

VIEWPOINT

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July 2020



Photo/Will Carlton

Sydney Cotterill, right, of 26th Street and her friend Izzy Estabrook share an Easter egg rock they recently discovered.

Mystery of 'Easter egg' rocks solved

By Susan MacCulloch

Have you discovered a painted river rock in your front garden? Perhaps your kids detected these small treasures during impromptu family scavenger hunts (leaving the rocks in place).

Who is the artist of these colorful treasures?

The secret's out: Kathy Davenport of Third Avenue creates and distributes these "Easter egg" rocks. While not an official count, she estimates placing close to 100 rocks during her neighborhood walks.

"I got the idea to paint Easter egg rocks for the kids around my block to find, since I knew there wasn't going to be an egg hunt [this year]," said Kathy. "It's a joy to see how delighted people are when they find a rock."

She looks for flat and smooth rocks on her walks and has sourced others from Cascade Rock. After washing each rock, Kathy pencils a design. She then uses extra-fine-tip paint pens, noting that

gel ink pens don't flow well. Finally, she applies three coats of clear semi-gloss varathane to the rock.

"I've made rocks for friends and family, for birthdays and party favors. I've made rocks to commemorate the life of a beloved pet. I keep some for myself, but mostly give them away," Kathy says. "I like giving away something simple that creates a little love in the world."

She observes that many of the rocks have moved away from her original placements, maybe into backyards or other neighborhoods. Kathy hopes the rocks are situated where many may enjoy the fun of finding them.

Nine-year-old Sydney Cotterill of 26th Street agrees: "I want to learn how to paint the rocks because they're so cool!"

With parents John and Allison, Sydney has discovered many of Kathy's treasures on neighborhood walks. John enjoys documenting each treasure with a photo, close to 70 by his count.

SCNA envisions healthy future despite closures

Year's events canceled

By Kathy Les

High school and college graduates aren't the only ones denied their rite of passage this year. Those in Curtis Park who mark their summers by festive family evenings at Music in the Park, wind up the summer with offerings by local artists at Curtis Fest, usher in autumn with the annual Wine Tasting, and later partake in the Holiday Gifts & Goods event in December must ready themselves for disappointing news.

Until Gov. Gavin Newsom declares California ready to enter Stage 4 of the Covid-19 response, large gatherings like our Curtis Park annual summer and fall events will not be allowed. When Stage 4 arrives will be anybody's guess, but with predictions of a fall/winter surge in COVID-19, the SCNA staff and board have made a determination all remaining large

Please see Events, Page 2

What's up at Sierra 2?

By Terri Shettle

With the shelter-in-place orders announced on March 19, Sierra 2 Center was immediately shuttered.

More than three months later, we are still closed as a community center – no classes, no wellness activities, no meetings, no Senior Center, no SCNA events. The 24th Street Theatre is closed for the remainder of 2020.

Sugar Plum Vegan Bakery, an essential food producer for grocery stores, has been able to continue operating. Some other tenants are now able to carry out their office business activities.

We have had some staff working remotely to continue to serve our customer base, provide

Please see Center, Page 2

Cooper's hawks are fiercest resident birds

A pair of Cooper's hawks has nested in a plane tree on 25th Street for the last few years.

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Discussions about social justice begin

Rob Archie of Pangaea Bier Cafe organized an event aimed at how to make societal change.

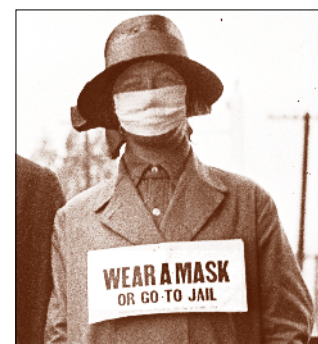
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Effects of 1918 pandemic on Sacramentans

Looking at the history of flu epidemic shows similar characteristics of society in crisis.

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Birds of Curtis Park

Fierce Cooper's hawks make meals of other birds in neighborhood

By Dan Murphy

Our neighborhood's fiercest resident birds are Cooper's hawks, with long tails and short, rounded wings that enable them to capture prey in wooded areas where rapid acceleration and the ability to turn and stop quickly are advantageous. This lifestyle takes a toll: Up to a quarter of Cooper's hawks have healed fractures of breastbones, likely from collisions.

Cooper's hawks feed mainly on medium-size birds, such as robins, jays and flickers, but also take larger and smaller birds. They also eat small mammals, such as chipmunks, tree squirrels, ground squirrels, mice and bats, and sometimes eat reptiles and insects. They hunt by stealth, approaching prey through dense cover and then pouncing with a rapid, powerful flight. You are most likely to see one ambushing prey at a bird feeder.

As is common in predator birds, the male Cooper's hawk is smaller than the female. The male Cooper's hawk builds the nest and feeds the female for up to a month before she begins laying eggs. After the eggs hatch, the male brings food and gives it to the female at a perch near the nest; she then feeds it to their young.

A pair of Cooper's hawks has



Photos/Dan Murphy

Cooper's hawks feed mainly on medium-size birds, such as robins, jays and flickers, but also take larger and smaller birds.

nested in a plane tree on 25th Street for the last few years. On a mid-June morning, I watched the male fly in with a California scrub jay. Both Cooper's hawks flew to a nearby oak, where he left the prey. The female spent five minutes or so plucking every feather off the jay and then flew with it to the nest. She watched until the four nestlings finished their meal, and then flew back to her guard perch.

The nestlings arose from the nest and pranced and flapped their wings for a while until they settled back down.

Cooper's hawks can live for 20 years. Their numbers declined in the mid-20th century, possibly as a result of DDT and other pesticides. They have recovered since that time, and numbers appear stable in the western United States and increasing in the East.



After watching her nestlings devour their meal of California scrub jay, the female Cooper's hawk returned to her guard perch.



The male killed a California scrub jay; then both Cooper's hawks flew to a nearby oak, where he left the prey for her to feed the nestlings.

Center: Some restrictions eased

Continued from Page 1

communications and continue to keep administrative functions intact. Essential facility services staff have been on the property attending to necessary repairs and maintenance, along with supporting tenants that are able to visit their spaces.

Recent changes to Sacramento County's health order have eased some restrictions. Religious gatherings, of which there are typically many at Sierra 2 Center, are able to resume with modifications as are day-care operations and day camps.

On June 15, Great Beginnings Child Development Center reopened with reduced hours and modified operations.

We are working with groups that typically meet at Sierra 2 for religious purposes as well as youth organizations that often hold their summer camps at Sierra 2 to assess their interest in returning. So far, the groups have not been

interested in organizing their activities due to the potential health risk factors.

The state's plan for reopening includes community centers in Phase 4. The next phase for us, when allowable, would be to layer in the tenant groups such as Sacramento Yoga Center, SMAA and Diamond Light meditation, and ongoing classes from renters considered "block users" along with classes in The Larnery.

One-time rentals, except those previously confirmed, and the Senior Center will likely come much later.

All activities will be subject to significant modifications. We will be doing business very differently from before March 19.

For the most current information about Sierra 2 Center, subscribe to our weekly email newsletter, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or visit our website, sierra2.org.

Terri Shettle is executive director of the Sierra 2 Center.

Events: Auction considered

Continued from Page 1

events must be canceled for the year.

Sadly, we must scratch off our calendars Music In the Park (June 28, July 26 and Aug. 30), Curtis Fest (Aug. 30), Wine Tasting (Oct. 10), and the Holiday Gifts & Goods sale (Dec. 5).

If history repeats, we should get ready for an extended shelter-in-place beyond the summer 2020. (See Erik Fay's story on the 1918-19 influenza epidemic, page 9.)

But Curtis Park wouldn't be Curtis Park without some way to mark the passage of seasons and raise money

for the Sierra 2 Center and its attendant activities.

The SCNA Development Committee is brainstorming possibilities for a home-based event in the fall. A virtual event, perhaps, might include a virtual auction accompanied by takeout food from local restaurants. It might also involve local musicians but avoid people gathering in groups. Small block parties with required social distancing and masks are an option.

Anyone with ideas or interested in participating on the planning committee for this year's alternative fall event should contact Kathy Les at kathy.les321@gmail.com.

Notes from June 10 meeting

With neighbors' help, SCNA cash position strong

Treasurer **John Bailey** reported that May expenses were close to what was projected, so no money from the reserve account will be needed. Because of the generous donations from the neighborhood, the cash position is strong and SCNA will be able to cover utility expenses. Bailey said April financials reflected a full month of the closure of the Sierra 2 Center.

Music in the Park, Curtis Fest and the Wine Tasting have been canceled this year. The Development Committee is working on creating an outdoor event to bring neighbors together while being socially distant.

Dan Pskowski briefed the board on a letter to the city parks manager regarding ongoing treatment of the English elms in Curtis Park. SCNA has been treating the elms since 2007 and to date has spent more than \$45,000 keeping the trees healthy and disease-free. Because our budget has significantly tightened this year, we do not have the funds to cover the treatment of 11 English Elms at the north end of the park. SCNA is asking the city to treat the trees in July or August so they do not succumb to Dutch elm disease. SCNA will resume paying for tree care when the center is able to generate income again.

John Mathews reported that the Greater Land Park Traffic Safety Group has been meeting, and is encouraging SCNA's full participation. The group has been collecting traffic and collision data and has created a list of intersections with immediate safety needs. The group will work with city staff and apply for a CalTrans grant through the State Highway Improvement Program. Money from the grant would go toward administration, according to guidelines specified in the application. The board voted to join the traffic safety group.

The board discussed a letter drafted by Executive Committee members in support of the peaceful protesters demanding criminal justice reform. **Mike McKeever** mentioned the city's

Project Prosperity, which focuses on social equity issues and may be an action item SCNA can support.

Sierra 2 Executive Director **Terri Shettle** is working with local business owner **Rob Archie** to improve relations between Curtis Park and the surrounding areas. **Mike McKeever** will temporarily chair an ad hoc committee to pursue the goals stated in the letter.

Andrea Rosen and **Terri** have been addressing tenant lease renewals, which include new language requiring organizations to comply with health and safety protocols.

The Payroll Protection loan program has been extended for 24 weeks. **Terri** is working with our CPA to track the loans to ensure they will be forgivable.

Great Beginnings day care was about to restart with morning sessions only. The Learnery is doing Zoom classes.

In attendance at the June 10 meeting via Zoom were SCNA President **Bill Hoover**, Sierra 2 Executive Director **Terri Shettle**, and board members **John Mathews**, **Dan Pskowski**, **Kathy Les**, **Andrea Rosen**, **Bill French**, **John Bailey**, **Gerre Buehler**, **Mike McKeever**, **Erik Fay**, **Kimberly Bond**, **Eric Johnson**, **Kat Haro**, **Dan Murphy**, **Nury Enciso**, **Bruce Pierini**, **Martin Pierucci** and **Kate Van Buren**.

— Submitted by *Kate Van Buren, board secretary*

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the SCNA board will be a Zoom meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. July 1. If you're interested in attending, please contact president@sierra2.org.

4 longtime SCNA board members quit

By *Dennis Cusick*

Four longtime members of the SCNA board submitted a joint letter of resignation in mid-June.

"It has become increasingly obvious over the past several months that our opinions, thoughts and ideas are not shared or respected by the newly elected majority of board members," said the letter, signed by resigning board members **Kat Haro**, **Eric Johnson**, **Jonathan LaTurner** and **Kate Van Buren**.

The four were among nine incumbents re-elected in January, along with 14 new or returning board members. With the four resignations, only two of the re-elected members — **Dan Pskowski** and **John Mathews** — remain on the board.

The election followed a challenge by more than two dozen neighbors to bylaws approved by the previous board in 2018 and 2019 that first eliminated the voting rights of SCNA members and then eliminated membership entirely. In response

to the neighbors' challenge, the board conceded that the bylaw changes had been improper, and then ordered the new election.

Sierra 2 Executive Director **Terri Shettle** responded to the resignations with a letter of thanks to the four departing board members. "I will personally miss the energy, ideas, passion and the dedication

to SCNA, Sierra 2 Center, and the neighborhood you have shown over the years," she wrote. "To the rest of the board, honestly, I find these departures unsettling. With the loss of **Eric**, **Jonathan**, **Kat** and **Kate**, we not only lose a combined 23 years of board and organizational knowledge, we lose continuity of leadership and the intellectual stepping stones of our progress."

SCNA President **Bill Hoover** offered a different view. "While the resignations are unfortunate, they should not detract from the fact that the SCNA board remains full of very talented, capable and experienced individuals," Hoover wrote. "SCNA will continue to serve the community and fulfill its duties and responsibilities in maintaining and operating Sierra 2."

Johnson was board president for six years and treasurer for two years. **Haro** was a former vice president. **LaTurner** was a former treasurer. **Van Buren** was, at the time of her resignation, the incumbent secretary.

'While the resignations are unfortunate, they should not detract from the fact that the SCNA board remains full of very talented, capable and experienced individuals.'

No August Viewpoint

There will be no Viewpoint in August. The volunteer staff will take July off. The deadline for copy for the September issue is Aug. 15.



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More chances to donate blood scheduled in July at Sierra 2

By Terri Shettle

Because of the tremendous response to the June blood donation drive at Sierra 2 Center, additional dates for blood donations have been scheduled – July 2 and 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Curtis Hall.

Blood donated at these events will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies. Donors will be informed of the results in seven to 10 days.

Donations are by appointment only, with no walkups allowed. The rest of Sierra 2 Center will remain closed.

The American Red Cross says the need for blood is constant and will continue throughout

the COVID-19 outbreak. Volunteer donors are the only source of blood for patients in need of life-saving transfusions.

The Red Cross has put in place cleaning, protection and distancing protocols to ensure the safety of all donors, staff and volunteers who are part of the donation drives. Examples of these protocols include face-mask requirements for all, temperature checks prior to entering, appointments that spread out arrival and departure times so there is minimal gathering, spacing of

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patient stations, and a strict regimen of cleaning and disinfecting before, during and after each appointment.

To register for an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code Sierra 2 or 95818 ZIP code, and

select the Sierra 2 Center location. There is a lengthy questionnaire to complete online during the registration process.

Donors can expect the appointment to last an hour to an hour and a half.

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

Please send your ideas to denniscusick52@gmail.com with *Viewpoint* in the subject field.

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New interest in vegetable gardens makes Oak Park nursery 'essential'

By Joan Cusick

In March, Angela Pratt prepared to close The Plant Foundry to comply with COVID-19 orders. Then she got word that her Oak Park nursery was deemed an essential business because so much of its spring inventory is food-related.

"We felt strongly that if we needed to stay open, we needed safety protocols in place," Pratt recalls. Hand-washing, disinfecting and social distancing became routine at the open-air nursery at Broadway and 35th Street. In addition, Pratt began accepting orders by phone and online, with curbside pickup and limited delivery available.

Business has been steady, largely a result of renewed interest in backyard vegetable gardens.

"When this first happened, it was all about edibles," she says. In fact, the nursery sold out of potatoes for the first time since its founding in 2015. "Soils have been flying out the door. So have seeds."

As other businesses begin to reopen, Pratt sees a relaxation of pandemic procedures, including some customers electing not to wear a mask. But she vows to maintain her store's protocols until a vaccine is available. "When you're a small business and every penny counts, you have to go overboard to get to the new normal," she says.



Photo/Joan Cusick

Curtis Park residents Robert Watson and Gabrielle Salazar shop at The Plant Foundry in Oak Park, which has remained open during the pandemic.

Meals program exceeds fundraising goal, seeks to extend delivery period

By Bruce Pierini

CURTIS PARK SHARES MEALS, a charitable campaign that began in May with a goal of raising \$5,000 to fund meal deliveries in Oak Park, has exceeded its goal by \$1,000, which helps the group to deliver meals a week beyond the targeted end date of July 17.

Close to 90 donors have given from \$5 to \$500. One of them, Karen Mraovich, says, "Living in beautiful Curtis Park, I felt that I needed to see beyond my bubble and help others in need."

Allora Restaurant on Folsom Boulevard prepares the meals, which have included Cuban pork Ropa Vieja simmered with tomatoes and peppers served over rice and Hungarian pulled Chicken Paprikash over oven-roasted red potatoes. Vegetables and desserts are included. Menus change weekly.



Photo/Bruce Pierini

CURTIS PARK SHARES MEALS drivers prepare for their first meal deliveries to a neighborhood of south Oak Park. From left, Nick Busch, Patti Roberts, Allora Restaurant employee Evan Selby, Kathy Les and Community Connections 95820 Coordinator Ashley Powers Clark delivered 50 prepared meals for four.

Donations pay primarily for food and labor. They allow Allora, which partners with at least five other charitable food efforts, to keep its staff employed during the economic downturn.

Curtis Park Shares Meals also partners with Community Connections 95820, an established distributor of food to food-insecure neighbors in Oak

Park. This organization has a coalition of resources, including City Councilmembers Jay Schenirer and Allen Warren, Root64 farm and The Food Literacy Center. The program serves a variety of people in need, such as homeless people, single mothers with children, individuals with compromised immune systems and undocumented immigrants.

Drivers leave the Allora meals on families' doorsteps after recipients have been alerted to the drop-off. Curtis Park Shares Meals has several drivers but needs more to deliver 50 meals in an hour at noontime Fridays.

If you are able to volunteer to drive meals from the distribution point at Fruitridge Elementary School to several homes in the area, access the CC95820 webpage at www.communityconnections95820.org and select "Deliver." Once you sign up, materials will be sent to you.

"Drivers feel very good about being that last but necessary step in the chain of food relief," says coordinator Ashley Powers Clark.

Donations may be made at <http://www.gofundme.com/Curtis-park-shares-meals>. Increased donations could allow Curtis Park Shares Meals to extend the period of meal delivery beyond the currently scheduled six weeks.



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Photo/John Mathews

A ‘Black Lives Matter’ banner, posters and messages in chalk show neighborhood solidarity in June with protests against police violence and systemic racism.



Photos/Alison Ledgerwood

SCNA's statement about racial injustice, death of George Floyd

By Bill Hoover

George Floyd's unjustified death has triggered an outpouring of anger and protests about the manner in which he died. Anyone viewing the video of his treatment at the hands of the four Minneapolis police officers cannot help but be outraged by the conduct of those police officers.

SCNA, its members and our neighborhood stand with those who

have marched and who will march in protest peaceably in support of an end to racial injustice and inequity.

Through the Sierra 2 Center, we promote diversity and cultural inclusivity and will continue to do so. However, we can and must do better. We see you. We hear you. We support you. We join you in demanding greater focus and progress on the substantive changes that are badly needed in our social and civic

structures to achieve real and tangible equity and justice for all.

This devastating event is another wake-up call demanding that we work to build a better and more equitable Sacramento. We don't presume to have answers. But we are committed to continuing our longstanding practice of working with sister neighborhood associations and our civic leaders to re-invigorate the discussion and the search for new and better solutions for

existing inequity and injustice fueled by racism and indifference.

The immortal words of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. are instructive and were never more appropriate than now: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Bill Hoover is president of SCNA.

Restaurants show support for Black community 'We Stand With You' encourages discussion

By Patti Roberts

Open conversations can lead to better understanding and societal changes. That was the concept behind 200 Sacramento restaurants participating in the "We Stand With You" event the first week of June to show support for local African American communities.

The community gatherings were organized by Curtis Park resident Rob Archie, owner of Pangaea Bier Cafe and Urban Roots.

Participating restaurants closed their doors for service from noon to 3 p.m., but opened for conversations between staff and with neighbors about how businesses and individuals can help enact change.

"I was happy to help create a platform for the hospitality industry and neighbors to have these very difficult conversations," Archie said. "We encourage people in the community and our culinary teams to continue these conversations by incorporating dialogue into the restaurant culture."

Also participating was Gunther's Ice Cream. "We want to support our community and all Black communities," said owner Marlena Klopp. "We need change."

Two dozen neighbors and staff from the two Franklin Boulevard businesses spent the three hours talking, exchanging stories, holding up signs and waving to passing drivers who honked in support.

"I work for Gunther's and this is a way to show our support for the BLM (Black Lives Matter) movement," said Julia Hyde, who lives on Ninth Avenue. "Everyone who came out was very excited to participate and it was overall a very positive experience."

Marty Marriott of 30th Street appreciated the event, explaining, "We can all be better people and treat one another as we'd like to be treated."

Archie plans to continue his outreach through his guest speaker series at Urban Roots, inviting customers and staff to hear "dynamic speakers talk about race relations, leadership training, and other issues to help grow our company and community."



Photos/Alison Ledgerwood

Community gatherings were organized by Curtis Park resident Rob Archie, owner of Pangaea Bier Cafe.



POINT OF VIEW

In spite of city trend, Curtis Park remains 'Neighborhood of Trees'

By Dan Pskowski

When I first moved from Fort Collins, Colo., to accept the position of Sacramento city arborist, my goal was a less physically demanding position for my back. I never dreamed retiring more than 29 years later from this career.

My back never got strong enough to endure the physically demanding work of pruning and removing trees. But what made me stay was Sacramento's incredible collection of trees and its people.

After my first summer here, I quickly realized why trees were so important in Sacramento. Citizens strongly supported tree preservation, especially in the Curtis Park neighborhood. As city arborist, I interacted with various neighborhood associations.

SCNA always stood out because it backed up its commitment to trees with action. In 1994, SCNA contracted with a private arborist to survey all trees in William Curtis Park, the first step to managing trees. Four years later, the city's annual Arbor Day celebration was held in the park, which was the catalyst for other tree-planting events in the neighborhood.

In November 1996, neighbors voted to support Measure O, a landscape and lighting assessment for tree care. Additional funding was required for the care and maintenance of Sacramento's urban forest. The 1994 Urban Forest Management Plan indicated that funding, starting in the 1960s, did not keep up with Sacramento's growing tree population.

Dutch elm disease required removing several of the park's English elms in 2007. SCNA funded the treatment of these elms with a fungicide injected every three years.

As the sole city arborist until 2006, I appreciated the support throughout the city. Trying to address the needs of more than 100,000 street and park trees was overwhelming. After repeated requests, two additional arborists were hired. I had envisioned



Photo/Joan Cusick

With SCNA's strong support of tree preservation, Dan Pskowski has continued his care and management of trees in Curtis Park.

opportunities to deliver better service to the public and manage the trees in a more thoughtful, pragmatic way instead of just reacting to the immediate concern.

When Ray Kerridge was appointed city manager, my career took a turn for the worse. The city manager's direction for development to city staff was sites needed to be "shovel ready." Trees were no longer incorporated into the project. It became "remove and replace," not just for on-site trees but the public street trees.

I did not accept Urban Forestry's new direction of crafting ways to remove trees, which included misleading the public. I voiced my objections and soon no longer participated in the review and comment of new development projects. I had become an obstacle and was being pushed out the door. I stayed on because Sacramento residents were pleased with my work in the care and protection of trees.

In 2009, I was moved out of Urban Forestry and assigned to the concrete maintenance section to perform root inspections for sidewalks and other concrete repairs. This was my punishment

for speaking the truth instead of what management wanted me to say.

In response to the "remove and replace" policy, neighborhood tree activists formed the nonprofit Trees for Sacramento to protect and enhance Sacramento's urban forest. I volunteered my time assisting this group. It was a challenge being a city employee and testifying at tree appeals contradicting Urban Forestry responses to various tree issues.

After one of these meetings in 2012, longtime SCNA board member Andrea Rosen invited me to join the board. I did and only regret not doing it in 2004, when I moved into the neighborhood. My management now had a harder time bullying me because I was part of the neighborhood association.

In 2013, I was chosen as the SCNA representative for the Stakeholders Advisory Committee to work on the revision of Sacramento's tree ordinance. Urban Forestry officials tried to get me removed because my knowledge and experience threatened their strategy to weaken the tree ordinance. Former SCNA Board President Eric Johnson stood his ground and told the city I would not be replaced.

Another example of the Curtis Park neighborhood stepping up to protect the trees is when residents on 24th Street physically blocked a contractor from removing three large 40- to 60-foot-tall plane trees for the Crocker Village project. A follow-up investigation indicated that these three trees were not on the development site.

Sadly, there has been a significant loss of canopy coverage and space to plant trees in the central city and some neighborhoods. However, the Curtis Park neighborhood has remained a beacon of hope.

In my opinion, Sacramento is no longer the "City of Trees," but Curtis Park remains the "Neighborhood of Trees."

I thank all of you and tree activists throughout the city who continue inspiring me to never give up.

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Challenges of 1918 flu pandemic sound familiar in COVID-19 era

By Erik Fay

Closed businesses. Risks of public gatherings. Quarantined citizens. Medical staff and supplies at their limits. Differing approaches to public health. Sacramento in 2020?

Try Sacramento in 1918 and 1919.

The 20th century's greatest pandemic probably began in early 1918. With the United States' entry into World War I in April 1917, new Army training camps were built across the country over the following year. Sacramento's Mather Field was established as one of the first Army Air Service training bases in the West. It was built and occupied by more than 1,000 military personnel from January through April 1918.

The first known cases of influenza in the pandemic were reported in March 1918 in Haskell, Kan., and at neighboring Fort Riley. The first public health report cited 18 severe cases and three influenza deaths in a week at the Army camp.

Army Medical Corps doctors quickly realized they were seeing a fast-spreading virus. They recommended quarantines be established in areas where the virus was spreading. Early on, the medical staff was overwhelmed – and frequently getting very sick – by trying to treat the large numbers of soldiers and civilian workers infected with the virus at several large camps.

The influenza moved with soldiers, sailors and civilians throughout the Midwest and into railroad hub cities, port cities on the East Coast, and then to Europe in May and June 1918.

The influenza numbers reduced notably in the middle of the summer, and many people thought it was disappearing. However, it came back in a much stronger second wave in early fall. Eastern cities, many with large factories and densely packed living spaces, were hit hard.

Many cities averaged 500 to 800 deaths a day beginning in October. Worldwide, October 1918 was the worst month of the entire pandemic.

The pandemic arrived late in Sacramento. The first documented cases were four children from Dunsmuir in Siskiyou County, who were removed from a train and put in quarantine on Oct. 10. Dunsmuir was a railroad maintenance subsidiary of Sacramento which was one of the largest railroad maintenance hubs in the nation.

The virus quickly spread in California, with 4,000 influenza cases

documented statewide by Oct. 12. The first death in Sacramento was recorded three days later. The Sacramento City Commission issued an order Oct. 17 prohibiting public gatherings in theaters, motion picture houses, and churches because the city had 150 documented cases.

Initially, few cases were reported in children, and it was erroneously thought they would rarely get or transfer the virus. Sacramento schools were not closed until Oct. 21, by which time most schools were half-empty due to parents keeping their children home. One elementary school eventually documented more than 40 children with the virus.

In late October, the City of Sacramento began urging citizens to wear gauze masks to prevent the virus spread. After much debate, the City Commission initially failed to pass a requirement that everyone wear a gauze mask in public.

Sacramento had about 1,000 documented cases by Nov. 1 and began averaging about 125 new cases per day. Initial outbreaks happened in downtown and midtown neighborhoods around Eighth and T streets, 20th and J streets, and 23rd and S streets. The Sacramento rail yards reported record numbers of worker absences. By this time, California had about 17,000 documented cases.

Notably, Mather Field had almost no cases. The Army Medical Corps mandated all personnel wear gauze masks, wash their hands frequently, and disinfect many workplace surfaces.

Midterm elections were held Nov. 5, 1918. Several poll locations in Sacramento were unable to open because there were not enough healthy people to staff them. All people working at polling locations were, for the first time in California, required to wear masks. Only 40% of registered voters voted. Political mailers were used for the first time in significant numbers because candidates were prohibited from having rallies.

On Nov. 10, the City Commission finally agreed to require everyone on Sacramento “streets, alleys, and highways or other public places” to



Raymond Coyne/Mill Valley Public Library

On Nov. 10, 1918 the Sacramento City Commission finally agreed to require everyone on Sacramento “streets, alleys, and highways or other public places” to wear a gauze mask.

wear a gauze mask. Newspaper reports mention bright fabric masks being seen on city streets. People who refused to wear masks could be fined or arrested.

Fights were reported between mask wearers and people who refused to wear them. On Nov. 20, Sacramento police were ordered to “round up all men not wearing masks in public.” The term “slacker” described those who didn’t wear a mask.

The two primary hospitals in Sacramento were overwhelmed with virus patients by mid-November. Tents were set up on hospital grounds and two school gyms were converted to hospital auxiliary locations. Medical supplies ran short and medical personnel worked long shifts.

The Red Cross, for the first time in Sacramento, organized volunteers owning automobiles to drive nurses from house to house to document conditions where people were quarantined. New cases steadily increased across the state through mid-December. About 20 people per day were dying in Sacramento at the pandemic’s regional peak.

Decreased numbers of new cases were first reported in Sacramento on Dec. 20. But the virus mutated again early in 1919 and resurged in the western United States. In the first five



California State Library

People who failed to wear masks faced arrest and fines.

days of January in San Francisco, 1,800 flu cases were diagnosed and 101 people died. Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Francisco all suffered notably more in the third wave than Sacramento, probably due to their denser populations and international ports.

An estimated 50 million people died worldwide, including about 675,000 in the United States. In California, 13,340 perished, including about 500 in Sacramento County.

Among those who died in the pandemic were artist Gustav Klimt, philanthropist Phoebe Hearst (for whom a Sacramento school is named), and Frederick Trump, grandfather of the president.

The pandemic exposed the shortage of trained nurses in the United States. As a result, California and other states created one-year certified nurse training courses. At the local level, Sutter Health Care was created as a result of the pandemic.

In the District

Perhaps there's a silver lining in these difficult times

It's been a tremendously difficult time for Sacramento, like most cities in the country.

COVID-19 has resulted in a \$90 million drop in various tax revenues for the city, a crippling of small and medium-size businesses, a strain on our health systems, and an overall pall that has impacted both youth and adults.

Add to that the murder of George Floyd and the resulting tearing open of a huge wound in our country around race relations.

Consider last year's devastating fires, locusts and the return of the West Nile virus. I wonder whether we are experiencing the 2020 version of the 10 plagues. What's next?

I have tried hard to find a silver lining in all of this. Three thoughts come into play.

First, as always, Sacramentans have stepped up to meet this crisis. From raising \$1.3 million for the

**JAY
SCHENIRER**

**City
Council
Member
District 5**



Donate4Sacramento Fund, to Great Plates meal delivery to seniors, to white and black Sacramentans protesting side-by-side supporting Black Lives Matter, to countless acts of kindness, Sacramento residents have shown their heart. I am so proud of my city.

Second, through the Federal Stimulus CARES funds, the city received \$89 million, which must be spent on initiatives in response to COVID-19. All funds must be distributed by the end of the calendar year. The City Council has thus

far earmarked about \$34 million.

I am particularly excited about the council's work in collaboration with the Sacramento Youth Commission and the \$7 million we have thus far designated for teen mental health, teen jobs programs, and creating safe places for young people. More to come.

Third, and most important, the crisis provides an opportunity for the city and its residents to take a hard look at our relationships. Our connections with one another across races, ethnicities, religions, age groups, neighborhoods, between the overall population and our government institutions, most notably the Police Department.

We have an opportunity to dig deep into our relationships, particularly with respect to race, and together chart a course that will lead to a better Sacramento. This will require having some courageous

conversations with one another.

Within the CARES funds, each council district received \$50,000. The expenditures must include a nexus to COVID-19. Social isolation, economic harm, the disproportionate health and economic impacts caused by systemic racism, and the pain of our Black and Brown communities call out for a coming together of our diverse communities.

I would like to use these dollars to facilitate conversations and community building, to support our community, and create a stronger Sacramento. I'm not sure how that should be done, but I am very much open to suggestions. Please email me at jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org with your thoughts. I'd like to have a plan by the end of July to be implemented in the second half of the year.

So for now, be safe, be healthy and please wear a mask.

City expands recreation under 'Stage 3' guidelines

Outdoor recreation and activities in the city are expanding under Sacramento County's latest public-health orders, which further loosen restrictions on some businesses and activities as the county moves into "Stage 3" of California's COVID-19 recovery plan.

"As summer approaches, we realize that people and families are anxious to enjoy their favorite activities in Sacramento and we're committed to ensuring that can be done with public health as a priority," said city parks director Mario Lara.

Here is what the city parks department will offer under the county's June 12 health order:

- Public pools may reopen with modifications. The city is prepared to provide limited modified aquatics programming which may include lap swim, parent-led swim lessons and/or limited social-distanced recreation swimming, all by appointment or reservation. The city plans to phase in pool programming in the beginning of July.

- Day camps are allowed with social distancing and mitigation measures in place. The city will phase

- The 28th and B Skate and Urban Art Park will open July 6 by reservation only for limited operations with social-distancing measures.

City park play structures remain closed until further notice. City parks continue to be available for running, biking and walking.

Public gatherings and events are generally not allowed in the state outside of household units, with the exceptions of farmers markets, food distribution and public demonstrations of First Amendment rights.

The city asked residents to continue to avoid contact sports outside of household units.

On June 19, the county aligned its existing face-covering order with a state mandate the previous day requiring people to wear face coverings whenever outside their homes, with certain exceptions:

- Persons age 2 or younger;
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired;
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk related to their work;
- Persons seated at a restaurant while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from persons who are not members of the same household;
- Persons engaged in outdoor work or recreation such as swimming, walking, hiking, bicycling or running, when alone or with household members, and when they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others.

Information for this report came from city, county and state websites.

City park play structures remain closed until further notice. City parks continue to be available for running, biking and walking.

in additional day camp programming July 6.

- Community centers will open for limited operations by reservation only, including city-run youth and teen summer programs and camps. Outside rentals and drop-in programs/services remain closed.



Photo/Mike Scheible

5 Sips Coffee & Tea has opened at the former Espresso Metro Café on 11th Avenue.

New coffee venue

If you want to contribute...

If you want to donate to the Viewpoint Fund during the pandemic, please go to sierra2.org home page, scroll down and choose **Donate to the General Fund**. Then add a note to indicate the Viewpoint fund or email Terri@sierra2.org to communicate your preference.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Congratulations to more **CURTIS PARK GRADUATES**



Jan Mitchell Holley, son of Mitch and Dawn Holley of Eighth Avenue, graduated magna cum laude from Jesuit High School. Jan will pursue an accounting degree at CSU Sacramento.



Maison Johnson, son of David and Shelly Johnson of Fourth Avenue, graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School. He will attend UC Santa Cruz to major in media design.



Carson Murray, son of Nancee Murray, of 11th Avenue, graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School. He plans to attend Sacramento City College.



Madeline Neville, daughter of Rebecca Gonzales and Scott Neville of Sixth Avenue, graduated from the UC Santa Barbara with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Neighbor plants Kurapia, drought- resistant alternative to lawn



Photo/Will Carlton

Jessica Bevins of Ninth Avenue planted Kurapia, a perennial, evergreen groundcover that replaced her lawn.

By Kimberley Bond

Jessica Bevins moved to Sacramento in May 2019 from Manhattan to be closer to her parents, settling at 24th Street and Ninth Avenue in Curtis Park.

As a reward for leaving New York, Jessica desired an outdoor space to enjoy. She accomplished this by upgrading her landscape to a more natural setting. Jessica wanted to be more environmentally conscious and water-wise, so she removed all her lawn. "I wanted to have a drought-resistant landscape that was beautiful, effortless and good to the earth, as well as to attract bees and hummingbirds," she says.

Jessica knew that Kurapia was one of the plants she wanted to replace the large amount of turf around her home. Kurapia is a perennial, evergreen groundcover, developed in Japan by plant researcher

Hitoshi Kuramochi after a decade-long breeding project. It has many features and benefits that make it a great alternative to grass. It's one of the most drought-tolerant ground covers in the world, according to a UC Riverside study. Kurapia requires very little maintenance and its dense, prostrate growth habit is excellent at suppressing weeds. It establishes quickly and is non-invasive. Kurapia can handle foot traffic, which makes it a great choice for yards.

Jessica is pleased with her new landscape, especially with how quickly the Kurapia filled in, as well as how beautifully it flowered.

She's doing her part to save precious water, decrease pesticide and herbicide use, reduce noise and air pollution from mowing, and provide vital plants for pollinators.

Dog owners are encouraged to fill holes in Sierra Green soccer field

By John Mathews

Young kids are resilient. They can be chasing a soccer ball, fracture their ankle in a hole dug by a dog, and be up and running again in a few weeks.

People in my age group, not so much. A mangled meniscus could mean a walker and a lengthy recovery before once more doing the Watusi.

A stroll through the Sierra 2 Green behind our community center reveals a minefield of foot-size holes that were excavated by canines running loose in the soccer field. The holes can be a hazard if one is not watching every step. It is not a city-approved dog park but, under strict conditions, dogs are permitted to be off-leash in a limited training area.

A request from SCNA's Neighborhood Concerns Committee to the city parks department resulted in a pile of dirt being deposited behind the Sierra 2 Center at the west side of the Green. Small buckets are available for dog owners and helpful volunteers to join in the hole-filling fun.

So, unless you've accidentally adopted a genus *Cynomys* (prairie dog) from the SPCA, there's no reason you should let your Pupperoni Princess dig craters in an open field used by soccer kids and neighbors.

That's why you have a back yard.

7 tips to consider when purchasing an electric vehicle

By Nancy McKeever

1. Research online about the ever-increasing choice of vehicles.

Technology improvements have extended the range of all-electric vehicles (EVs) well beyond 100 miles per charge, some beyond 300 miles. Plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs) offer the option to drive all-electric for 20 to 50 miles, capable of meeting the needs of most daily commutes and weekend errands, and then switch to an electric-assisted gas engine (like the original Prius), which extends the range to more than 300 miles before needing to stop for a charge or fill up.

2. Match your transportation needs with a technology.

Will an electric car be your only vehicle or a second car? If it's a commuter car, how many miles do you drive and are there charging options near your job? Maybe it will be an around-town car with occasional longer trips. What range and fuel flexibility best match your needs?

3. Check out the many rebates and incentives available.

Rebates and incentives are still generous, often specific to the type of vehicle, and change frequently, so it's wise to start your research with the Alternative Fuels Data Center website <https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/search>. Many personal-use vehicles qualify for a \$7500 federal tax credit, a \$1000-\$2000 California Clean Vehicle Rebate, and may be eligible for the California Clean Air Vehicle HOV access decals. SMUD will give registered EV and PHEV owners a 1.5 cent per kWh rate discount for power used between midnight and 6 a.m. Until the end of August, SMUD also will give new car owners a choice between two years of free EV charging or a free Level 2 vehicle charger, each valued at \$599. Many city and state garages offer free charging or free parking, or both, for electric cars.



Photo/Mike McKeever

Level 2 chargers cost about \$800 to \$1,000, including installation. SMUD rebates, available until late August, can cut this cost in half.

4. Decide if you can charge a car where you live.

Can you park near an outlet in a garage or driveway? Electric cars can be charged with typical 120-Volt household power using the cord that comes with the car if you can allow the car to sit an hour for each five miles of range needed, or overnight. Alternatively, you may hire an electrician to mount a 220-Volt "Level 2" charger in a garage or on an outside wall to deliver 12 to 20 miles of range per hour. Level 2 chargers, including special wiring and professional installation, cost about \$800 to \$1,000. SMUD rebates, available until late August, can cut this cost in half.

5. Become familiar with charging options on the road.

"Range anxiety," the dread of a dead battery or having to plan travel to accommodate charging, is a common barrier to switching to electric transportation. Check out Plugshare.com. This website and phone app locates more than 600 charging sites in Sacramento alone, 30,000 in the state, more than 300,000 nationally and more in Canada and Mexico. A handy trip-planning tool displays the name and address of charging sites along your path. EV parking, including free and discounted options, is noted.

6. Consider the differences in the costs to own and operate an electric vehicle.

Electric cars typically cost more to buy new than similar gas-powered cars, but cost less to move down the road. Using the SMUD discounted off-peak electricity rate, it would cost about \$3.50 to travel 150 miles in an EV and about \$22 in a 25-mpg gasoline car at \$3.70/gallon, saving about \$1,200 annually if you average 10,000 miles per year. Insurance is about 20 percent higher on new EVs than gas-powered cars because they cost more to buy and are more expensive to repair if the battery is damaged in an accident. Warranties are substantial, including an 8- to 10-year/100,000- or 150,000-mile battery and electric drivetrain warranty on most new EV and PHEV cars.

7. Understand the environmental and public health value of switching to electric transportation.

Switching from a gas-powered to an electric vehicle produces substantial air quality, public health and climate benefits, especially in California because of the state's commitment to renewable generation. As SMUD continues to increase the renewable energy component of our electric power and improve pollution-control equipment, the net benefits of EVs and PHEVs over gas-powered cars will continue to expand.

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