

VIEWPOINT

A Publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association

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March 2020

X Street homeless shelter is expected to open in summer

By Andrea Rosen

The temporary homeless shelter planned for X Street near Alhambra Boulevard is now expected to open in early summer.

Initially slated to open early this year, the project was delayed while the city worked to obtain a state lease for the land owned by CalTrans, an encroachment permit and approval from the Federal Highway Administration.

The shelter is intended as short-term occupancy, defined as four to six months, while permanent housing with support services is sought. The shelter will offer social services and medical care. It will have dog kennels, bike storage and shower facilities. It is intended as a low-barrier shelter to attract as many

homeless people as possible.

The shelter will offer 100 beds, specifically targeting those in the immediate area of the facility. The site will be entirely fenced with a single entrance on X Street. A dining hall will offer food prepared offsite. Beds are in a separate building. There will be classrooms and gathering space for residents.

The city will handle construction, but the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency will manage operations and hire a professional operator, which will enforce basic safety measures. For example, no camping or loitering immediately outside the shelter will be permitted.

The project was approved by the city last year with funding from the city and state and private donations.

A number of community organizations stand ready to provide services to shelter residents. The Urban League will provide workforce development assistance. The American Legion may provide food. All shelters are coupled with social services with the goal of getting residents into permanent housing.

Progress on the X Street shelter lags development of a women's low-barrier shelter in Meadowview, in part because the land for that shelter is owned by the city.

The so-called "navigation shelters" are one piece of a city strategy to address the homelessness crisis. Other approaches under development include scattered sites (individual houses), a cabin community, safe-places parking and dormitory-style housing.



Photo/John Mathews

LET'S PLAY BALL!

Parents of girls in the Land Park Softball league spent the second weekend of February getting the field in William Curtis Park in shape for the coming Little League season, which will begin play March 7. League officials approached the SCNA board last year and obtained its support for the league to use the city park for some of its games. "There was nowhere for our girls to play," league president Ken Johnson told KCRA TV, which sent a broadcast crew to cover the parents' work project. "If you drive around our

neighborhood, there are plenty of places for boys to play." League boundaries, which include nearly all of the Curtis Park neighborhood, run from Franklin Boulevard on the east, to the Sacramento River on the west, and from P Street on the north to Fruitridge Road on the south, although the boundaries also extend south to 56th Avenue to the west of Freeport Boulevard. The league has about 80 players, ages 6 to 12. Games are also played on a field in William Land Park.

33rd annual Home Tour April 25

This year's tour focuses within two miles, each home has a full-size presence of character. Page 2



Chance to meet crime thriller writer

Crime-thriller author and Curtis Park resident reflects on her previous life as a police beat reporter. Page 5



Home upgrades save couple 15% in energy costs

Improving the energy efficiency of our homes is another good way to reduce pollution. Page 10



Feathered visitors from afar reside here in wintertime

By Dan Murphy

Winter in the Sacramento Valley is high season for birds. Seasonal refugees fleeing the cold from as far away as Siberia flock here. The headliners are sandhill cranes, snow geese and the exotic hawks and ducks in our wildlife preserves.

However, there are many interesting “little brown birds” that take up seasonal residence right here in our own back yards. Regular winter visitors include several species of sparrows – such as white-crowned sparrows, golden-crowned sparrows, fox sparrows and dark-eyed juncos – that are missing the rest of the year.

Identifying them is easy, especially if you have binoculars to look at them

carefully. White-crowns and golden-crowns give you a clue in their names. Fox sparrows have heavily spotted or streaked chests. Juncos have gray or black hoods with a cheerful splash of white on the tail that gives them away when they fly.

In the fall, you can occasionally hear the primeval calling of sandhill cranes, migrating south. Often they are so high in the sky that you cannot even see them.

Much closer at hand, the sweet whistling song from your shrubs of returning white-crown sparrows is just as sure a marker of seasonal change.

Attending to the changes in your yard bird cast is one simple way to connect with the web of wildlife that girdles our globe.



Golden-crowned sparrow



Dark-eyed junco



White-crowned sparrow



Fox sparrow (red) Photos/Dan Murphy



Above, this side-facing bungalow reveals how much living space can exist under one large massed roof.

At left, elegant simplicity defines this proper Mediterranean home.

Photos/Rudy Calpo



Home & Garden Tour set for April 25

By Lori Harder

After a one-year hiatus, the Home and Garden Tour returns from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 25, for its 33rd year.

The tour shares the historic charm and fabric of our unique neighborhood with guests from beyond Curtis Park. Throughout the day people from the greater Sacramento area enjoy strolls under leafy canopies, see charming homes, pretty gardens and outdoor entertainment spaces, and relax with lunch, refreshments and music in the park.

This year's tour encompasses about two miles. It features a rare 1939 Streamline Moderne, as well as Tudors large and small, variations of Foursquare styles, and a special sideways bungalow.

Each home and garden contributes to the outward ambience of our historic neighborhood, while inside awaits a celebration of individual styles from

modern cutting edge to traditional. Whether large or small, each welcoming home has a full-size presence of character.

The Capitol A's Model A Ford Club will tour a variety of vintage cars throughout the neighborhood. Food trucks, live acoustic music, displays, and picnic tables and chairs will be at the north end of Curtis Park.

Ticket prices are \$25 in advance (\$20 for SCNA members), and \$30 on tour day (\$25 for SCNA members). Tickets may be purchased online at Sierra2.org or at the Sierra 2 Center office, 2791 24th St. Volunteers may purchase tickets for \$10 at the Sierra 2 office.

The tour raises funds for the Sierra 2 Center and SCNA programs with a goal to net \$14,000 from this one-day event.

For updates and more information, call Sierra 2 at 916 452-3005 or visit www.Sierra2.org.

Docents, sponsors, advertisers needed

Dozens of volunteers are needed to help conduct the Home & Garden Tour.

Volunteers monitor homes in two-hour shifts, and are also needed to help set up or take down tables and chairs at the north end of Curtis Park. All volunteers can go on tour for just \$10. Please sign up with Lori Harder at 916 801-7189 or by email at lorikoi@sbcglobal.net.

Consider supporting SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center by placing an advertisement in the tour program, starting at \$250. Advertisements will be seen by approximately 800 people from Curtis Park, surrounding neighborhoods and the greater Sacramento area. Contact SCNA Executive Director Terri Shettle at 916 452-3005 or by email at terri@sierra2.org.

SCNA President's message

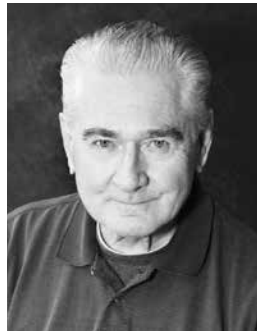
Neighborhood is better when we all pitch in to help

After a hiatus of many years, I find myself back on the SCNA board and as president for the next year. I am pleased to be joined by a large number of former board members who also committed themselves to serve our neighborhood again on SCNA's board.

Reflecting on how this all came about has triggered a re-examination of SCNA's purpose and its goals. The efforts of the SSNA (now SCNA) to save Sierra School were rewarded by the city's caveat, "OK, you can have the school, but you have to operate and maintain it. Oh, and don't be coming around asking for money."

While I am taking a bit of literary license here, that was basically our mandate. Over the years, SCNA exceeded expectations and developed a reputation as a well-managed, responsible neighborhood organization that became a model for other neighborhoods. Our relationship with

**BILL
HOOVER**
SCNA Board
President



the city, starting with Councilmember (and later mayor) Joe Serna, has become one of trust and respect because of our sense of responsibility and neighborhood commitment.

None of it would have been possible without neighborhood involvement. We are fortunate to live in a wonderful community where families want to live and raise their children. It was true when I first moved here in the late 1970s and continues to the present.

But, things have changed and will continue to change. Where volunteerism used to be a given when it came to staging community events, it is markedly absent today. Finding folks who are willing to offer a commitment of time has become more and more difficult.

There is an old saying that in any group 10% of the people do 90% of the work. Just think how much better it would be if that percentage were more balanced. After all, neighborhood events are the perfect opportunity to meet your neighbors and make new friends. Unfortunately, as volunteerism has diminished, the Sierra 2 staff has picked up most of that work. The staff is now taxed to the maximum by our various events and projects.

This situation does little to promote or encourage neighborhood involvement or SCNA membership. All of which brings me back to

the primary purpose of SCNA. As envisioned, SCNA was tasked with operating and maintaining Sierra 2 as a community center. It was to be a hub for and benefit to our community, a task it has accomplished admirably over the years. However, while Sierra 2 assisted in SCNA-sponsored events, it was never intended to supplant neighborhood involvement.

Your SCNA board has a lot on its plate this year, but you can help by stepping up and offering to serve as a volunteer on any number of upcoming events and projects. Eight events are scheduled so far this year (see next page), beginning with the Crab Feed on Feb. 22 and concluding with the Wine Tasting and Silent Auction on Oct. 10.

Neighborhood events present myriad opportunities and I encourage your support. Time is without a doubt the greatest contribution you can make, regardless of how much or how little.



Board members see need to get more neighbors involved

Q. What issues do you want the SCNA board to address?

John Bailey: I want SCNA to be engaged with and responsive to the needs of all neighbors – young and well-seasoned alike. As treasurer, I will make sure that SCNA financial reporting is accurate and transparent, that budgets make efficient use of dollars and that overall finances are healthy.

Martin Pierucci: SCNA was born of neighborhood volunteerism. I would like to reach out to all the young families and new neighbors to get involved in what is arguably one of the best neighborhoods in Sacramento.

Kathy Les: I am eager to rejuvenate membership in SCNA and find ways to connect neighbors. I expect we will continue old traditions (Wine Tasting, Music in the Park, Home Tour) and find new ways to reach out to and involve our committed residents.

Kat Haro: The board represents a small cross-section of Curtis Park. SCNA has roughly 600 members, while there are over 5,000 residents of Curtis Park. We have major strides to make in outreach, education and engagement with those who aren't yet familiar with us, or haven't felt welcome in the past.

Bruce Pierini: I'd like to strengthen the relationship between the residents of the neighborhood and SCNA through involvement in *Viewpoint*, volunteer activities and social and cultural events. I've long wanted an

evening speaker and music series in 24th Street Theatre at Sierra 2. That would help attract a younger generation to SCNA.

Gerre Buehler: The board should encourage more volunteers, increase SCNA membership and increase the number of no-cost events.

John Mathews: As Crocker Village builds out, traffic problems are on the rise, with speeding, running stop signs and cut-through commuting becoming major concerns. Saving Sierra School from demolition led to the formation of SCNA. I think the board should continue supporting historical preservation in Curtis Park.

Alex Moos: SCNA needs a welcoming and integration plan for our new neighbors and businesses in Crocker Village.

Eric Johnson: Sierra 2 is full of light, creativity, community and vision, and its brilliance spills over into our neighborhood. Let's continue the growth and evolution of the past 10 years so SCNA continues to have that light.



Photo/Joan Cusick

Neighbor participation will make SCNA more responsive to everyone.

Dan Pskowski: SCNA should address the increase in traffic as Crocker village is built out, boost its membership, and consider whether Sierra 2 and SCNA should be separate entities.

Kimberley Bond: SCNA should address increased traffic and speeding cars on Crocker Drive, and beautification of the southwest corner of Sierra 2 with native plants.

Nury Enciso: I would like to eliminate the use of toxic gasoline and the noise pollution created by the garden activities in Curtis Park.

Erik Fay: The board should ensure the city provides adequate services of police protection, dealing with homelessness and its impact on the neighborhood. We should protect and document the historic integrity of the neighborhood, and better advertise or market neighborhood activities to encourage more engagement and awareness.

Notes from Feb. 5 meeting

Board considers restarting First Friday dinners

First Fridays may be coming back to the Sierra 2 Center. The dinners have lost money in the past but have been worth the expense because of the community engagement they created.

The Big Day of Giving preparations are under way. About \$15,000 was raised last year.

Kimberley Bond was nominated to rejoin the board and was unanimously approved.

President Bill Hoover passed out an event support needs list to board members. Board members are expected to volunteer and create their own volunteer list for events to relieve Sierra 2 staff.

Mike McKeever suggested scheduling a board retreat as soon as possible so older board members can share their vision from the strategic planning session with newer members. Two

evening meetings were proposed instead of a full-day meeting.

Treasurer John Bailey has been reviewing the financial statements from 2019. He was scheduled to meet with the CPA and Executive Director Terri Shettle on Feb. 13. The Finance Committee was scheduled to meet after that.

The new Facilities Committee chair is Gerre Buehler. The committee was scheduled to meet Feb. 20.

John Mathews submitted a history of past Neighborhood Concerns Committee meetings so new members could get up to speed. The committee was scheduled to meet Feb. 19.

The Senior Center Committee needs a new chair.

Viewpoint has four board liaisons: Bruce

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the SCNA board will begin at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4 in Room 10 at Sierra 2.

Pierini, John Mathews, Gerre Buehler and Erik Fay.

In attendance at the Feb. 5 board meeting were Executive Director Terri Shettle, board President Bill Hoover, and board members John Bailey, Gerre Buehler, Erik Fay, Susan French, Kat Haro, Charon Jenner, Eric Johnson, Jonathan LaTurner, John Mathews, Mike McKeever, Alex Moos, Bruce Pierini, Martin Pierucci, Dan Pskowski, Andrea Rosen and Kate Van Buren.

Submitted by
Kate Van Buren, board secretary

SCNA EVENTS 2020 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

March 6 – CURTIS PARK SOCIAL
Assist with tear down

April 11 – EGG HUNT
Lead coordinator, Volunteer solicitation, Pajama Parade leader, Bunny, Park cleanup/set up/tear down, Curtis Hall set up/tear down

April 25 – HOME & GARDEN TOUR
Docents, Set up and tear down

May 7 – BIG DAY OF GIVING
Lead organizer/board champion, Messaging, marketing plan, Schedule of solicitation activities

June-August – MUSIC IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES
Sponsors needed by May 1, Development Committee presence, Vendor coordination

Aug. 30 – CURTIS FEST ARTISAN FAIR
Lead coordinator, Volunteers, Sponsors, Musicians

OCT. 10 – WINE TASTING 30TH ANNIVERSARY
Lead coordinator, Committee formation (4-6 subcommittee chairs), Auction/Registration software replacement, Special concept envisioning, Sponsorship structure



Sierra 2 VOTE CENTER

OPEN Feb. 29 – March 3 (4 days)
Feb. 29 – March 2 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
March 3 (Election Day) . . . 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Curtis Hall open every day except on Monday, March 2 - Room 10

Ballot Drop Box Locations
Open Feb. 3 – March 3

Closest to Sierra 2:
Ella McClatchy Library
2112 22nd St.

Colonial Heights Library
4799 Stockton Blvd.



SIERRA 2 CENTER
SIERRA CURTIS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Become an SCNA member.
sierra2.org or call 916 452-3005

VIEWPOINT

Editors
Dennis Cusick, Susan MacCulloch

Managing Editor Carol Blackman

Proofreader Fran Coletti

Contributors
Steve Bond, Valerie Burrows, Katie Byram, Erik Fay, Mindy Giles, Adrianna Gonzalez, Heather Hogan, Alison Ledgerwood, John Mathews, Craig McCulloch, Dan Murphy, Bruce Pierini, Dan Pskowski, Patti Roberts, Judy Scheible, Jay Schenirer, Terri Shettle, Kate Van Buren

Ad Managers Fran Coletti
Kimberley Bond

Distribution Gerre Buehler

Photography
Rudy Calpo, Will Carlton, Joan Cusick, Caroline Dunivant, Judy Harper

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.



SIERRA 2DAY

Neighbors headline March 7 fundraiser at The Side Door

By Mindy Giles

Longtime Curtis Park residents Kitty O'Neal and Kurt Spataro will throw a special spring concert fundraiser with their band Skylar's Pool on Saturday, March 7 at The Side Door, 2900 Franklin Blvd.

Proceeds will support the Curtis Park-based Food Literacy Center, which teaches children healthy eating habits.

"I'm especially excited about a student garden that will enable kids to work with the earth and foster patience in watching their food grow," said O'Neal. "Kurt, as a chef of course, supports this center."

Founded in 2011, the Food Literacy Center says it "was born to create change today for a healthy, sustainable tomorrow through community food education."

Though O'Neal and Spataro have performed together for many years, they formed their alternative/indie rock band Skylar's Pool in 2015 after a



Members of Skylar's Pool from left, Kurt Spataro, Fred Nelson, Jr., Lori Sacco-Nelson, Kitty O'Neal and Bob LoRusso.

hiatus from music due to their high-profile careers. Lead vocalist/songwriter O'Neal is afternoon anchor for KFBK news radio. Guitarist/songwriter Spataro is Paragary's corporate executive chef.

"We started playing '80s and '90s cover songs we loved but found writing original music more fulfilling," O'Neal said.

Their band mates are Lori Sacco-Nelson, vocals, keys, percussion; Rob LoRusso, bass and vocals; and Fred Nelson Jr., vocals.

They will be joined by Oak Park's George Holden, a San Francisco light show pioneer who worked with Jefferson Airplane, the Grateful Dead, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Santana and Van Morrison. More recently, Holden worked with Swell Productions' concerts at the 24th Street Theatre (40th anniversary of The Electric Flag, The Sons of Champlin) and the Crest Theatre ("A Thousand Kisses Deep: the Songs of Leonard Cohen").

Holden will mix photographs, liquids, custom video and live cinema

he creates for each song.

Special guest is Barbados-born songwriter and singer Clemón. His most recent show, "DEPARTURE," is a theatrical jazz piece. Clemón and O'Neal will perform three songs together.

The show will be recorded for possible audio release.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. and music will start at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general admission.

Advance tickets: www.thesidedoor.net/events/skylars-pool

Author explores role of character defects in tragic tales

By Mindy Giles

Like a perfect opening line voice-over from a 1940s film noir movie, her words stared at me from the computer screen: "Some stories remained with me like small scars."

This is crime-thriller writer and Curtis Park resident Anne Da Vigo reflecting on her previous life as a police beat reporter for newspapers up and down California. "I found myself wondering what role setting, life experience and defects of character played in the tragic events. That was certainly true of my new thriller, 'Bakersfield Boys Club.'"

Da Vigo and fellow California fiction writer Bill Pieper will be featured at a reception and reading from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7, in Room 10 at Sierra 2 Center. Their latest works feature the "other California," not San Francisco



Anne Da Vigo will read from her book.

or Los Angeles but the dusty reaches of the San Joaquin Valley and the lonesome high desert of northeastern California and neighboring Nevada.

Da Vigo covered the courts for the Bakersfield Californian in the 1970s and was assigned to a murder trial. An early suspect in the case was a 13-year-old boy sexually abused by the victim. According to Da Vigo, he was never charged, but continued to be abused by powerful men in Bakersfield.

"I left the paper shortly afterward and moved to Sacramento, where I joined the Sacramento Union. Four years later, the Bakersfield boy killed one of those men, was convicted, and spent the next 38 years in prison." She never forgot that boy – he is one of the characters in her new book, the story of a mother's fight against powerful, abusive men to save her son.

In a later instance following her move north, her Sacramento Union interview notes with a potential witness in a murder trial involved her in a court case. "I refused to turn over the notes, fearing for the safety of the witness. I narrowly avoided going to jail." (*Viewpoint* had a blurb about this in 1984 that was reprinted in its 40th anniversary edition last July.)

Da Vigo's professional life has always involved writing. She was a journalist for 12 years, then her career path moved to

public relations for the state Legislature. Her first published pieces were short stories, "but I always wanted to be able to tell more." When she received a letter from her mother with an enclosed clipping from the New York Times about mysterious deaths in her hometown, Da Vigo began her first thriller, "Thread of Gold." It was published in 2017.

"I read and write thrillers because I love solving all kinds of puzzles," she says, "but in a more meaningful way, thrillers probe the implications of what went wrong. What happened in the character's background? What impulsive decision did she make that caused these events?"

On March 7, audience members can listen to lively excerpts of Da Vigo's new thriller and Bill Pieper's new "Borders and Boundaries" collection.

Appetizers and wine will be served. Books will be available for purchase.

MARCH 2020



OTHER

Puppy School classes

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

Cochlear Community Meetings

Curtis Hall, dates vary
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

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

Sacramento Native American Believers Fellowship

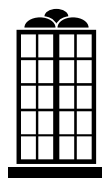
Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 10
Lee Aviles, 916 203-6461

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



SIERRA 2 CENTER FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY

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

Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Studio 1
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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AT THE 24TH STREET THEATRE

DIVYANJALI

March 7: 5:30-8:30 p.m. FREE

Gokul Dance Academy presents its annual Indian dance recital. The evening will include Indian music and snacks. This event is fun for the whole family.

BURNT TORTILLAS – THE BISHOP GALLEGOS STORY

March 14: 1 p.m. & 5 p.m.

March 15: 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$20/general; \$10/Seniors & students

Tickets & information: brownpapertickets.com; 916 549-3341, richardfalcon@att.net

Teatro Nagual presents this family friendly production based on the life of one of the most beloved Latino bishops in Sacramento history, Bishop Alphonse Gallegos. Mariachi musicians and Folklorico dancers will grace the stage with the performers in the production, written and produced by Richard Alcala and directed by Richard Falcon.

A reception in the Garden Room will follow the 1 p.m. show and precede the 5 p.m. show March 14 with a no-host bar. Half of the ticket sale proceeds will benefit the Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home.

DISNEY'S THE ARISTOCATS KIDS

March 20: 7 p.m.; March 21: 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$10/General Admission

Tickets & information: www.mmpkids.com; 916 525-2995

This Musical Mayhem Productions show is part of the Broadway Junior Series with performers ages 4 to 10. Based on the beloved Disney animated film and featuring a jazzy upbeat score, Disney's "The Aristocats KIDS" is a nonstop thrill ride of feline fun with unbelievable twists and turns.

In the heart of Paris, a kind and eccentric millionaire wills her entire estate to Duchess, her high-society cat and her three kittens. Laughs and adventure ensue as the greedy, bumbling butler pulls off the ultimate catnap caper. Now it's up to the rough-and-tumble alley cat, Thomas O'Malley, and his band of swingin' jazz cats to save the day.



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.

March 9: "The Leisure Seeker"
by Michael Zadoorian

April 13: "Deep Creek" by Pam Houston

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB

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

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

April 16: "The Return of Marco Polo's World" by Robert D. Kaplan

FILM CLUB

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

March 21: "A Lion in Winter" (1968)

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

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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

HEAD SPACE

3rd Mondays, 12:30-2 p.m.

FITNESS

GENTLE YOGA

Wednesdays, 10-11:15 a.m.

Fees: \$10/drop-in;

\$30/4 classes;

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

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Mondays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2

11 a.m.-noon Studio 3

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

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Tuesdays & Fridays

10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Studio 2

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Studio 3

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Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon

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Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.

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Photo/Joan Cusick



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

WATERCOLOR FEATHERS WORKSHOP

Learn to paint colorful and beautiful feathers using watercolor.

This class will teach you how to lay out a composition, blend and layer colors, and create wispy and light textures with brushstrokes.

Beginning to intermediate painters are welcome. All materials are provided.

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



ST. PATRICK'S DAY HIGH TEA

Join the Novel Tea for a language class and high tea event. The St. Patrick's event will start with a language lesson from a native Irish speaker, including a few fun phrases. Three delectable tiers of Irish high tea food, featuring imported ingredients like Kerrygold butter, Dubliner cheese, and Celtic sea salt, as well as a variety of new teas, will follow.

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

INTUITIVE PAINTING CLASS

The creative process will come as you paint beautiful abstract paintings. There are no rules. As you explore your creative self with each new layer of paint and new combination of color, create an abstract painting all your own. All materials are included.

Room 7, Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m.-noon
Fee: \$40



ZENTANGLE BASICS

Join instructor Lee Miller in this class for beginning artists and those new to Zentangle. Learn the philosophy and methods behind Zentangle as you engage in pattern-making projects. The materials fee includes take-home supplies, so you can continue practicing at home. (Note: Good for ages 8 and up; kids under 12 should be accompanied by an adult.)

Room 7, Sunday, March 15, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Fee: \$40

EMBROIDERED POMEGRANATE BROOCH WORKSHOP

Learn how to embroider with thread and beads as you craft a pomegranate brooch in this workshop with Cate Schmiedt. All materials will be included. This workshop is good for beginning and intermediate stitchers.

Room 7, Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Fee: \$43



MOSS ART WORKSHOP

Create a beautiful nature-inspired work of art with preserved moss, lichens and other natural elements. These maintenance-free works of art are the perfect way to bring the outdoors inside. All materials will be provided. You'll leave with a finished moss masterpiece, ready to be hung on your wall. This is the perfect workshop to do with a friend.

Room 7, Saturday, March 28, 10-11:30 a.m.
Fee: \$35



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

Seminar focuses on elder-care benefits

By Katie Byram

The Senior Center welcomes Helen Justice as a guest speaker at a seminar focused on elder-care benefits at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 in the Garden Room.

This one-hour seminar will help attendees discover benefits that most do not know exist.



Guest speaker Helen Justice

- In addition, attendees will also learn:
- How to defray costs of long-term elder care
 - Strategies to pre-plan so a crisis does not occur later
 - To take advantage of public benefits such as Social Security, Medicare, Medi-Cal, Tri-Care, and veterans' benefits.

Helen Justice is a wartime veteran and leader in the elder care industry. She is CEO and founder of Advanced Wellness Geriatric Care Management Inc., a medical practice that focuses on senior advocacy and care management. Advanced Wellness helps families and patients navigate health-care choices and benefits that make sense to them. Justice and her team also help veterans and their families with the preparation,

prosecution and presentation of claims to the Department of Veteran Affairs.

As a speaker, Justice has a reputation for being knowledgeable, passionate and caring. She recently held speaking engagements with the Renaissance Society, City of Folsom, and Eskaton Village in Carmichael.

The seminar is free to attend; an RSVP is recommended. To RSVP, send an email to Katie: katie@sierra2.org.

Driver safety class returns

The AARP Driver Safety Course will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 9 and 10 in Room 10. This two-day course works to keep drivers safe by giving updated information, especially as cars, driving rules and road conditions have changed over the years.

This course is designed for drivers age 50 and older. It addresses common age-related issues such as vision, hearing and reaction time.

Seniors – and drivers under 25 – have the highest risk of serious collision and injury-involved accidents. Driving is a skill that can and should be continually improved to reduce risks to drivers, passengers and pedestrians.

This refresher course is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Sign up by completing the registration form at the Sierra 2 Center or at Sierra2.org. Mail forms and payment to instructor Jim Finnegan, 916 804-9777.

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In the District

City explores variety of proposals to address crisis of homelessness

Homelessness remains the No. 1 issue about which I receive calls, texts, emails and Facebook messages. Not a day goes by without my staff or myself answering questions about what the city is doing about this issue.

Gov. Gavin Newsom dedicated the entirety of his State of the State address last month to addressing the challenges of homelessness. So in fewer words, here is a rundown of what we're doing. Please feel free to contact my office if you want more information.

Last September the city, in collaboration with the Sacramento Housing and Rehabilitation Agency (SHRA), opened Capitol Park Hotel downtown as a homeless shelter. Since its opening, the shelter has served

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nearly 300 individuals, with 59 people housed permanently. The building will soon evolve into affordable permanent supportive housing – run by Mercy Housing. Another downtown site is being identified as a replacement shelter.

The city has also funded more beds to serve women and youth – at the LGBT Center, Wind, St. John's

Program for Real Change and City of Refuge – and has repurposed 184 beds in the River District.

The city continues to move forward on two 100-bed shelters, one in Meadowview focused on women, and another for adults on the W/X corridor. As the city continues to build its own capacity to oversee homeless services, it is also working closely with SHRA, which will contract directly with operators for both the Meadowview and W/X facilities, currently scheduled to open in April and summer. I wish the timing was quicker, but the complexities of opening both shelters are significant.

In addition, the city is working on several other proposals. First on this list are 24 cabins in the North Area designed for Transitional Aged Youth, which was approved by City Council in mid-February. The city is

also exploring scattered housing sites throughout the city, safe parking lots for individuals and families using their automobiles as their residences, and a comprehensive model out of San Antonio, Texas, called "Havens for Hope" that could serve up to 1,000 individuals. All of this takes time and resources, but the city is committed to getting people off the streets.

Every day that passes without positive action on homelessness is a day lost. Far too many Sacramentans have found themselves living on the street, in cars or couch surfing. None of this is acceptable if we are to be a great city. Just as important as attracting a professional soccer team or rebuilding the Convention Center, this issue must remain top of mind for City Council and our entire community. We are committed to turn the tide in Sacramento – and soon.

Sierra 2 Center's oldest tenant takes care of youngest neighbors

By Susan MacCulloch

Sierra 2 Center's oldest tenant serves the center's youngest clientele. Stephanie Levenhagen opened Great Beginnings Child Development Center in February 1993. Now, a child of one of her first students attends Great Beginnings. And a few parents of her current students attended Sierra Elementary School – a cycle of generations flowing through the facility.

After a prior preschool at Sierra 2 closed without notice in 1992, Levenhagen submitted her school proposal to the SCNA board, which accepted the bid in December of that year.

Today, 48 students ages 2 to 5 attend full- or half-day programs. The staff-to-child ratio for 2- and 3-year-olds is 9 to 1; for 4- and 5-year-olds, it's 12 to 1. The preschool is licensed for up to 57 students.

The Sierra 2 location with three classrooms and a spacious outdoor playground "is a perfect set-up – it's a good use of space," Levenhagen says. The curriculum has "an eclectic approach by running a 'development-appropriate' practice with hands-on learning," she explains. It is non-sexist and anti-biased with a strong

emphasis on gender equality. Teaching focuses on a child's social and emotional development and how to solve problems.

Longevity plays a key role at Great Beginnings. Lenay Franks-Brooks started with the school's opening while Kelly Sibert joined in September 1993. The current staff of five includes Levenhagen's two daughters, Shelby and Sidney, who attended Great Beginnings in their early years.

Most students live in Curtis Park and Land Park with several from East Sacramento. A few parents commuting to their downtown jobs from outside the area also send their young ones to the preschool.

"Our 4-year-old has been at Great Beginnings since he was 2," says Gina Funk-Nelson. "He loves the teachers, all the outside play, the various activity stations with lots of sensory and building options, and the books and art – he loves to show us his art! He thrives in the environment, which emphasizes play-based learning, exploration and self-expression."

The vast majority of Levenhagen's time is spent in the classroom, recently at the Franklin Park school at Franklin Boulevard and Donner Way. Established in



Photo/Will Carlton

Stephanie Levenhagen and daughter Shelby of Great Beginnings Child Development Center pose in front of some student work.

2011, it serves kindergarten through 6th grade with two other staff and a music teacher for Friday lessons. The curriculum continues the Great Beginnings philosophy that students learn best through play and hands-on activities. Most of the 22 students first attended Great Beginnings.

For more information, contact Levenhagen at 916 203-0240. Admittedly "old school," she does not advertise. New students come by referral, "strictly word of mouth." She conducts tours for prospective parents and is planning the next one for March for placements in late summer/early fall.

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Home upgrades save couple 15% in energy costs

By Nancy McKeever

Like most Curtis Park neighbors, I try to make informed decisions that promote a cleaner environment. Recycling, composting, and high-mileage, hybrid or electric cars are common throughout our community. Improving the energy efficiency of our homes is another good way to reduce pollution, especially since these choices and investments last for a decade or two.

In our home, between 2003 and 2009, we installed high-efficiency windows and an efficient natural gas furnace. Each year SMUD adds more renewable generation to its energy portfolio and takes steps to improve power plant efficiency.

Today, new-technology electric systems have become the cleaner choice. So, my husband Mike and I decided to look for ways to cut fossil fuel use and “green up” our Cutter Way home.

Last July, motivated by squirrels in the attic making a wreck of everything, we removed and upgraded

the insulation. Too late in the job, I realized I had missed out on a \$3,000 rebate from SMUD. But I learned about a range of other rebates for heating and cooling packages, smart thermostats, water heaters, electric vehicle charging, electric panel upgrades and range/cooktops.

We took the plunge. Our primary goal was to cut carbon emissions. I interviewed five contractors from SMUD’s certified list. At completion, we had installed a high-efficiency heating and cooling system, ductwork, water heater, thermostat, electric panel upgrade and electric car charger wiring. SMUD rebates covered 30% of our cost.

Older furnace and air conditioning systems likely consume much more energy, are noisier, and cycle on and off more abruptly than the newest systems. Our new electric heating and cooling system, including new ductwork, is quiet, makes small temperature adjustments improving overall comfort, and consumes zero fossil fuels on site. Natural gas furnaces vent fumes directly to the

exterior atmosphere at each home. Electric emissions pass through air pollution scrubbers at SMUD generating stations and are mitigated by the percentage of energy derived from renewable sources.

We chose to replace a natural gas on-demand water heater with a heat pump water heater that delivers plenty of hot water, even to a houseful of guests and can be set to vacation mode to further reduce energy use when we travel.

Could we cook without gas? Yes! We installed an induction range. Induction cooking is popular in professional kitchens throughout Europe. The cooktop is fast, accurate and easy to keep clean. Best of all, there is no exposure to nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide or formaldehyde from burning natural gas, which can be a health concern if a vent hood is not consistently used. We are converts.

It was necessary to upgrade the electrical panel to add circuits for the new appliances, which brought the panel into compliance with current codes. We also installed the wiring for a future electric car charger.

We have been saving about

15% on our energy costs since May, when the systems began operation. Estimating greenhouse gas savings from our new home systems will require help from SMUD experts to account for the renewable energy component of their power.

SMUD’s website for Home Performance Program information is <https://www.smud.org/en/Rebates-and-Savings-Tips/Improve-Home-Efficiency>.



Photo/Nancy McKeever

The California Energy Consultant Service installation team removed the old furnace and replaced it with a 20 SEER variable capacity heat pump and new ducting to more effectively move warm air throughout our home.

Another new Portola Way neighbor attends her first SCNA meeting

Photo/Joan Cusick



Photo/Joan Cusick

Whitney McCoven Cohan was the youngest attendee at the SCNA annual membership meeting in January. Whitney and her parents, Jennifer Albinson and Justin Cohan-Shapiro, are among new neighbors on Portola Way (see next page).

Viewpoint wants your story ideas

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

Please send your ideas to

denniscusick52@gmail.com with Viewpoint in the subject field or call the Sierra 2 office at 916 452-3005.

Deadline for Viewpoint copy is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

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RIVER CITY TAPS

COMMUNITY CORNER

Former new kids on the block welcome even newer neighbors

By Kathy Les

Back in 1990, when we moved into our house in the 2600 block of Portola Way, my husband and I were by far the youngest residents on our section of the street. Everyone else seemed ancient. Over the intervening years, our little 2-year-old has grown up and adjacent houses have changed hands as older residents moved or died. Now we are the oldest.

We have been so lucky in the last year to gain three new young couples as neighbors. Early last year, **Lydia Marque, Allen Perumal** and their two young sons, **Devin** and **Dylan**, moved in midblock. Next door on one side we have **Jean Minton** and **Matt Romsa** and on the other, **Jen Albinson, Justin Cohan-Shapiro** and their young daughter, **Whitney**.

Across the street are **Erin** and **Aaron Shively** and their new baby daughter, **Rose**. We have millennials and toddlers and another on the way. What could be better?

Over the last year we have shared holiday potlucks, garden produce and chats over the fence. This year, Hal and



Photo/Kathy Les

Allen Perumal, Lydia Marque and their two young sons, Devin and Dylan.

I will have lived in our house 30 years, so being surrounded by all this youthful energy feels just right.

How lovely to receive this note from neighbor Lydia in January:

A year ago today we closed on our sweet house. We had met and said hello to a few of you but we had no idea the phenomenal community we were about to nest in. Moving to a city where we knew a handful of people and leaving a strong life-long community was not an easy thing to do but we wanted a better quality of life for ourselves and our boys.

I am truly astonished and beyond grateful to live next to such incredible humans. We have so much admiration for each of you as individuals and as a community and have loved the time we spent together. Thank you for welcoming us, for all the help big and small, and for being the amazing people you all are. We look forward to getting old in this old house with all of you (hopefully)!

World travelers find home in Curtis Park

By Nancy McKeever

Auburn natives **Jessica** and **Travis Wright** purchased their 1920s Curtis Park home last April and moved in in August.

Travis is a product designer for a real estate software company, working remotely. He also does architectural design and oversaw the four-month restoration of their home.

Jessica runs the travel blog Bon Traveler. Her travels take her around the world, with a focus on Europe. She works with clients in the tourism industry, such as airlines, travel boards and hotel groups. She has covered more than 40 countries, providing curated guides, photos and travel tips.

"We fell in love with Sacramento's creative energy," Jessica says. "Our neighbor Tom, who introduced himself to us before we toured the house, sold us on Curtis Park. His care for the community, the street, and the owners who were selling the home touched us both. We knew we had found the community we were looking for."

In the "small world" category, Jessica



Photo/Will Carlton

New neighbors Jessica and Travis Wright holding their two cats Miko and Suki, and serendipitous travel companions, Mike and Nancy McKeever who first met Jessica in a remote part of Slovenia last October.

was in the Solcava Valley of northern Slovenia in October, about 6,000 miles from Sacramento. As dessert was served one evening at the Hotel Plesnik, she struck up a conversation with the only other table of guests. Within a few "Where are you from?" type questions, she learned her fellow diners were from the United States, then California, then Sacramento, and then Curtis Park. The other guests were **Nancy** and **Mike McKeever**, in Slovenia on a hiking holiday.

When Jessica and Travis are not traveling, they are enjoying the outdoors, snowboarding, or at home snuggled up with their cats, Miko and Suki.

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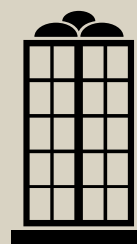
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Attorneys donate \$10,000 to support principal's vision

By Adrianna Gonzalez

Attorneys Lea-Ann Tratten and Jena Price have donated \$10,000 to Bret Harte Elementary School.



The attorneys said they read Principal James Tucker's article in the December issue of Viewpoint and wanted to support his vision for Bret Harte.

Their law firm, TrattenPrice, specializes in political strategy and consulting.

"TrattenPrice believes that we have to do all we can to give the next generation the opportunity and access they deserve, to be well prepared to fight, to protect and build up the world we leave them, and that starts by

investing in our backyard," Price said. "The staff and administrators at Bret Harte are clearly invested in not only teaching growing minds but developing compassionate and thoughtful hearts who will lead with kindness. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Bret Harte."

The partners donated \$8,000 to the school's general fund toward purchasing updated math supplements, increasing family engagement, and helping families pay for the fingerprinting that is mandatory to volunteer at the school. The other \$2,000 donation will go toward the sixth-grade field trip to Sly Park.

"This partnership will support our continued success in building academic achievement, a positive school climate, and increase our

Mark Your Calendar!

March 2: SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL, 6-7 p.m.

March 6: FAMILY LUNCH DAY, 11 a.m.-noon

March 14: GARDEN WORKDAY, 10 a.m.-noon

March 20: SPRING CARNIVAL, 5:30-7 p.m.

enrollment," Principal Tucker said.

Tratten worked for Consumer Attorneys of California and Price for the California League of Conservation Voters before they opened TrattenPrice. In the past three years, they have supported legislation to put a cap on high-interest predatory loans, stop the extraction of water resources in protected desert space, provide funding to clean up contaminated drinking water in underserved communities, and curb the effects of climate change.



From left, attorney Lea-Ann Tratten, associate Tyler Tratten and attorney Jena Price, daughter of Susan and Peter Price of Fourth Avenue, want to do all that they can give to the next generation – and, to them, that means investing in their own backyard.

Neighborhood crime reports nearly same as previous year

By Erik Fay

Curtis Park residents reported 236 crimes to Sacramento police in 2019, nearly identical to the 235 crimes reported the previous year.

This is consistent with steady totals of reported crimes throughout the city for the same years.

The types of crimes in Curtis Park did change somewhat from 2018 to 2019. Assaults increased to 22 from 19, burglaries to 27 from 23, and larcenies to 74 from 62. Larceny is the most commonly reported crime in Curtis Park – primarily thefts of packages, furniture and bicycles from porches and driveways.

Vehicle burglaries decreased notably to 39 from 48, stolen vehicles decreased slightly to 41 from 44, and vandalism

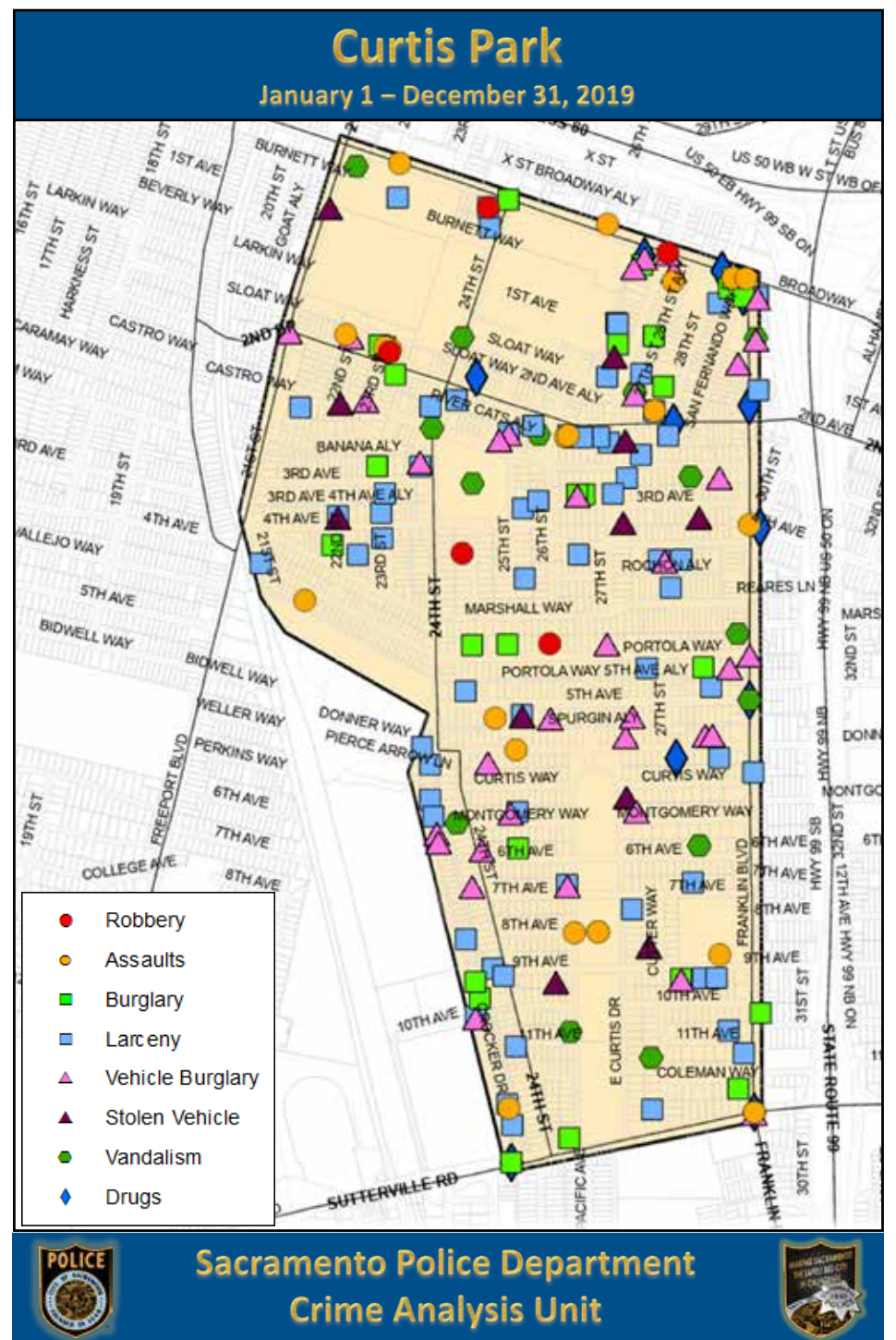
incidents decreased to 17 from 23.

Five robberies and 11 drug crimes were reported in 2019, the same as the previous year.

Reported crimes were generally spread throughout the neighborhood with some "clusters" of reported crimes increasing in the summer months – particularly for vehicle burglaries in the streets north of Portola Way.

The Sacramento Police Department encourages residents to report all crimes by calling 916 808-5471. Police seek reports of any criminal activity, no matter how minor, because several new crime-fighting strategies require current data regarding criminal activity in the neighborhood.

Police say residents should call 911 if they are witnessing a crime in progress.



Senior Center

The 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 of Sierra 2. The center provides opportunities to keep learning, exercise, meet new people and be actively involved with neighbors. Free (donations accepted) and fee-based classes and activities are on the calendar.