the monthly Head Space program. Attendees will learn about activities and habits that benefit both mental health and heart health. Recent Head Space meetings have taken on an open-dialogue format for sharing



Photo Joan Cusick

The new Mat Pilates class will be featured for participants to try at the Free Friday event.

in a friendly environment, which many participants enjoy. Chocolate-dipped strawberries will be served.

See the complete schedule of activities online at Sierra2.org. All adults ages 50 and up are welcome to join.

Trees of Curtis Park

Find out if permit is required before pruning your trees

By Dan Pskowski

Winter is my favorite time to prune deciduous trees. The absence of leaves opens up the tree's entire branch structure, so from the ground you can spot defects such as split, broken or hanging branches.

However, before any pruning or tree removal occurs, it should be determined if a city permit is required by the city code. Failure to secure a permit is a code violation. Penalties start at \$250 and go up to \$25,000. So, before working or hiring an arborist to work on trees, make sure a city permit is not required.

All public trees require a permit. These are the trees in parks, on city property and in the planter areas between the curb and the sidewalk. The tree in the front yard adjacent to the sidewalk may be a public tree if it's within the public right-of-way. Email the 311 Call Center, 311@cityofsacramento.org, to find out if your front yard tree is within the public right-of-way. If it is, then the

city's Urban Forestry section will maintain this tree.

Trees on your property have to meet certain criteria to qualify as "Private Protected Trees," which was previously referred to as "Heritage Trees":

- Any native valley oak, blue oak, interior live oak, coast live oak, California buckeye or California sycamore with a diameter of 12 inches or more.

- A tree with a diameter of 32 inches or more on a property that includes any single unit or duplex dwelling.

- A tree with a diameter of 24 inches or more on an undeveloped lot, or a lot with more than a single unit or duplex dwelling.

The key is size and species. Trees are measured at diameter standard height, which is at 4½ feet above natural grade. Trees that branch out or below 4½ feet are measured at the narrowest point between the grade and branching point. A tree with multiple trunks and a common root system



Photos/Dan Pskowski

Protected native trees have a trunk diameter of 12 inches, at left, while all other protected tree species have a trunk diameter of 32 inches, tree at right.

is measured by the largest trunk and half the cumulative diameter of the remaining trunks at 4½ feet above natural grade.

If any of your trees requires a permit, use the following link to fill out a tree permit application:

<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/Public-Works/Maintenance-Services/Tree-Permit-ApplicationPDF51217AT.pdf?la=en>.

An arborist from Urban Forestry will follow up. There is a \$50 permit application fee.

SIERRA 2 CENTER FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY

By Valerie Burrows
SCNA Facility Administrator

Local authors launch party

Save the date for a special book signing and reception on March 7 with Curtis Park thriller author Anne Da Vigo. Her new book, "Bakersfield Boys Club," and short story author Bill Pieper's book, "Borders and Boundaries," are both set in the "other California" – the valleys, mountain and deserts that other writers ignore.

Listen to lively excerpts read by the authors

What's new at Sierra 2

and stay to chat over refreshments. Books will be available for sale. Details to come in the March *Viewpoint*.

Interested in making a difference in our community, nation and the world?

The Sacramento-area Amnesty International group meets monthly to discuss human rights issues, plan local activities and events, and campaign for a world where human

rights are enjoyed by all. They focused this past year mainly on immigrant and refugee issues.

In addition, they put aside time at each meeting to write letters supporting those around the world who are harassed or jailed for their beliefs, words or peaceful actions.

Amnesty International is independent of any political ideology, economic interest or religion.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30–8 p.m. in Room 9. For more information, check out their webpage at amnestysacramento.org or Facebook page: [facebook.com/AmnestyInternationalSacramento](https://www.facebook.com/AmnestyInternationalSacramento).

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*In the District***Shout-out to civility, cordiality, engagement**

I attend a lot of neighborhood meetings – Oak Park, Colonial Heights, Golf Course Terrace Estates, Hollywood Park, South Land Park and our newest organization in Mangan Park.

Neighborhood issues range far and wide, from crime to traffic to cannabis and many others. Neighbors attend meetings for all kinds of reasons and attendance fluctuates, but generally would be 20 to 50, depending on the specific issues to be raised.

Rarely, however, do you see the level of interest and engagement as in Curtis Park. When an issue is of concern in Curtis Park, folks show up. We saw this long ago with the closing of streets in the park, we saw it when the tot lot needed a new location in the park, and we clearly saw it with the development of the railyard.

Most recently, we saw it when governance issues around SCNA were raised and a new SCNA board was to be elected. It's not an easy thing to serve on a volunteer board, even in a great

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neighborhood like Curtis Park. Curtis Hall overflowed, 25 neighbors signed up to run for 23 seats, and the meeting was conducted civilly and cordially.

At a time when most neighborhoods have difficulty finding people to fill out their boards, Curtis Park stands out as a model. I have often spoken of Curtis Park as an exemplary neighborhood association. People may be on all sides of an issue, but they engage with respect for one another with a purpose of finding solutions.

I am proud to call Curtis Park my home for the past 30 years. It's a great neighborhood with great neighbors.

My column this month is a special



Photo/Joan Cusick

Paula Lee of the League of Women Voters explains the electoral process at the annual membership meeting Jan. 8 in Curtis Hall at the Sierra 2 Center. About 150 neighbors attended the meeting.

shout-out to all those who have served on the SCNA board, all those who signed up to serve on the board, and all those who were elected. I even heard that two elected individuals

offered to step down to ensure that a representative from Crocker Village would be on the board.

Thank you all for your service, and I look forward to working with you.

New laws encourage building small dwellings

By Erik Fay

New laws enacted in 2019 should encourage the building of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), often called "Granny Flats" or "In-Law Quarters," which are increasingly popular as housing for students, people on long-term work assignments and seniors downsizing.

With California projected to need 3 million more dwelling units by 2025, construction of ADUs could reduce the amount of public money spent to subsidize infill housing projects and increase housing density within an already existing house or lot's footprint.

Assembly Bill 68 amended the Government

Code to encourage cities and counties to approve the building of more ADUs by streamlining or reducing their review process for smaller housing units which may require less oversight than building a new and larger home from the ground up. The new language also limits the ability of cities and counties to reject the building of structures smaller than 850 square feet.

Senate Bill 13 amended the Government and the Health and Safety Codes to prohibit local governments from imposing an "owner-occupant" requirement for at least five years so the property owner applying to build an ADU does not have to live at the property. It also reduces fees required to build ADUs, so any fees are more commensurate

with the unit's smaller size. Significantly, the bill provides for the creation of an amnesty program for existing ADUs that will allow them to become code compliant with no penalty.

ADU construction permits increased notably after a 2017 amendment to building codes. The units have become more popular with homeowners wanting to make additional use of their property. There have been over 10,000 requests in Los Angeles for ADU building permits since Jan. 1, 2018.

The State Contractor's License Board provides information to individuals interested in building an ADU. The board strongly encourages only the use of licensed and insured builders and contractors for ADUs.

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Photo/Will Carlton

Peter and Nicole Devencenzi with their dog, Maggie, at their front porch.

Nicole, Peter and 'St. Huskyberdoodle'

By Rosanna Herber

Nicole and Peter Devencenzi recently moved to the neighborhood from the Midtown area. Both earned law degrees at McGeorge School of Law, but they didn't know each other until they met in the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office, where both are prosecutors. Going to school at McGeorge introduced them to Curtis Park, and they wanted to return when the timing was right.

"We love the trees, cute houses, friendly neighbors and the dog parks," said Nicole.

When they moved to Curtis Park, their family expanded to include their dog **Maggie**, nicknamed "St. Huskyberdoodle" because she is 50% Husky, 31% Poodle and 19% St. Bernard. Their cat is named **Franklin**.

Nicole also teaches at Solfire Yoga on J Street.

Peter enjoys jogging around the park with Maggie. If you see them, they encourage you to say "hi" as they want to get to know neighbors.

Jenny Hitchings breaks age group world record

By Steve Bond

Jenny Hitchings broke the marathon world record for her 55-59 women's age group by more than a minute and a half by running the 2019 New York City Marathon in 2:50:36, according to Canadian Running magazine.

Hitchings and husband Andy have lived in Curtis Park since 1997, most of that time also with daughters Maggie and Mollie.

In 2018, when Hitchings turned 55, she broke the American 55-59 age group records for four distances over the course of four months in Sacramento. First was her 18:05 5K record at the Susan B. Anthony race in August, followed by the 10-mile record (61:20) at the Buffalo Stampede in September, the half-marathon record (1:21:17) in October at the Urban Cow Half Marathon, and the 10K record (37:20) in the Run to Feed the Hungry on Thanksgiving Day.

In November 2019, she ran in the New York City Marathon for the first time, in part spurred on because it was daughter Maggie's first marathon.

Hitchings' goals were to win her age group and break her age group course record. Things



Photo/New York City Marathon

After setting the world record, Jenny Hitchings matched it in the California International Marathon, from Folsom to downtown Sacramento.

came together for her and she felt good throughout the race. Knowing Andy and Molly were in the stands as she came to the finish line gave her goosebumps, and did again as she recounted the memory.

Hitchings was thrilled that Maggie also ran well, finishing in 3:36. Hitchings laughingly noted, "Maggie had a good coach!"

The previous New York City Marathon record for Hitchings' age group, 2:57:13, was set by former Olympic champion Joan Benoit Samuelson, who also holds the age-group record in the Boston Marathon, 2:50:29. Benoit Samuelson's Boston Marathon

record time is not recognized as the world record by World Masters Athletics because the Boston course does not comply with international standards.

The previously recognized world record, 2:52:14, was set by S. Rae Baymiller in the 1998 Chicago Marathon.

Five weeks after setting the world record, Hitching matched it in the California International Marathon, from Folsom to downtown Sacramento.

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Photo/James Tucker



Photo/Brian Hill

Students gathered at the mobile dairy classroom to learn how milk goes from a cow to their table.

With their lettuce harvest, teacher Bradley Fong's 3rd graders were ready to clean it to have a salad party.

Coco the cow gives students living lesson about source of the food they consume

By Adrianna Gonzalez

Bret Harte students returned from winter break on Jan. 6 to a surprise outdoor assembly by the Dairy Council of California's Mobile Dairy Classroom. This featured a live dairy cow named Coco. Students learned firsthand about a dairy cow's anatomy, how milk goes from a cow to their table, and the many different foods that are made from milk.

Along with teaching students where milk comes from and the important connection between healthy food choices and a healthy life, the mobile classroom lessons are integrated with Language Arts, Math and Science to align with the Common Core standards.



The Mobile Dairy instructor visit taught students that cows are herbivores. A cow has 32 teeth and four stomachs that undergo a special digestive process to break down the food it eats.

Students got a chance to pet the cow and view a live milking demonstration by hand. They were also shown a milking claw, the modern method used to milk cows. While students had fun hanging out with Coco, lessons taught during the assembly helped students make a connection to food literacy by obtaining a better understanding of where their milk comes from and why it's important to make healthy food choices.

Lettuce donations

Bret Harte donated 50 heads of lettuce from the school garden to

the River City Food Bank. Students harvested the lettuce right before the winter break. After harvest, the classes washed and prepped the lettuce for a salad party and donated the surplus. The lettuce harvest will make room for planting potatoes in the months to come, and students will again be able to taste the results of their hard work in the garden with healthy French fries.

Mark Your Calendar!

Feb. 7: Family Lunch Day, 11 a.m.-noon.

Feb. 14: Valentines PTA Family Movie Night, 6-8 p.m.

Feb. 15: GARDEN WORK DAY, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Volunteers needed for infrastructure project for perennial bed around garden.

Feb. 25: PTA-sponsored Family STEM Night, 6-7:30 p.m.

SIERRA 2 TENANTS

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Tibetan Buddhist Group
Room 14 • diamondlightsac.org

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Room 16A • ebenburgoon.com

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Italian Cultural Society
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Room 13 • italiancenter.net

La Famiglia Catering
Kitchen-Garden Room
lafamigliacatering.com

Sacramento Braille Transcribers
Room 8 • 916 455-9121

Sacramento Yoga Center
Room 6
sacramentoyogacenter.com

Straight Men's AA
Room 15 • aasacramento.org

Sugar Plum Vegan Bakery
Kitchen-Curtis Hall
sugarplumvegan.com

WarmLine Family Resource Center
Castro Cottages • warmlinefrc.org

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