

VIEWPOINT

A Publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association

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May 2020



Photo/Joan Cusick

Walking, biking OK – not team sports

By Dennis Cusick

If you walked around William Curtis Park on an April afternoon, chances are you had plenty of company – fellow walkers, joggers, bike riders, people exercising by themselves, a few having picnics in the park.

What you probably didn't see were people playing organized team sports. The city padlocked the tennis courts, wrapped the basketball hoops in plastic

and posted warning signs that the facilities were closed after county Health Director Olivia Kasirye revised an earlier stay-at-home order April 7. The revised order prohibited the use of "playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment, picnic areas, barbecue areas, tennis and pickle ball courts, rock parks, climbing walls, pools, spas, shooting and archery ranges, gyms, disc golf and basketball courts."

The ball field in Curtis Park, which
Please see Parks, Page 3

Sierra 2 needs generosity of neighbors in time of crisis

By Kathy Les

Who imagined we would drive past our normally thriving Sierra 2 Center and see its lights dimmed, the parking lot devoid of cars, with not a soul walking in or out the doors?

This is what the coronavirus pandemic has brought to our neighborhood. You can help reverse this unfortunate course of events with your generous donation on the May 7 Big Day of Giving.

Forty years ago, the Curtis Park community rallied to save Sierra School. What started as a local project is now a cultural resource – not only for the neighborhood but also for the Sacramento region. We are asking you to come together again to help revive our historic Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community.

Where once dancers practiced all



evening, where seniors gathered for friendship and crafts, where the theater bustled with young actors and their attentive parents, where newlyweds were toasted, grads cheered, where all manner of activities and events kept

the building busy from morning to night, seven days a week, there has been quiet – no gathering of friends, students, companions or families since late March.

Although SCNA is a nonprofit, it operates the Sierra 2 Center like a business with multiple tenants and daily and monthly users that in a normal month bring in revenue of nearly \$80,000 a month. This revenue in turn supports a staff of 13 and a plethora of services to keep the building operating and maintained. Like businesses throughout our community, we have seen our revenue stop cold. Layoffs and

Please see Giving, Page 2

Businesses adapt, customers stay at distance

By Bruce Pierini

"Controlled chaos" is how Taylor's Market owner Danny Johnson describes how his grocery store is coping with the coronavirus shelter-in-place requirements. For Johnson and assistant manager Dave Hunter, it's the "greatest challenge we've ever faced."

Taylor's is among many local businesses – including Dad's Kitchen, Hop Gardens and Track 7 Brewing Co. – that have had to adjusted their business models during the pandemic.

"It's ironic, but people have turned to local guys to do shopping," Johnson says. He says the reason is the market's ability to pivot quickly with distributors who

traditionally are local producers of meat and produce. "I could call them on the weekend and ask for products, and they would be there on Monday."

The response has been strong loyalty shopping. "It's busier than Christmas," says cashier Sarah Kreutz.

Johnson says many of his customers mentioned their hesitancy to alert people outside the neighborhood to the availability of certain products – they'd rather not talk about it lest Taylor's would become overcrowded. Busiest times are usually between 2 and 4 p.m.

Johnson says the early opening time for seniors has been "wildly successful." "No one paid attention to this until we thought 'Why not?' We were the first in the Sacramento area allowing daily early shopping for



Photo/Joan Cusick

Norm's barbershop is at 2890 Fourth Ave.

seniors over 65 years old." "Seniors have appreciated the 8 to 9 a.m. early; it has run smoothly," adds Kreutz.

Please see Businesses, Page 12

Neighbors oppose 'America First' Avenue

Street sign went up in mid-April and came down within 24 hours.
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Home-schooling experience

One Fourth Avenue mom shares her thoughts of being parent/teacher.
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Seamstresses create unique mask styles

Neighbors are sewing a variety of masks to offer to family, friends and hospitals.
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'America First' signs aren't welcome in Crocker Village

By Dennis Cusick

"America First" may resonate with supporters of President Trump, but it did not go over well in Crocker Village. America First Avenue street signs went up in mid-April and quickly came down.

Neighbors who saw the signs the morning of April 17 were "immediately irate," according to Capital Public Radio, which published a story on its website about the signs.

CPR quoted Aaron Carruthers of Crocker Village as saying the intersection of America First Avenue and Ronald Reagan Street "seemed specifically designed to be overtly political."

"America First" is indeed political. Donald Trump adopted the slogan in his 2016 campaign for president. But the phrase has "an anti-Semitic and isolationist history going back to the years before the U.S. entry into World War II," a *Los Angeles Times* columnist wrote in response to Trump's use of the phrase in his inaugural address.

Historically, the phrase is most infamously connected to the America First Committee, which opposed American entry into World War II. One of its most high-profile spokesmen, aviator Charles Lindbergh, said at a rally, "The British and Jewish races, for reasons which are not American, wish to involve



Some neighbors were irate when they saw signs of America First Avenue in Crocker Village. The signs came down the next day.

Photo/Joan Cusick

us in the war."

City officials had their first inkling of trouble when developer Paul Petrovich submitted a map of the Crocker Village 2 subdivision with proposed street names, which also included Bronze Star Way and Omaha Beach Avenue, references to World War II, in which Petrovich's father fought.

City officials initially felt most of the proposed names met criteria for city streets because they were not vulgar, contained no more than 17 letters and did not repeat other street names in the city. America First, however, was the exception. City staff reached out to

Petrovich, who was amenable to changing the street name to America Avenue.

In an interview with *Viewpoint*, Petrovich said he only learned of the anti-Semitic history of the phrase "America First" after the signs were installed.

"I made a mistake of not realizing the World War I, World War II relationship" of the phrase, he said. "That was completely news to me."

Petrovich said he ordered the signs removed as soon as he realized the implications of America First: "I was raised not to be anti-Semitic and to despise those who are."

The Crocker Village 2 subdivision map was an information item on the April 21 City Council meeting agenda. City staff said 352 comments had been received about the map, the "vast majority" opposed to America First Avenue. It was, according to the staff, "by far the most controversy we've ever seen over naming of a street."

At the end of City Council's review of the revised map, Mayor Darrell Steinberg commented, "I'm glad you were able to work it out and to change the original name in response to the concerns of a lot of people. So, good outcome."

Giving: SCNA estimates \$25,000 revenue loss from canceled home tour

Continued from page 1
staff cutbacks have ensued.

Some of our most valued neighborhood activities, including the Egg Hunt and annual Home & Garden Tour, have been canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Home Tour alone resulted in a \$25,000 revenue loss, money that normally helps fund other popular activities such as Music

in the Park. This on top of the \$25,000 monthly loss we are experiencing by maintaining a skeletal staff and paying for utilities and other essential services with reduced revenue. For a neighborhood association like ours, these are no small losses and setbacks.

But we are confident Curtis Park neighbors will help turn the lights back on during the May 7 Big Day of

Giving fund drive. Money raised will help support areas of greatest need, to assure the Sierra 2 Center will be ready and welcoming when we are allowed to reopen.

Let's get the dancers dancing again, the learners learning, families celebrating, the bards filling the theater stage. Your donation to the Big Day of Giving campaign will help bring the community

back to our community center.

Here's how you can give: Donate at sierra2.org or at bigdayofgiving.org/sierra2center on May 7. Or if you prefer, mail checks made payable to SCNA at 2791 24th St., Sacramento, CA 95818.

Kathy Les is vice president of SCNA and chair of the Big Day of Giving campaign.



With the closure of Sierra 2 due to the coronavirus, it is more important than ever to raise money for the facility and its programs during **Big Day of Giving**. We hope we can count on your support.

We aim to make up some of the shortfall from closure with fundraising on **Big Day of Giving**. Last year we raised \$15,000 through the generosity of neighbors. Can you help grow that amount this year?

To donate, go to bigdayofgiving.org/sierra2center.



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Notes from April 8 meeting

Board authorizes withdrawals from reserve account

The SCNA board voted at its April 8 meeting to authorize prudent withdrawals from the reserve account if absolutely needed during the coronavirus pandemic.

Treasurer **John Bailey** met with Executive Director **Terri Shettle** to reassess the budget while the Sierra 2 Center is closed. Normal expenses are approximately \$70,000 per month, with about \$16,000 revenue from resident tenants. Terri was able to reduce the budget to \$33,000 per month. She applied for a city loan, which was approved. She is reviewing SBA loans and the payroll protection program. **Jonathan LaTurner** has assisted Terri with navigating these programs' red tape. Terri will continue to pursue grants to cover benefits and other operating costs.

Terri reported checking in with staff, looking for funding streams and helping customers to reschedule events and classes. Staff still receive 100% of their medical benefits.

Development

The theme for SCNA's Big Day of Giving is "Sierra 2gether." Vice President **Kathy Les** is chairing the Big Day of Giving this year. She asked board members to raise \$1,000 each. While the center is closed, we must still maintain the building and pay utilities. Half of the staff has applied for unemployment and Terri is taking a pay cut. There have been some generous donations already, but additional funds are needed to recover and return to financial health.

Neighborhood Concerns

Co-chair **John Mathews** presented a letter to the city planning division regarding the proposed apartment complex at 24th Street and Castro Way. SCNA welcomes much-needed affordable housing in our neighborhood, but asks that the new construction harmonize with the historic local character and fit in with existing homes. The board considers the proposed 14 units too dense for that property as parking is already at a premium. **Mike McKeever** has asked city staff for a Zoom meeting regarding design

proposals. It was suggested to submit a letter within five days after amendments are made by **Bill Hoover, John Mathews** and **Dan Murphy**.

Neighborhood Concerns has proposed planting native plants at 24th Street and Fourth Avenue. Sierra 2 has a landscape plan for sustainable irrigation that will be shared with the committee. A local Boy Scout troop is willing to pitch in to do the plantings.

English elm treatment

Since October 2007, SCNA has hired Davey tree service to treat 17 English elms in the north part of William Curtis Park to protect them against Dutch elm disease. These treatments began in response to the removal of elms infected with the disease. Many were concerned all the elms would succumb and have to be removed if no preventive action was taken. The elm is injected with a fungicide, which provides protection for three years. The cost to treat 17 trees is approximately \$14,000 and is completed over a two-year period. Since these treatments began, none of the treated elms have contracted Dutch elm disease. Given the cancellation of the Home and Garden Tour and the center's temporary closure, SCNA's budget does not support treating the elms unless we organize a fundraiser, or work out a plan with the city.

Attendance

In attendance at the April 8 meeting, by Zoom conference video, were SCNA President **Bill Hoover**, Executive Director **Terri Shettle**, and board members **Bruce Pierini, Eric Johnson, Kathy Les, Erik Fay, Bill French, John Bailey, Nury Enciso, Kimberley Bond, John Mathews, Mike McKeever, Jonathan LaTurner, Andrea Rosen, Kat Haro, Gerre Buehler, Martin Pierucci, Dan Pskowski** and **Kate Van Buren**. Also in attendance were **Dan Murphy, Mark Wenzel** and **Michael Hawkins**.

Submitted by
Kate Van Buren, board secretary

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Parks: City golf courses still open

Continued from page 1

had been made ready for Little League play in February by the parents of Land Park Softball players, remained idle throughout April. After the season was abruptly shut down in March, Little League headquarters in Pennsylvania advised its 6,500 programs in 84 countries that games should resume no earlier than May 11.

In Sacramento, the presidents of the local Little Leagues participated in a Zoom meeting in late April to discuss

contingencies for having a season in June and July, if that becomes feasible.

The city golf courses and driving ranges remained open, although the courses' restaurants and retail services, including golf lessons, were shut down. The city said operators of Bartley Cavanaugh, Bing Maloney, Land Park and Haggin Oaks courses had developed practices to ensure physical distancing, increase cleaning of equipment and facilities, and prohibit customers from sharing equipment.

The county's latest order was to remain in effect until May 1, "or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded or amended," Kasirye wrote.

The order did not prohibit "outdoor recreation activity, including... walking, hiking, biking, running or equestrian activities."

Mario Lara, director of the city's Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment Department, asked that if you visit a park with members of your household, "keep your group small and maintain physical distance between you and other park-goers."



Photo/Joan Cusick

The city finally took action to close the play equipment. People were still playing basketball as recently as April 7.

*SCNA President's message***Sierra 2 closure has critical impact on staff, tenants**

Americans have always resorted to humor to cope with difficult times.

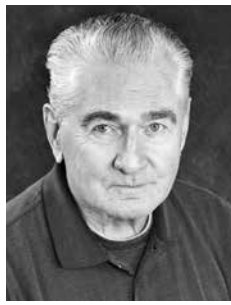
Unfortunately, our current situation is hardly a laughing matter for many experiencing the loss of a job or reduced employment opportunities.

The mandated closure of virtually all non-essential businesses, especially small ones, produced a ripple effect, leaving hardly anyone untouched. The longer the health restrictions last, the less likely many businesses will be able to survive.

This is true for the Sierra 2 Center and its tenants. So, on or before the Big Day of Giving on May 7, I hope you will recognize and appreciate the contributions that Sierra 2 has made to our Curtis Park neighborhood over the past 40+ years.

Sierra 2 provides low-cost office, classroom, studio and theater space to groups and individuals from the Sacramento area and is home to many diverse groups, mostly nonprofits. Several have been with us for decades,

**BILL
HOOVER**
**SCNA Board
President**



including Sacramento Braille Transcribers (more than 35 years), the Italian Cultural Society (more than 25 years), and La Famiglia Catering (24 years).

In addition to our permanent residents, hundreds of arts, cultural and social service nonprofits and private groups rent space at Sierra 2 during the year. Sierra 2's centerpiece, the 24th Street Theatre, showcases performance art year around.

As mentioned last month, the county-mandated closure of Sierra 2 eviscerated our revenue stream. While all but one tenant continue to pay rent, we have no assurances that will continue in

May or beyond.

Sierra 2 Executive Director Terri Shettle has reduced expenses nearly 60% through a combination of staff furloughs, reduction of work hours and cuts in vendor expenses.

Nevertheless, we expect an ongoing \$25,000 monthly shortfall that will require more withdrawals from our reserve account (currently approximately \$300,000), which is intended to be used for maintenance and repairs. To minimize these withdrawals, we are pursuing grant and loan opportunities.

Thanks to Terri's diligence in submitting our application, Sierra 2 was selected to receive a no-interest \$12,800 loan from the city. We have also applied for an \$80,000 loan through the recently enacted federal SBA Paycheck Protection Program, and are applying for a loan through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. Grant opportunities through the Sacramento Regional Foundation

and others are also being explored.

However, monetary relief should not cause us to lose sight of the impact this crisis has had on our dedicated and capable Sierra 2 staff. Each of the 13 staff members has been adversely affected, with three full-time and four part-time staff laid off and the remainder working significantly reduced hours from home. Their time of service ranges from nine months to 16 years, with an average of more than six years.

The Sierra 2 facility is currently managed by Terri and a facility staff employee on a part-time basis. Though the center is closed, work must continue on customer outreach, canceling and rescheduling bookings, handling refunds, paying bills, etc.

We look forward to a time when the Sierra 2 Center will reopen. With your donations to Sierra 2 on the Big Day of Giving, you can help us set the stage for another 40+ years of service to the community.

*In the District***City government faces negative effects of coronavirus**

I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy. This is an extremely difficult time for everyone, and the way we make it through is by supporting one another.

My staff and I are working remotely and, like all of you, adjusting to this new world in which we live. If you have specific needs or ideas, please don't hesitate to email me at jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org.

Sacramento is facing significant negative economic impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. Our modeling suggests we will receive at least \$60 million less in revenue than originally anticipated for the coming fiscal year. Revenue losses are included in our estimates of Measure U and general fund sales taxes, as well as general fund parking revenue, transient occupancy tax and business operations tax.

This creates a large hole in the city budget, which we hope can be mostly filled with federal stimulus dollars. Nevertheless, the city has acted quickly

**JAY
SCHENIRER**
**City
Council
Member
District 5**



to preserve its funds and create an action plan, including implementing a hiring freeze for all non-essential positions, suspending all travel and evaluating all non-essential capital improvement projects not already under contract.

In the short term, the city will make up for the revenue decrease by using one-time funds. This includes using \$35 million in prior year-end savings, salary savings by not filling vacancies and expenditure savings by limiting capital improvement projects.

Our plan is to adopt a bare-bones budget by May 12, and then return

in late summer when we have more information and pass a revised budget based on our resources and needs.

I want to thank the more than 900 individuals and organizations that have donated nearly \$1.14 million to www.Donate4Sacramento.org. We are working to disburse funds by partnering with United Way California Capital Region, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Regional Community Foundation, Sacramento Steps Forward and The Center at Sierra Health Foundation.

Funds have been used for the following purposes:

- United Way provided nearly 400 families with financial support.
- Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber provided 119 small businesses with financial support.
- Sacramento Region Community Foundation provided 25 nonprofits with relief funds.
- Sacramento Steps Forward provided

funds to the following groups to help reach the homeless population: Loaves & Fishes, Mercy Peddlers, First United Methodist Church of Sacramento, ShowUPSac, Sacramento Homeless Union, The e49 Foundation, Humanitarian Action Network, Feed Sacramento Homeless, Wind Youth Services, Solidarity of Unhoused People, and Packs for Cold Backs.

• General support funds have gone to: First Step Communities to support the North A shelter, \$15,000; Sacramento ACT to provide 60 families with rent and utility assistance, \$30,000; and Sacramento Food Bank for food purchases, \$169,134.

When there is a need, Sacramentans always step forward. I could not be prouder of my community.

Please stay safe and follow the guidance from the county health director. For more regular updates, send me an email and we will make sure you are on our mailing list.

Viewpoint wants your story ideas

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Graduates to appear in June edition

It's time to send portraits and information about this year's high school and college graduates to *Viewpoint*.

This can be done by email to carolxo@comcast.net.

For each graduate, please include name, parents' names, street in Curtis Park, graduate's school, plans for college or travel or employment or military service, and phone number.

The deadline is May 10.

Home schooling in COVID-19 era

By Susan MacCulloch

When Bret Harte Elementary School closed its doors in mid-March due to the coronavirus, students and their families faced the challenge of completing the school year at home.

After a one-month break, during which teachers developed an online curriculum, distance learning began April 13. Students were issued Chromebooks that allow them to log on to the city schools' website to access the educational portal.

A Fourth Avenue family shared their initial experiences. Adrianna Gonzalez and her husband Oscar Uribe have three daughters – Sofia, Olivia and Eva (age 4). Third-grader Sofia and first-grader Olivia have resumed their lessons using their Chromebooks.

"It's been sort of tough to home school three young kids," admitted Adrianna. "One in third grade, [one in] first grade and keeping my 4-year-old busy while helping the older ones with school work."

Oscar is a CPA and while tax season winds down, he's working 10-hour days six days a week.

Each day by 7 a.m. teachers post assigned classwork utilizing the school district's educational online portal. Sofia and Olivia have apps and programs such as i-Ready (Bret Harte's supplemental reading and math curriculum) and Google Classroom. Other available programs include typing, math and reading, educational game websites and coding programs.

The girls were assigned 30 minutes of reading and math through the i-Ready program that records every log in lesson completed and quizzes. Teachers can see how long a student was on the program, what lessons are completed, and the student's score at the end of each lesson.

Continuing their in-school practice, Sofia and Olivia start their academic day with a mindfulness activity. The girls are assigned independent reading for 20 minutes each day. They must also complete 30 minutes of typing, which they enjoy.

The family devotes mornings to reading and writing. Afternoons seem better for math.

Beginning the week of April 20,



Photo/Adrianna Gonzalez

Mom Adrianna Gonzalez works with daughters Eva, left, Olivia and Sofia.

teachers started using Zoom for daily class meetings. "Both my girls are very excited about using Zoom because they get to hopefully see all their friends online."

Third-grader Sofia misses "playing with my friends at recess, learning new songs on the recorder in music class and my teacher, Mrs. Nunez." First-grader Olivia likes doing schoolwork at home, "but I miss my friends and teacher. I miss sitting in the cafeteria at lunch with everyone the most."

Given this new challenge, Adrianna believes the family is doing what they can, and she is not putting too much pressure on herself. "Sometimes we do school work for a few hours and other days we just bake and play in the backyard, go for a walk and watch a family movie and call it a day."

And for coping tips, "take lots of breaks," advises Adrianna. "The girls love to craft and draw. They play together constantly, which helps them with the lack of socialization with friends."

Sidewalk chalk art makes a fun walk through the neighborhood



Photo/Judy Harper



Photo/Judy Scheible

Pandemic sheltering brought out some sidewalk chalk creativity in the neighborhood. Some artists made colorful, graphic designs and others made humorous drawings referring to songs; some wrote poems and words of encouragement.

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Petrovich feels vindicated by appellate court's gas-station ruling

By Dennis Cusick

Developer Paul Petrovich says he feels the Third District Court of Appeal has proved what he has been saying all along, that he did not receive a fair hearing from City Council when it voted 7-2 to reject a permit for a gas station in Crocker Village in 2015.

But Petrovich says he thinks the appellate court did more than just affirm the 2018 ruling of Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny. “It went far further in connecting the dots than Kenny was able to do,” Petrovich said in an interview. “The ruling, in my opinion, puts to rest not only how corrupt (City Council) was, but I have a case for violation of my civil rights.”

Petrovich says City Council violated his rights in 2015 when it rejected his request for a conditional use permit to build a 16-pump gas station next to the Safeway supermarket in Crocker Village.

“There has to be substantial evidence to turn down” his request, Petrovich said. “There’s no substantial evidence to deny it. ... I was treated as a party of one, my civil rights were



Paul Petrovich presents his case to City Council in 2015.

Photo/Joan Cusick

violated, and they broke the Brown Act,” a state open-meetings law.

The 16-page appellate opinion reviewed the history of the Crocker Village development: from City Council’s approval of land use and zoning entitlements in 2010; to Petrovich’s application for a conditional use permit for a 16-pump gas station in 2014; to the approval of the permit by the city’s Planning

Commission in June 2015; to SCNA’s appeal of the Planning Commission to City Council; and, finally, City Council’s rejection of the permit in November 2015.

The appellate court concluded that Councilmember Jay Schenirer “demonstrated an unacceptable probability of bias” in the days leading up to the council’s vote, “acted as advocate, not a neutral and impartial

‘The ruling, in my opinion, puts to rest not only how corrupt (City Council) was, but I have a case for violation of my civil rights.’

decisionmaker, and should have recused himself from voting on the appeal. Because he did not, Petrovich did not receive a fair hearing.”

The appellate court ruled that Petrovich is entitled to another City Council hearing on the request for a conditional use permit.

The city has at least two options: 1) Rescind its decision denying the conditional use permit and conduct another hearing without Schenirer participating; or 2) Ask the state Supreme Court to review the appellate decision.

The city’s next step is unclear, however. The city’s chief counsel in the lawsuit did not respond to a request for comment on the appellate decision.

The appellate opinion may be found at <https://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions/nonpub/C087283.PDF>

First-quarter crime down significantly from previous year in our neighborhood

By Erik Fay

Curtis Park residents reported 50 crimes to the Sacramento Police Department in the first three months of 2020, a 46% reduction compared with the first three months of 2019.

This is consistent with cities across the country reporting decreases in crime for the same period – especially for the month of March. This reduction in reported crime is probably due to reduced easy targets for criminals and greatly increased numbers of people at home.

Theft and burglary are much riskier activities for criminals as they are now much more visible to a far greater number of people staying home due to the coronavirus.

Robbery decreased from 3 to 2, assaults from 7 to 4, burglary from 8 to 5, larceny from 25 to 13, vehicle burglary from 26 to 15, stolen vehicles from 7 to 2, and vandalism from 13 to 2.

Drug crimes, however, increased from 3 to 7.

Reported crimes were spread across the neighborhood but with a few clusters of activity for vehicle burglary. Criminals often target a particular street at night and look for unlocked cars or easy targets in a car. Laptop computers, phones and purses are the most common items reported stolen

from cars parked on the street or in a driveway. In addition, identity theft often results from items and documents stolen from cars, but this is not measured in crime reports.

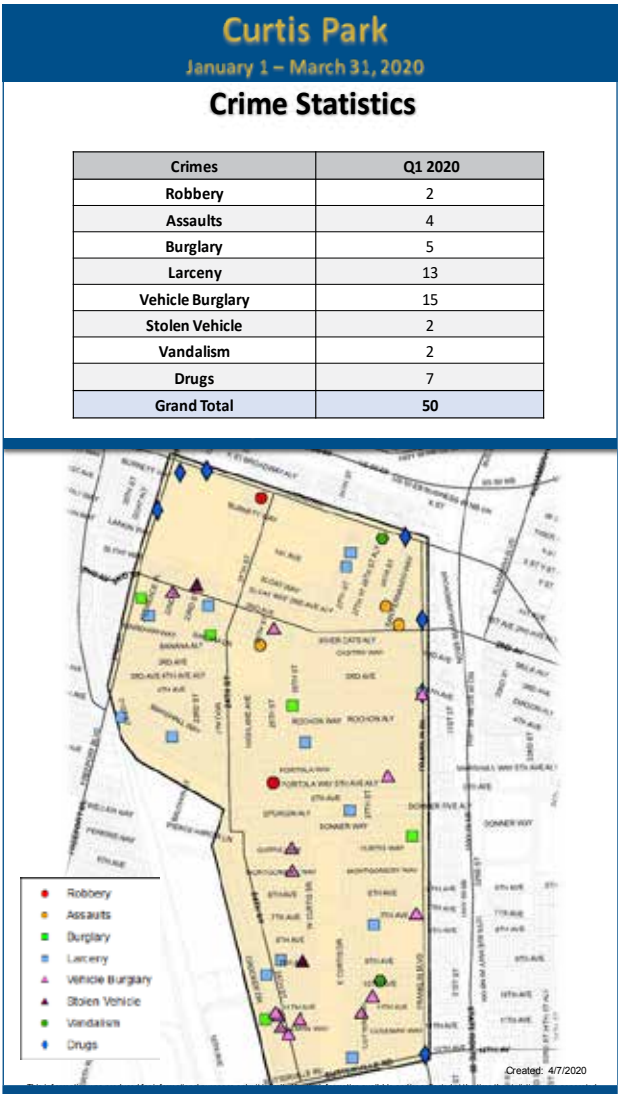
The Sacramento Police Department encourages Curtis Park residents to keep an eye out for what’s happening near their homes and their neighbors’ homes. **Call 916 808-5471 to report crimes.** Residents should only call 911 if they are witnessing a crime in progress.

The police want residents to report any criminal activity, no matter how minor it may appear. Crime data is helpful in supporting police activity in our neighborhood, and the neighborhoods around us, which contributes to everyone’s overall safety.

The police encourage awareness of fraudulent activities that exploit the COVID-19 pandemic for

The police want residents to report any criminal activity, no matter how minor it may appear.

illicit gain. Activities may include people at your door seeking donations, fraudulent mailings and computer phishing schemes.



Neighbors make masks to help meet demand during pandemic

By Judy Scheible

A number of neighbors have fired up their sewing machines and scoured the city for cotton fabric and elastic to help meet the demand for masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cotton and elastic are in short supply, but that's just a bump in the road for determined mask makers. Working from at least three patterns, they are making masks for family, friends and the medical community.

Among seven seamstresses interviewed are neighbors who grew up sewing and had supplies at home. When the elastic ran out, they switched to shoelaces and seam binding.

Patty Hagstrom of Marshall Way is a retired airline attendant who flew all over the world for 52 years with United Airlines. Patty has made about 70 masks for family, neighbors and medical personnel. It all started when her daughter told her about the need for her Kaiser pharmacy co-workers. She made 30 for them.

Patty found her pattern on Etsy. She used fabric remnants from clown costumes she made for the family and the quilting scraps left from making clothes for the knitted animals she makes for her grandchildren.

"Elastic is the hardest thing to find," she said. "I found some in my mom's old sewing kit."

Bonnie Lins, a retired IT analyst for SMUD who lives on Portola Way, said she wanted to make masks as a way to get involved and help. So far she's made about 25 masks. She uses three different patterns – one denim and two folded.

Bonnie said she's drawn from her small stockpile of fabric but is having a hard time finding elastic and more fabric. "People have generously given me some," she said. Bonnie has given her masks to friends and to medical groups that have requested them.

Joan Neide of Curtis Way switched from quilting to making masks. Retired from teaching at Sac State, Joan jumped in to help when the daughter of a neighbor said the hospital in Santa Barbara where she is an emergency room nurse had no personal protection equipment (PPE). Joan made 10 masks for the hospital and five more for family and friends.

Next door to Joan, **Brenda Fotos** also has made masks for the medical community. A SMUD retiree, Brenda belongs to the American Sewing Guild, which has more than 300 members in the Sacramento region, many of whom have turned their energy to mask making.

The guild has donated more than 3,000 masks to several medical groups, including Methodist Hospital, Dignity Health and Sutter Roseville. "The nurses and doctors put the masks over their N95 masks to make them last longer," Brenda said.

Brenda has made more than 40 masks. "The demand has slowed a bit," she said. "It seems to come in waves." Brenda was featured in *The Sacramento Bee* in early April.

When making masks, Brenda makes a dozen at a time in an assembly line. The process includes double washing in hot water, ironing, cutting, folding and sewing. This takes about four hours.

Brenda gets her supplies from Hi-Fashion Fabrics, 4106 Franklin Blvd. The shop opens from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, allowing five customers at a time. Customers must wear masks and use hand sanitizer.

Judy Brush of Third Avenue has completed 85 masks for friends and family. Now she is making masks to give to Brenda to meet demand in the medical community. In the beginning, Judy used three different patterns, but now uses only the one that the hospitals like. She, too, uses the assembly line method and has adjusted the pattern to ease construction.

Fleurette Kersey, a retired nurse also living on Third Avenue, has made masks for relatives. In making her first four masks, she discovered a generic

size does not fit all. Her first pattern was best for a child. After adjustments for her husband, Charles, she worked out size variations. Her masks have gone to family locally, and in Davis and Oregon. Some masks are made from batik fabric in her stash, and they have sterile hospital fabric for the inserted filter.

When **Carol Blackman** of 26th Street started out to make masks for her family, she unearthed an old sewing basket with some supplies she needed, including elastic. She has made nine masks for family and is making a few more for others, using a pattern she found on YouTube.



Photo/Judy Scheible

Patty Hagstrom displays a couple of her hand-sewn masks.



Photo/Brenda Fotos

Brenda Fotos lays out some of the dozens of masks she has made.



Photo/Judy Harper

COVID-19 incidence low in Curtis Park, Land Park

Viewpoint Staff

Most of Curtis Park is in a ZIP code that has among the lowest incidences of COVID-19 cases in Sacramento County – eight cases total as of April 23, according to county health statistics.

The 95818 ZIP code comprises most of the Curtis Park and Land Park neighborhoods. It is roughly rectangular, including an area south of T Street, east of the Sacramento River, north of Sutterville Road and west of Franklin Boulevard.

Most of the neighborhood east of Franklin

Boulevard is in ZIP code 95817, which reported 71 cases of COVID-19, the highest incidence in the county.

One of the ZIP codes to the north of Curtis Park, 95811, reported seven cases, the lowest number in the county. The 95742 ZIP code, in a largely rural area of Rancho Cordova, also had seven cases.

The other ZIP code immediately north of Curtis Park, 95816, also reported eight cases.

The two ZIP codes to the south of Curtis Park, 95820 and 95822, had 23 and 22 cases, respectively.

Trees of Curtis Park

Budget considerations compel SCNA to halt treatment of English elms

By Dan Pskowski

In an effort to combat Dutch elm disease, SCNA has contracted with Davey Tree since 2007 to treat 17 English elms in the north part of William Curtis Park. If an elm is infected with this vascular wilt disease, removal is warranted to help prevent the disease spread.

Elms are injected with a fungicide that protects them against Dutch elm disease and must be reapplied every three years to provide continued protection. These treatments began in response to the removal of several park elms infected with the disease. The neighborhood was concerned that all the park elms would succumb if no action was taken.

Treatment for these elms costs

approximately \$14,000 and is completed over a two-year period to spread out the cost. This year it's time to treat again. But due to the Sierra 2 Center's temporary closure and lost revenue, my recommendation to the SCNA board is not to treat the elms.

SCNA will ask the city parks department to pay for the elm treatments this year. Some residents are concerned that by not treating the elms, they will be at risk of contracting Dutch elm disease.

I believe the risk is low because these elms grow in a park setting and receive regular irrigation throughout the summer. They have not been subjected to any health-related stress issues, such as root pruning for curb, gutter or sidewalk repair or excavation/trenching for construction. When elms

are exposed to environmental stress, they attract the female elm bark beetle, which transmits Dutch elm disease.

The English elms will be monitored throughout the summer for Dutch elm disease symptoms. Monitors will look for leaves turning brown and hanging onto the branch. Trees with symptoms will be reported to the city for sampling and lab testing. The key to control is removal of infected trees as soon as possible, which helps contain this disease spread.

Two English elms north of the main park, which had been receiving the preventative Dutch elm disease treatments, were just removed. Both elms had experienced large limb failures, most recently during a windy day last October when a limb, approximately 18 inches in diameter, failed and crashed through a homeowner's fence on Donner Way. The park's arborist performed an aerial inspection with a bucket truck and determined both elms warranted removal because of extensive decay that compromised the elms' structural integrity.

SCNA must balance budget considerations against the cost of protecting our park's elm trees. With careful monitoring over the summer, we hope any disease symptoms can be spotted early.



Photo/John Mathews



Photo/Will Carlton



Photo/Joan Cusick

Keeping the park beautiful

With social distancing in mind, Kathy and Ken Myers of Portola Way work on flowerbeds in the 26th Street median near William Curtis Park.

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Thousands once worked at railroad shops on the site of Crocker Village

Manufacture, repair of steam locomotives for Western Pacific went on for decades

By Dan Murphy

What now is Crocker Village was once a large industrial complex for the manufacture and repair of the rolling stock of the Western Pacific Railway Co.

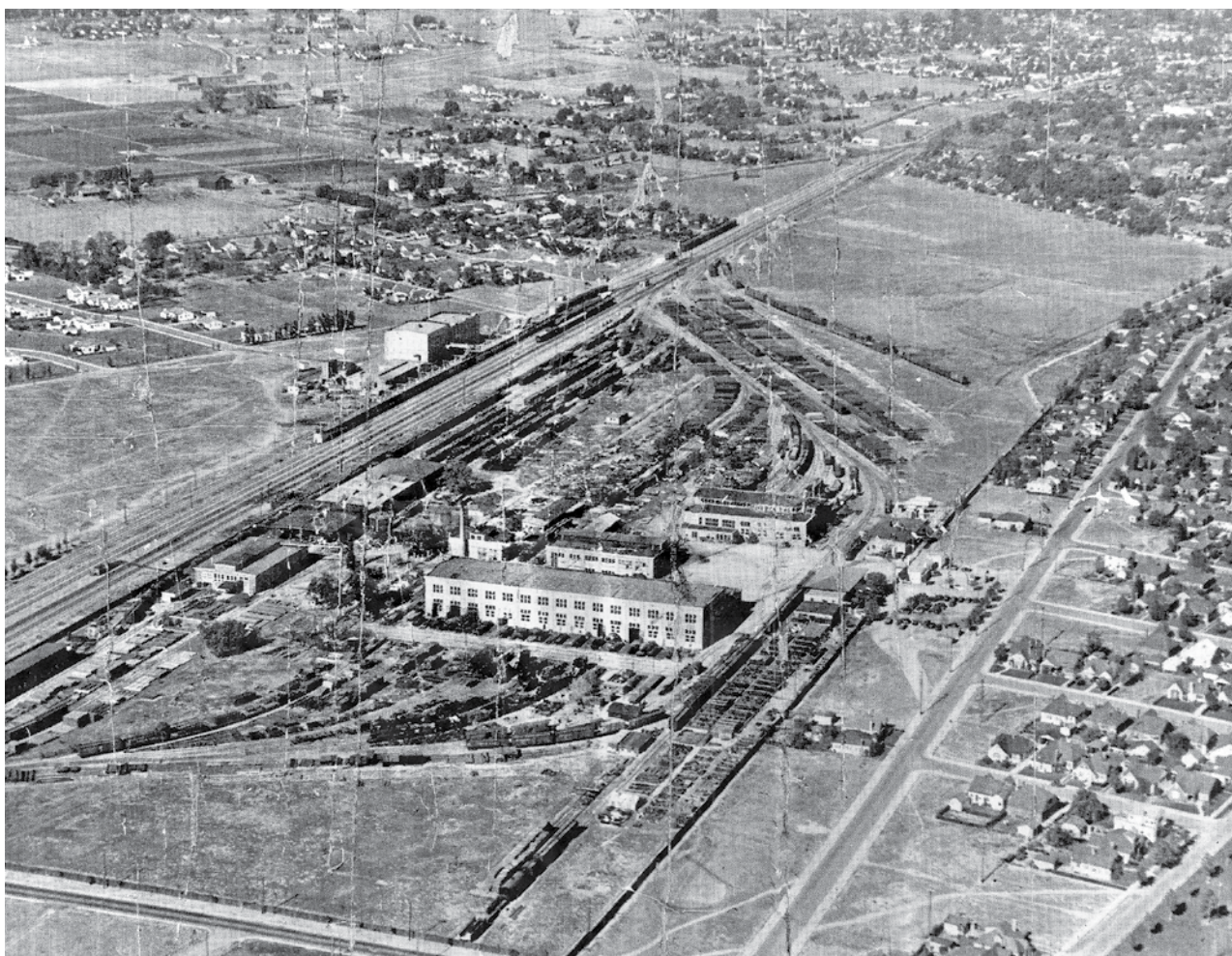
The Western Pacific was incorporated in 1903 to build a second Northern California transcontinental railroad to compete with the Southern Pacific, which until then effectively had a monopoly on shipments of agricultural products.

In 1907, the Western Pacific sought approval for a route through Sacramento west of 20th Street that is still in use today. The city Board of Trustees rejected the railroad's request, but the public was overwhelmingly in favor, voting 4019-172 for the line in a special election.

Cities and towns along the proposed route through the Feather River Canyon lobbied the railroad to locate its shops near them, as the shops promised a significant payroll. Sacramento's chamber of commerce formed a committee to confer with railroad officials about locating the shops here. The first suggestion was to give Southside Park to the railroad as a shop site.

In 1908, Western Pacific agreed to locate the shops in what is now Crocker Village. The agreement was on the condition that Sacramento would fund the purchase of the site and donate it to the railroad, with the proviso that ownership of the land would revert to the city if the site ceased to be used as the main shops of the Western Pacific.

A subscription campaign covered the purchase of the land with voluntary assessments on property throughout the county. In 1909, the property was deeded to the railroad. Over the next three and a half years, the complex of shops was built. On July 12, 1913, the mostly completed complex opened to public view.



Aerial view of the Western Pacific railyards, circa 1927

Courtesy of Dan Murphy

Tracts of nearby land were developed as bungalow subdivisions, spurred by the burgeoning rail yard workforce and the positive effects on local economic growth. The shops continued as a major industrial complex for the next 50 to 60 years with thousands of workers employed there.

The northern portion of the property near 24th Street and Fifth Avenue, called Western Pacific Field, was used for sports and entertainment. The Western Pacific Railroaders, the shops' soccer team, won the state championship several times in the 1930s. The field was also used for baseball and concerts. In 1934, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus train pulled into the rail yard and raised the big top for a performance of "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Over time, diesel electric engines replaced

steam engines as the locomotion technology in railroading. Many of the jobs used in steam engine manufacture and repair were no longer needed and much of the manufacture and remanufacture of engines was transferred to outside companies.

By 1983, after the Union Pacific railroad had absorbed the Western Pacific, the number of jobs at the shops had dwindled to 25, and the shops were closed.

The railroad, the city and the neighborhood all looked forward to the next stage – cleanup of the toxics that had accumulated in the years of railroad use and then redevelopment of the rail yard property.

For more information and historical photographs, follow this link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/h8WBDCFZFBxDRtPm7>

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Neighbors visit from a distance



Photo/Joan Cusick

Each neighbor brought her own beverage for an afternoon visit in a driveway while their dogs enjoyed an outing also.

Sierra 2 will receive \$12,800 loan from economic relief fund

City of Sacramento

The Sierra 2 Center for the Arts has been selected to receive a \$12,800 loan from the city's \$1 million COVID-19 economic relief fund.

Two other neighborhood businesses were also among 101 businesses in the city to receive zero-interest loans. Pangaea Bier Café, 2743 Franklin Blvd., was selected to receive \$13,952. The Makers Place, 2618 X St., was to receive \$5,000.

The city estimates the 101 businesses selected for loans provide more than 700 jobs.

"Given the magnitude of the economic disruption caused by COVID-19, this \$1 million is a solid start but just the beginning of what government at all levels will be doing

to protect our businesses, workers and non-profit organizations," said Mayor Darrell Steinberg.

The COVID-19 economic relief fund was established as part of the city's efforts to mitigate the financial effects of the disease on our community. The city also established a temporary ban on evictions for residential and commercial tenants, waived delinquent utility penalties and set up an essential worker childcare program for first responders, health care workers and essential city staff.

The businesses were selected by city staff on a first-come, first-served basis from 1,402 applications. Micro businesses with five or fewer employees received \$5,000. For businesses with six employees or more, the maximum loan amount was \$25,000.

Pandemic delays progress on shelter for homeless near Alhambra Boulevard

By Andrea Rosen

The COVID-19 pandemic has made progress more difficult on building a homeless shelter at a site between W and X streets near Alhambra Boulevard.

The shelter, intended to house up to 100 people temporarily, is now projected to open in the fall. Priority will be given to individuals living on the streets in the immediate vicinity of the shelter's location. However, if the virus makes a comeback in the fall, as some experts have predicted, city officials say a shelter intended to house 100 people may not be feasible.

An additional obstacle is the \$60 million hole in the city's budget due to the loss of revenues caused by a crashing economy during the pandemic.

Councilmember Jay Schenirer continues to hold meetings to update interested parties on the city's progress

toward opening the shelter to get homeless people off nearby streets while also improving access to services, including finding permanent housing.

The city is responsible for shelter construction. Bids are being reviewed and the winning bidder will be selected soon. The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency is requesting proposals from prospective operators.

The city is working with CalTrans to finalize a lease for the land. Federal Highway Administration approval is pending as well.

Plans call for the shelter to have beds for residents, while offering three meals a day and shower and laundry facilities.

The city will partner with community-based organizations including the Urban League to help residents get jobs, social services and permanent residences.

Stay-at-home order results in TV's 'Curtis Park Bureau'

By Marie Estrada

Three of us newsies share a home in Curtis Park and until now, our opposite schedules never seemed to matter much. When the stay-at-home order went into effect in March, I initially worried that the opposite schedules would become a bother.

I wake up at 4 a.m. on weekdays to write and produce a midday TV newscast. The others wake up around 10 a.m. and clock in around 3 p.m., just as I'm shutting down my laptop in what used to be our dining room. I now call our house "The Curtis Park Bureau" for our local news station.

Sure, there are cables all over the

place to plug in second monitors, cameras and lights. And yes, this journalist has to tiptoe from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m.

But you know? We shared our first meal together on Easter Sunday, a day we would otherwise have spent with our families. Eggs, toast, sausages ... Easter brunch was whatever we had in our quarantine kitchen. And champagne, because what's brunch without your first mimosa in who knows when?

We're lucky to be able to say that, other than work and social outings, our lives haven't been hit too hard by the coronavirus. We're even lucky to be home with each other to get through all of the changes as this crisis continues.

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Photo/Mike Scheible

Sidewalk philosophy

Neighbors take to philosophy in chalk art on the sidewalks of Curtis Park. There is a lot to think about when on a walk in the neighborhood.



Photo/Joan Cusick

Dancing at a distance

Sally Flynn, right, of Third Avenue, Lynne Finney of Fifth Avenue and Judy Brush of Third Avenue (not visible behind Lynne) entertain a crowd of about 35 neighbors by tap dancing to “Nobody Does It Better” on the sidewalk of the 2200 block of Third Avenue at 5 p.m. April 17. All three dancers are students of Richard Walters, taking weekly tap dancing classes when Sierra 2 Center is open. For more photos, see facebook.



Photo/Judy Harper

Urban kite surfer

An experienced Fifth Avenue kite surfer practices in Crocker Village. He'll be ready for his favorite beach in Pacifica when the quarantine ends.

A party by the numbers

A wine-tasting group in West Curtis Oaks that gathers a few times each year has come up with a plan for a virtual party while maintaining safe distances from each other. On the scheduled day, participants will put numbered glasses on their porches. At a set time, individuals will go porch to porch, putting a tasting sample in the numbered glass corresponding to their number. This can be done with masks and gloves, without anyone getting too close or touching the glass being filled. Once glasses are filled, the Zoom tasting begins. Separately, but together.

Photo/Judy Harper



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Businesses: Brewers offering beer to go

Continued from page 1

Almost all employees wear masks. “You have to get used to your glasses fogging up but we’re managing,” says Kreutz.

“For butchers it’s a tough decision,” says Johnson. “Most have opted not to wear masks since it makes it quite difficult to communicate with customers.”

Employees have a daily check-in procedure that asks about their current health. Kreutz adds, “We are using copious amounts of antiseptics on the store surfaces, conveyor belts, baskets and carts. We have to be patient and are extremely grateful to our customers for their cooperation.”

...

Dad’s Kitchen, 2968 Freeport Blvd., is now open for takeout only, Tuesday through Saturday, from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dad’s Kitchen offers daily specials and different family four-pack meals every night. The full regular menu plus brunch and happy hour menus also are available.

Curbside delivery is available when paying over the phone. People can enter the lobby to pick up and pay.

Dad’s provides gloves, sanitizer and masks for employees. Follow social media for daily family dinner offering; Ilovedadskitchen.com for menu and kid’s menu. The beer menu rotates; bring a mason jar with lid or growlers for filling. Call 916 447-3237.

...

Hop Gardens, 2904 Franklin Blvd., closed its taproom March 16 and furloughed several employees, but reopened April 4 after setting up what it believes is a safe system for pickup. It is open Friday to Tuesday from 12 to 6 p.m. for front patio pickup. The phone line opens at 11:30 a.m. for pre-orders: 916 476-3889. Current offerings are pizzas and growler fills from their beer taps.

According to co-owner Jeannine Hawkins, they plan to offer a family meal deal and add a couple of salads to the current menu, based on demand.

“We’ve been overwhelmed by the love and support of our neighbors,” Jeannine said. “We really feel as though Curtis Park welcomed us with arms wide open and it hasn’t changed over the past two years.”

Hop Gardens recently collaborated with next-door neighbor Zen Threads to offer face masks for sale with the Hop Gardens logo for \$8 apiece or \$6 with a pizza purchase.

...

Track 7 Brewing Co., 3747 W. Pacific Ave., Suite F, offers to-go beer at its taproom, just south of Crocker Village. Cans, bottles and crowlers are sold. Patrons can bring their own clean growler or howler and place it in the provided sanitizer as they place the order.

Hours are reduced so check Instagram, Facebook or the Track 7 website for updated information. Online ordering and prepaid ordering is also available. Online ordering begins 30 minutes before opening and must be picked up the same day. The beer menu is updated weekly.

Susan MacCulloch and Andrea Rosen contributed to this report.

Restaurants offer takeout

Local chefs innovate in the face of adversity

Name	Address	Phone
Andy Nguyen's	2007 Broadway	916 736-1157
BBQ & Burgers	2114 Sutterville Road	916 399-4951
Broadway Coffee	3200 Broadway	916 594-9058
Buffalo Pizza & Ice Cream	2600 21st St.	916 451-6555
Café Dantorels	2700 24th St.	916 451-2200
Carl's Jr.	2615 Broadway	916 454-2861
Carolina's Mexican Food	3840 Franklin Blvd.	916 454-9325
Chipotle Mexican Grill	4001 Freeport Blvd. #102	916 596-4005
Chocolate Fish Coffee Roasters	2940 Freeport Blvd.	916 346-4731
Dad's Kitchen	2968 Freeport Blvd.	916 447-3237
Domino's Pizza	3119 Broadway	916 504-3030
El Novillero	4216 Franklin Blvd.	916 456-4287
Famous Pizza	2998 Freeport Blvd.	916 448-3333
Faria Bakery	3417 Broadway	916 204-8726
Firehouse Subs	3700 Crocker Drive #130	916 476-5530
Five Guys.	3660 Crocker Drive #120	279 444-0767
Freeport Bakery.	2966 Freeport Blvd.	916 442-4256
Gunther's Ice Cream	2801 Franklin Blvd.	916 457-6646
Happy Lemon.	3660 Crocker Drive #110	916 680-9669
Hop Gardens	2904 Franklin Blvd.	916 476-3889
KFC	2128 Sutterville Road	916 454-4811
Land Park Sandwich Spot	2108 11th Ave.	916 444-7187
La Venadita.	3501 Third Ave.	916 400-4676
Los Jarritos	2509 Broadway	916 455-7911
Marie's Donuts	2950 Freeport Blvd.	916 444-5245
McDonald's	2331 Broadway	916 451-7264
McDonald's	2985 Freeport Blvd.	916 443-7632
Meet & Eat.	3445 Freeport Blvd.	916 476-3082
Naked Coffee Roasting & Café	3527 Broadway	916 346-4966
Noodles to Thai For	2675 24th St.	916 329-8352
Oak Park Brewing Co.	3514 Broadway	916 389-0726
Old Soul @ 40 Acres	3434 Broadway	916 453-8540
Oscar's Very Mexican Food.	3061 Freeport Blvd.	916 443-8309
Pancake Circus.	2101 Broadway	916 452-3322
Panda Express	3640 Crocker Drive, #140	916 318-0980
Pangaea Bier Café	2743 Franklin Blvd.	916 454-4942
Peet's Coffee	3700 Crocker Drive, #170	916 245-6623
River City Deli & Bagels.	2546 24th St.	916 736-1698
Round Table Pizza	3005 Freeport Blvd.	916 443-2001
Shanghai Cuisine	2721 Broadway	916 382-4462
Starbucks.	2104 Sutterville Road	916 709-3046
Subway	3000 Freeport Blvd.	916 448-7568
Sweets & Sugars	3051 Freeport Blvd.	916 447-5050
Taco Bell	2431 Broadway	916 455-5738
Taqueria Espinoza	3671 Franklin Blvd.	916 370-2511
Taqueria Maya's	2700 Broadway	916 457-7208
Taylor's Kitchen	2924 Freeport Blvd	916 443-5154
T&R Texas BBQ.	3621 Broadway	916 739-1669
The Hideaway	2565 Franklin Blvd.	916 455-1331
Track 7 Brewing Co.	3747-F W. Pacific Ave.	916 520-4677
Two Rivers Cider	4311 Attawa Ave	916 228-4757
Vibe Health Bar	3515 Broadway	916 382-9723
Viet Ha Noodles & Grill	2417 Broadway	916 391-9888
Wienerschnitzel.	2501 Broadway	916 457-9925
Yummy Café	3005 Freeport Blvd.	916 448-3988
Yum Yum Donuts	3671 Franklin Blvd.	916 453-9193