

# VIEWPOINT

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April 2021



Photo/Lily M. Harris

Meeting daily at the Sierra 2 playground after school, this Great Beginnings group just want to chat and paint and run.

## Kids, parents, caregivers adapt at Great Beginnings

By Chris Harris

Many parents have a kid like 4-year-old Brianne – the explorer, the imaginative one who makes up little dramas for sticks and rocks.

“Brianne is always up at 6:15,” said her father, Sean de Courcy. “If we’re sleeping in or lying in bed, we’ll hear her: *Boom*, her feet hit the ground, out the door down the stairs.” He said he sometimes finds her “in the front yard checking on the tomato plants.”

Many parents find themselves in the same predicament as Brianne’s parents, Sean and Meg de Courcy, of 10th Avenue, a year after the COVID-19 pandemic changed everyone’s lives. Still, Sean and Meg must work from home doing exactly what they had been doing before, and for as many hours, but without full-time childcare.

Brianne had been a student at Great Beginnings childcare center at the Sierra 2 Center for two years when the school’s owner and administrator, Stephanie Levenhagen, shut down March 13, 2020.

“I was scared,” Stephanie said. “I didn’t want to be responsible for making one of my staff members sick or making one of the kids sick ... and taking it home to grandparents.”

So she adapted the learning activities and took the classes outdoors. “Outside, distanced, masked – I thought, ‘This is OK.’”

Stephanie cut school hours from 10 a day to four. Many students didn’t come back after Great Beginnings reopened in June. Some parents were afraid of the virus. Others simply needed all-day childcare. Stephanie finally settled on a limit of 10 kids, down from 55 before the pandemic.

“Being able to go to school for any period of time has been a lifesaver,” said Meg. “The whole point of preschool ... more so than academics, is just socialization.”

Brianne and her nine friends at Great Beginnings do not fear the virus, nor do they feel put upon to wear masks or follow new rules. They want to chat and paint and run.

Sean and Meg elected to keep Brianne at Great Beginnings because of the strength of the relationships she and they had made, and because of Stephanie’s flexible way of scheduling.

In the early days after reopening, in order to keep families safe, “all the families had to commit to Great Beginnings and our group,” Meg said. There would be no socializing outside the group, and the kids would only see each other outdoors.

Please see Kids, Page 12

## \$6.9 million allocated to operate shelter

City of Sacramento

Sacramento City Council has voted unanimously to provide more than \$6.9 million to operate the homeless shelter that has been under construction since January between X Street and Broadway, west of Alhambra Boulevard.

The shelter is scheduled to open this summer. It will house up to 100 people at a time, depending on COVID restrictions, with priority given to those experiencing homelessness in Oak Park, Curtis Park and along the Broadway/Alhambra corridor.

The shelter will offer life-skills classes, substance-abuse recovery assistance, medical care, financial counseling and housing placement services to help people transition from homelessness into permanent housing in four to six months.

People will be accepted as they are, with their pets, partners and possessions. The shelter will be open to adults by referral and will not take walk-ups. The shelter will have round-the-clock security and will adopt a good-neighbor policy to provide relief to the surrounding neighborhood, which has been heavily affected by homeless encampments.

“We have been holding community meetings on this site for a little over two years,” Vice Mayor Jay Schenirer, who represents Curtis Park and Oak Park on City Council, said after the March 16 vote. “We really want to do something a little different with this (shelter) where

Please see Shelter, Page 9

### Second Italian dinner box on April 23

Skip a night of cooking; Order from La Famiglia Italian. Page 5



### Addressing vaccine hesitancy with \$3 buttons

Neighbor family donates all proceeds to the Sacramento Food Bank. Page 7



### Bluebirds are beautiful sight in area parks

Color we see results from pigments absorbing light. Page 11





## MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER AGAIN:

**Help Sierra 2  
turn the financial  
corner on COVID-19**

**Big Day of  
Giving  
MAY 6**

"For the 40 years I've lived in Curtis Park, Sierra 2 Center has anchored our neighborhood. It has enriched my life providing a space to study Italian and Spanish, learn modern dance, enjoy performances at the theater, practice yoga, drink and dine with friends and neighbors, watch my weight, attend forums about local elections and give voice to issues that matter at board meetings. I can't imagine our neighborhood without Sierra 2, although the 2020 closure gave us a taste of how sad that would be. It's more important than ever that we come together to support Sierra 2. That's why I'm donating this year on May 6. I hope you will too."

— Mimi Budd  
SCNA Board Member

At a past annual Wine Tasting, Mimi Budd tastes and sips with friends and neighbors.



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with  
your  
heart.**



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Watch for emails, calls & lawn signs coming soon, welcoming your generous donations.

# Independent music venues keep hope alive

By Mindy Giles

Just over a year ago, live music was silenced, with the magic of moody nightclubs and cocktail clinks gone. Bars were dark – and in the worst way.

Even with new hope from COVID-19 vaccines in arms, the health of independent venues is troubling. Gone already are The Hideaway, a favorite Curtis Park/Oak Park eatery/saloon, and SHINE, the E Street art café featuring live music nearly every night of the week.

Live music venue owners who have managed to adapt and get creative have done so with neighborhood moral support, stoicism, streaming and new ways of coping with their lives.

"Politics, I guess that is my new hobby," says Jim Cornett, owner and general manager of Harlow's and The Starlet Room in Midtown. "My initial reaction was to look at how to reopen, but it didn't take long to realize that I had to accept it was out of my control. So, we cut back on all the expenses we could and began looking for help – city, state and federal loans and grants."

The shuttering was instantaneous. Independent venues large and small across the country quickly banded together in order to create a lobbying voice. The National Independent Venue Association was born last April with a rallying cry of #SaveOurStages. Some 450 venue owners signed up in just two days; membership now tops 3,000.

Cornett and several staffers then formed the California Capitol Venue Coalition (CCVC) to make music fans and government officials aware of their neighborhood-knitting function and the economic value of live music venues. The Crest, Torch Club, Laughs Unlimited and Café Colonial are all members.

"We aren't just people who sell tickets for all the great bands we bring in," Cornett says. "We've helped build up neighborhood communities with surrounding businesses – restaurants, hair salons, clothing stores, hotel rooms. For every \$1 spent on a ticket at small venues, a total of \$12 in economic activity is generated."

Like other CCVC members, Marina Teixeira, owner of the venerable Torch Club, received a local loan through the SBA Paycheck Protection Program and is now anxiously waiting to hear when Torch Club funding will be received through the Save Our Stages Act, part of the \$900 billion federal COVID-19 relief bill passed in December 2020.



Photo/Carol Blackman

Many music fans have enjoyed streaming concerts like Doug Pauly and The Cover Girls who have continued to entertain at The Side Door, above, and other venues throughout the pandemic – as if there were actually an audience.

Shuttered venues with gross income reduced because of COVID-19 can apply for 45% of their 2019 income to cover operational expenses from March 20, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2021.

Streaming concerts and selling branded merchandise are now in the tool kit of every venue. Harlow's and the Torch Club are working with a new pandemic-inspired company, the Remedy Revue (also known as "The Green Room Social Club"), which provides a socially distanced virtual venue for musicians to livestream to the widest audience possible.

The Torch Club had a successful three-day Mardi Gras live stream with Big Chiefs and The Element Brass Band and sold their famous homemade jambalaya and hurricanes in funky Mason jars for takeaway out of their big barn door sidewalk window.

Longtime Curtis Park resident Eric Bianchi, owner of Bianchi Sound,



Photo/Courtesy of Harlows

Jim Cornett, owner of Harlow's and Starlet Room, said that he cut back on all expenses, then began looking for help – city, state and federal loans and grants.

built and runs sound and recording production facilities at The Side Door, the intimate listening room for Americana and roots music established three years ago at Fourth Avenue and Franklin Boulevard.

"The live room had been growing steadily for over a year when we had to shut down," Bianchi said. "After awhile we realized that we had the room and the artists that needed a chance to play. I'd been investing in video gear and streaming equipment, so the live streams seemed like the next step. We went from averaging 10 to 20 viewers per stream to 75 to 85 in late fall. But we had to even stop doing streaming for the last couple of months because of the fall spike."

Fortunately, the Side Door has other income streams with owner John Green's longtime CPA business and Fifth String ace guitarist/teacher Steve Randall's ongoing music lessons. Bianchi has used the room to produce videos for SCNA's Porch Picnic fundraiser, Sacramento Blues Society's Blues In The Schools Online Assemblies, The Sacramento Children's Chorus, a series of Ted-X Talks and some private livestreams.

All music venue operators know that indoor live music is still down the line. The Torch Club has a streaming concert planned for Big Day of Giving on May 6. Harlow's is planning an outdoor back patio series in June.

The Side Door is restarting its Friday night series with nationally known Americana artists Rita Hosking and Darol Anger, plus area favorites Doug Pauly, The Californios and Daisy Caire (young rising bluegrass/roots star from North Country Blue) in May and June.



## POINT OF VIEW

### To impact global warming, buy an electric car

By Mike Scheible

Many Curtis Park residents are able and willing to take actions to combat climate change. We support societal action, but also want to make a personal contribution. But what can we do that would be meaningful?

A typical household in Curtis Park is responsible for 10 to 20 metric tons of carbon emissions annually from the energy use for home comfort and auto travel. The bulk of those emissions depend on the type of cars owned and miles driven.

If you're lucky enough to be in the market for a new car and want to be environmentally friendly, there's really only one choice – buy an electric vehicle (EV). Without a doubt, for most of us this is the single most effective step we could take to reduce carbon emissions.

Think of the benefits from an EV over its lifetime, on average 12 to 15 years and about 175,000 miles. A comparable gas-powered vehicle (at 35 miles per gallon) would consume more than 6,000 gallons of gasoline, causing 56 metric tons of carbon emissions. A new electric car would reduce this 75-95%, depending on the source of the electricity. Annually, a typical household's emissions would be reduced 20-40%.

Historically, most of us have been reluctant to switch to electric cars. However, nearly all of the more than 600,000 Californians who now own an EV will never go back. EVs are comfortable, fun to drive and 60-80% cheaper to operate than a gas car.

If you have a garage or driveway, you are well positioned to charge at home 90% of the time. With incentives, many EVs have lower lifetime costs than similar gasoline-powered cars.

Most recent EV models can go 200 to 300 miles before recharging, providing plenty of range for local and regional driving. Longer trips are accomplished by using an ever-expanding network of "Super Chargers," which provide an 80% recharge in 30 to 45 minutes.

You can make your EV even greener by joining SMUD's Clean Energy Program. Currently, SMUD gets about half of its power from natural gas generation, leading to upstream carbon emissions from the electricity used to fuel your EV. But for an added \$8 per month, you can join SMUD's "Greenenergy" program, and enable SMUD to buy enough additional renewable energy to offset 100% of your household electricity use.

*Mike Scheible was one of the architects of California's climate programs as a deputy executive officer at the California Air Resources Board from 1993 to 2010. He has been a Curtis Park resident since 1977.*



Photo/Joan Cusick

New EVs have become a common sight as more neighbors are making the switch.

### Electric vehicles are popular in area

By Mike Scheible

Curtis Park and nearby areas are hotbeds for electric vehicle (EV) ownership. About 4% of the 15,000 cars and light-duty trucks registered in ZIP code 95818 are battery electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. That's about 300 battery-powered vehicles whose owners never visit a gas station and 250 plug-in hybrids that cut gas usage dramatically. The neighborhood fleet of EVs has grown dramatically, up from fewer than 100 in 2015 to about 550 today. Local EV ownership is 140% higher than the county average, and 50% above the state average.

New EVs have become a common sight as more neighbors are making the switch. For example, during the second week of March, Margaret Myers, Rob Schopen and Alex Jackson, who live on the 2700 block of Sixth Avenue, all acquired Chevy Bolt EVs.

Margaret remarked that the EV was both zippy and fun to drive. Rob indicated that the more he drove the EV, the happier he was. The Sixth Avenue buyers all thought their cars were a great value. In Rob's case, the combination of GM and Costco discounts with state incentives lowered the final price of a well-equipped Bolt from an MSRP of \$40,000 to well under \$25,000.

**Owners find that EVs are quiet, fun to drive, and cheap to operate compared to similar gas cars, and – with incentives – they often have lower lifetime costs.**

Why have so many neighbors switched? Environmental concerns are often the initial reason. However, Owners find that EVs are quiet, fun to drive, and cheap to operate compared to similar gas cars, and – with incentives – they often have lower lifetime costs. For example, SMUD provides an EV comparison tool estimating that a new Nissan LEAF EV with a 250-mile range driven 12,000 miles per year would cost \$6,000 less than a Nissan Altima over five years of ownership.

To find out more about available cars and their cost, try out the SMUD tool at <https://smud.plugstar.com/cars/compare>. Also, it's easy to test-drive an EV without going to a dealer by renting a GIG car for a local trip (<https://gigcarshare.com>). You can usually pick up a car close by and rent it by the minute (44 cents/minute) or hour (\$14.99).

#### Viewpoint wants your story ideas

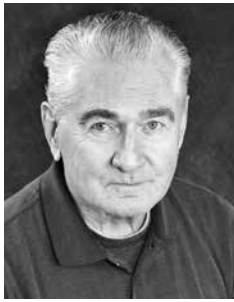
Viewpoint appreciates neighbors who submit news about their babies, new neighbors, milestones and special events. This includes letters to the editor and opinions.

Please send your ideas and comments to: [denniscusick52@gmail.com](mailto:denniscusick52@gmail.com) with Viewpoint in the subject field.

Deadline for Viewpoint copy is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

## BILL HOOVER

SCNA Board  
President



### President's message

## Here's a pitch to help Sierra 2 get out of hole

It is hard to believe we have passed the one-year anniversary in our battle with COVID-19. Though great strides have been made in the immunization program, it is much too soon to declare an end to what has been a disaster for so many at so many levels.

Despite wishful thinking, we are still in the early stages of recovery.

This leads me to a discussion of the Sierra 2 Center and money – or more precisely, the absence of money. On the positive side, SCNA has been very successful in raising funds to save Sierra 2 through grant programs, forgivable loans and generous donations from neighbors and friends. But we are hardly out of the woods. Even with the lessening of restrictions on gatherings, expectations for the full reopening of Sierra 2 must be tempered by reality.

Our most recent receipt of the second round of Payroll Protection Program (PPP) funds (\$106,000) has been a lifesaver in that it will reduce our monthly negative cash flow to a much more manageable figure of approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000. However, absent other grants or funding, we will still have to make up the difference from our Reserve for Replacement Fund. That fund is going to be seriously strained because of recent storm damage to Sierra 2.

Of course, this is where the Big Day of Giving on May 6 comes into play. You, our Curtis Park neighbors and friends, get to take center stage once again. SCNA raised \$53,000 through the Big Day of Giving last year, which, coupled with the Porch Picnic's \$18,500, helped fund Sierra 2 for 3½ months. For that expression of generosity we remain extremely grateful.

The lesson learned from last year is that we underestimated the strong feelings and appreciation the neighborhood has for Sierra 2. Though our 2020 Big Day of Giving goal was \$25,000, the donations far exceeded our wildest expectations. So, I thought, if we as a board tried a little harder we could do even better this year.

If we can raise \$75,000 through Big Day of Giving to supplement the most recent PPP funds, it should be enough to sustain operations into August and perhaps further. We are hopeful that the continued easing of restrictions will allow our tenants to increase operations and thereby permit a resumption of regular rent schedules.

So, I am hoping that the saying "April showers bring May Flowers" becomes a metaphor for a bountiful May 6 Big Day of Giving that will move us closer to the end of this challenging journey.

### Notes from March 3 SCNA board meeting

## Neighborhood associations want to collaborate

Oak Park Neighborhood Association President **Michael Blair** and publicist **Adrien Rehn** presented information about OPNA at SCNA's March board meeting. The two associations seek greater cooperation regarding development along Broadway as well as other significant collaborative opportunities.

Blair stated that interaction between neighborhoods should be commonplace. He said Oak Park has had a "bad rap" for a long time, but it's changing as new people arrive and property values increase. McClatchy Park offers a variety of uses with all groups now using the park at the same time.

Rehn said they want the mobile Black Lives Matter sign, now in Oak Park, to move around to different neighborhoods, including Curtis Park. He is involved with Oak Park Cares, a financial assistance program now getting off the ground. Further, OPNA is in line to send a proposal to the city's "Slow Streets" program (to slow traffic). OPNA

also seeks to have air-quality monitors installed through a California Air Resources Board grant.

### Neighborhood Concerns

Neighborhood Concerns Committee Chair **Erik Fay** reported on the Montgomery Way Gateway Historic District, which has been in discussion for 16 years. The city will provide four possible opportunities for comment by Montgomery Way homeowners on the historic district status of their neighborhood.

**Dan Pskowski** said the city's tree ordinance risks Sacramento tree health by streamlining development projects.

**Andrea Rosen, Lily Harris** and **Erik Fay** are members of the newly-formed Land Use Subcommittee. They are seeking a fourth board member to help.

Erik asked if anyone could parse the differences between two city documents – the older Multi-Unit Design Guidelines and the recent New Infill Design Guidelines. NCC may hold an educational event for the neighborhood on the city's General Plan changes to R-1 zoning.

The next meeting of the SCNA board will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 7 via Zoom.

– *Bruce Pierini, board secretary*

## VIEWPOINT

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# SIERRA 2DAY



## La Famiglia box dinner's success spawns second event set for April 23

By Judy Green Scheible

When La Famiglia owners Jeff Roberts and Leo Forget thought about doing a box dinner benefit, their aspirations were modest. The two caterers have operated out of the Sierra 2 Garden Room kitchen for 27 years.

During the time of COVID-19 sheltering, their business has taken a major hit. The March 12 box dinner was planned to rescue their business.

Judging by the success of Sierra 2's Porch Picnic dinner sales of 180, they expected to do about the same.

Surprise: They sold 365 dinners. The menu of lasagna (meat or vegetarian), chicken Parmesan, Caesar salad, bread sticks and cannoli was \$35 for two dinners.

Leo said he and Jeff felt wonderful about the dinner's success. As a result, they are planning a second box dinner April 23.

The March 12 dinner allowed neighbors and friends to support the popular business and skip a night of cooking.

According to Jeff, about 100 dinners went to people who live outside the neighborhood. A *Viewpoint* reporter met diners from Carmichael, the Pocket, Midtown and 65th Street.

"Many orders were for groups," Jeff said. "We had one group of 10."

As the dinner pick-up time approached, the assembly line in the Garden Room at Sierra 2 was buzzing. Each order was packed into a grocery bag. Besides the food, which was packed in

clam shells and paper boxes, each dinner came with a box of plastic utensils, napkins and baked bread sticks.

"This is the first time we've done something of this magnitude," Jeff said. "Usually we do a buffet. We have done lunch orders with this sort of packing, but they were smaller."

Some dinners were customized. One chicken Parmesan was prepared with almond flour for a customer with celiac disease. Another omitted the chicken in favor of a double serving of lasagna.

"Dinner was good," said neighbor Robert Wiens of 26th Street. He and his wife, Jackie, learned about it from the Sierra 2 online newsletter. "I would do it again to support the restaurant. I believe in keeping Sierra 2 going," Robert said.

The April 23 dinner will feature Chicken Marsala with mushrooms and include Mediterranean penne pasta with spinach, sun dried tomatoes, Kalamata olives, capers, fresh basil, shaved Parmesan and garlic aioli, a mixed baby green salad, rolls and butter, and vanilla and chocolate cupcakes for dessert.

The minimum order is a dinner kit for two for \$35. Additional kits are \$17.50 per person.



Photo/Judy Green Scheible

Among the friends and family who pitched in to box up the dinners were, from left, Sharon Forget, Jeff Roberts, Leo Forget, Wendy Sinclair and Cortney Bandar. Also on the packing team was Sue Murphy.

To place an order, call Leo Forget at 916 470-5849. All orders must be prepaid by credit card by April 19. All major credit cards are accepted.

Pickup will be from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 23, in the parking lot behind Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St. Enter the parking lot from Fourth Avenue.

To show their appreciation for making the March dinner a huge success, the caterers will raffle a gift basket, including wine, to one person who purchases a spring dinner kit. The gift basket will be presented when the winner picks up the dinner kit April 23.

## The LEARNERY

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www.sierra2.org/thelearnery

### Coloring with markers

Alcohol-based markers offer an upgraded coloring experience, including bold, saturated color, layering and blending techniques. These markers are useful for stamping and card-making to fine illustration.

With artist Cara Gregor's guidance, participants will use these artist markers while also learning to draw and illustrate cute dogs – including participants' favorite breeds. Great for all ages and those with little to no experience with alcohol-based markers.

**Saturday, April 10, 11a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Fee: \$20 (supplies not included)**

### Zentangle basics

Zentangle is an art experience that builds confidence in one's artistic skills, promotes relaxation, and offers a creative outlet for the self-described "uncreative." This class is offered by Lee Miller, an experienced and passionate Zentangle instructor.



Participants will discover the philosophy and method of creating Zentangle art. With supplies you can find around the house or buy, this is a fun class for beginning artists of all ages.

**Sunday, April 11, 11a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Fee: \$25 (supplies not included)**

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# COMMUNITY CORNER

## Stocktons find Coleman Way bungalow fits downsized lifestyle

By Lily M. Harris

Sacramento natives **Jessica** and **Lantrel Stockton** moved to Curtis Park last August with their younger son, **Shane**.

The couple were high school sweethearts who married young when Lantrel joined the Air Force. He was stationed at Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California, where their older son, **Thirsten**, was born. A few years later, they decided to move home, landing in Elk Grove.

Thirsten started college at Boise State University in 2015. Shortly after, Shane started high school at Bradshaw Christian School. Jessica and Lantrel started thinking about downsizing, looking for a home for their life after kids. They chose Curtis Park, purchasing a Coleman Way bungalow, where they now live with **Shane** and niece **Emily**, both 17 years old, and dogs **Fonzy** and **Pinkie**.

Thirsten was recently accepted to the master's program in public health and epidemiology at Columbia University. He and wife Jennifer will soon head to New York.

The Stocktons love life in Curtis Park. "I can integrate my lifestyle close to home," says Lantrel. "In Elk Grove, I always had to drive to do anything. Now I can start my run or ride my bike from our front door."

Jessica loves the charm of the neighborhood. "I feel like we already know our neighbors better in the short time we've lived here than we did in Elk Grove, where we lived for 19 years."

Jessica has worked for the Sacramento County Department of Health Services for 19 years. She was recently promoted to the Behavioral Health Services division, focusing on children's mental health contracts.

Lantrel works for the California Department of

Public Health. He is also in the Air Force Reserve.

In their spare time, the couple enjoy home improvement projects and breakfast at Dantorel's – salmon crepe for Jessica, protein bagel for Lantrel.



Lantrel and Jessica Stockton

Photo/Lily M. Harris

## Taylor's Market co-founder Ed Schell, 95, was mentor and friend

By Dennis Cusick

Longtime customers of Taylor's Market have been mourning the death of co-founder **Ed Schell**, who died Jan. 8 at age 95.

A post on the market's Facebook page described him as a "mentor and friend to all who worked with him. His kindness and infectious positive spirit touched all."

A Facebook post attributed to **Karen** and **Jim Ford** said, "Ed was a big part of the success for nearby Ford's Hamburgers in 1987, grinding thousands of pounds of fresh chuck daily."

Ed Schell and **Roy Taylor** opened the grocery store in 1962, each working 10 to 12 hours a day, every day, taking only Christmas Day off, according to the Taylor's Market website.

Ed's son **Kevin** joined the business as a clean-up person in the meat department in 1969. Ed hired



Photo/Courtesy of Taylor's Market  
Ed Schell

"Ed Schell was like my second father," Danny Johnson said. "The things Ed said are constantly in my head. I think of them daily, and they make me smile."

Ed Schell was born in Selby, South Dakota, in

a 19-year-old **Danny Johnson** to be a butcher in 1983. Four years later, Roy Taylor retired. Then, in 2007, the Schells retired. Danny Johnson and his wife, **Kathy**, bought the Schells' share of the business.

1925, the middle child of seven. The family moved to Woodland in 1943, where Ed met **Colleen McCoy**, who became his wife of 71 years. Her uncle, Howard Bird, taught Ed the butcher's trade at Bird's Market in Midtown. Bird & Schell Meats opened within Taylor's Market in 1962.

"Edgar applied his Midwestern values of generosity, humility, love of family, and faith in his God everyday of his life," read his obituary in *The Sacramento Bee*. "He fed people less fortunate. He found value in the smallest weed, items discarded, and those people many of us might overlook. Plain and simple, Ed Schell loved people."

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Kevin; daughter-in-law, Loretta, and sister-in-law Alberta.


Ed was an avid golfer. The family suggested any memorial donations go to the Sacramento Chapter of First Tee at <https://www.firstteesacramento.org>.




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# COMMUNITY CORNER

Michael and Cara Bush plan to get involved in the neighborhood's Home Tour and Concerts in the Park.

Photo/Judy Green Scheible



## New couple from Texas

News reports highlight Californians leaving the state for Texas, but two new neighbors in Curtis Park moved here from Austin. **Cara and Michael Bush** are still getting grounded in their home on Donner Way. They are looking forward to learning about Sacramento and California. Both like the outdoors and hiking.

Michael is the family cook. His preferences lean toward Italian cuisine. "We're both foodies," Cara says.

Michael is operations supervisor for processing almonds at Blue Diamond. Cara brought her graphic design business from Austin. She does design and production for nonprofits and country clubs in Texas.

She hopes to find a book club and wine club as she settles in Sacramento. Cara said she looks forward to volunteering in neighborhood events like the home tour and concerts in the park.

— Judy Green Scheible

## Pandemic pregnancy adds to challenges of pair in health care jobs

By Patti Roberts

**Christine and Nick Picinich** of Fourth Avenue welcomed baby **Luka Bradley** in November. The couple moved to Curtis Park in June 2018 and have found the neighborhood perfect for raising Luka.

"Curtis Park is special, and the community thrives because of the amazing neighbors," Christine says.

"We're fortunate to be a short bike ride from work, and we love that Luka will be able to walk to school one day."

If adjusting to a newborn wasn't challenging enough, both parents work in fields directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Christine is a nurse practitioner at UC Davis Medical Center; Nick is a supervisor at the California Department of Health Care Services and currently working on the California

COVID-19 Testing Task Force.

"We found out we were pregnant in March 2020 right when the pandemic hit," says Christine. "I work in

the ICU and was concerned about being exposed. Luckily, I'm part of a great team and the hospital did a good job keeping us safe.

"Nick has been working around the clock for months. It's been tough, but we're figuring it out as we go along. Fortunately, we have amazing parents who have been a huge help. And being at home during the lockdown brought our family closer and we are grateful for that."



Photo/Judy Harper

Christine and Nick Picinich with baby Luka

## 'Got mine!' buttons promote importance of COVID-19 vaccines

By Kelsey Wehels

With COVID-19 vaccines becoming more widely available, **Eva Hughes** of Curtis Way and her family have created buttons with phrases like "Got Mine!" and "Beat It!" for those who wish to display their vaccination and promote the vaccine's importance.

"The CDC agrees that such stickers are a good idea and can help to address vaccine hesitancy," Eva says. "I decided on buttons as I thought they would be more durable as well as super cool."

The idea stemmed from her mother-in-law, **Nancy**



Photo/Judy Harper

Eva Hughes wears buttons.

**Galloway** of Berkeley, who wrote a letter to The New York Times published in December 2020. In her letter, she drew a comparison to the "I Voted" sticker, writing: "How cool would it be when we begin to have public health approval to venture out in public as we used to do, to be surrounded by fellow patriots and considerate neighbors sporting similar bragging rights: 'I Was Vaccinated.'"

The effort became a family affair when her children assisted with setting up an online Etsy shop. She enlisted the help of her nephew for the button design. The buttons are available for \$3 each with all proceeds going to the Sacramento Food Bank. The organization was selected as the charity of choice for the project due to Eva's familiarity with the program, and because of services it offers during the pandemic, including food, clothing and family support services.

The Etsy shop launched at the beginning of

February. At the month's end, Eva submitted a check to the Sacramento Food Bank for \$430.

While there is no financial goal in mind, Eva hopes the project will engage her family, encourage COVID-19 vaccination and contribute much-needed funds to a local organization helping those affected by the pandemic.

The COVID-19 vaccine is personal to Eva, who works as an anesthesiologist at Sutter Medical Center and has seen the illness up close along with its deadly impact. She explained that wearing the button has provided her several opportunities to engage others in conversation who have questions and concerns about the vaccine.

The Etsy shop has distributed buttons all over the U.S.

There is currently no local distribution for the buttons. However, Eva has offered a drop off to Curtis Park residents. Contact her directly at [evahughes@hotmail.com](mailto:evahughes@hotmail.com). For more information, visit [www.etsy.com/shop/DrHugeCovidButtons](http://www.etsy.com/shop/DrHugeCovidButtons).

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# SCNA board retreat sets committee goals

By Bruce Pierini

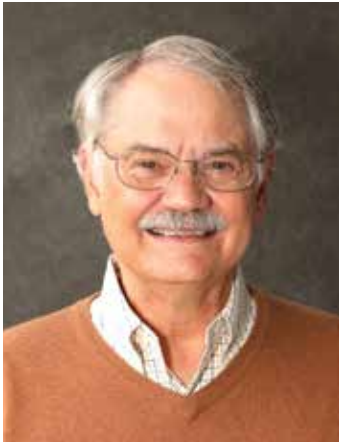
The SCNA board held its third of the year retreat session on March 1 to plan out the present year, inevitably filtered through the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Seven committee chairs provided the results of internal committee discussions regarding their top priorities.

According to Chair **John Bailey**, who also serves as SCNA treasurer, the prime consideration of the Finance Committee is SCNA's financial survival. The main goals are to resume funding of the Reserve for Replacement Fund, from which the board recently had to withdraw

approximately \$100,000 for Sierra 2 Center roof repairs; control expenses and manage reopening of Sierra 2 later this year, and negotiate with the city to obtain help in funding future maintenance of Sierra 2.

The Facilities Committee, chaired by board member **Gerre Buehler**, shares the goal of amending the Sierra 2 Center lease to relieve SCNA of some of the building's maintenance burden. The Facilities Committee also hopes to complete a study of solar energy at Sierra 2 and create a fully electric adaptation of the facility.

Chairperson **Kathy Les** of the Development Committee reports



John Bailey

the focus is on raising \$75,000 from the Big Day of Giving on May 6. Depending on COVID-19 status, the committee may organize several events, including a neighborhood garage sale in May and a modified Music in the Park and Curtis Fest in August. The committee may also organize another Porch Picnic fundraiser in October if the Wine Tasting is not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Members of the Neighborhood Concerns Committee, chaired by **Erik Fay**, hope to become knowledgeable with the city of Sacramento 2040 General Plan and its impact on Curtis Park and adjoining neighborhoods. The committee

hopes to reach out and partner with associations in Oak Park, Land Park and other neighborhoods regarding common concerns, including the Broadway Corridor and other land-use issues. The committee will monitor the proposed gas station in Crocker Village and the homeless shelter on X Street.

The two following are ad hoc committees. (ad hoc are those committees formed to deal with important but temporary issues as they come to board attention. They can include non-board members without voting privileges, but must have at least one board member).



Kathy Les

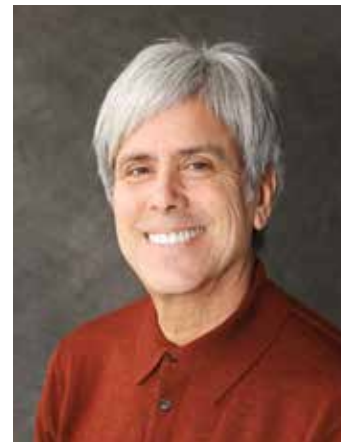
As chair of the Racial Justice ad hoc committee, **Kathy Les** plans to increase personal connections by reaching out to other neighborhoods such as Oak Park. The committee will continue to advocate for affordable housing opportunities in the neighborhood, will focus on partnering with Bret Harte Elementary School to develop a stronger bond between the school and the neighborhood, and will monitor the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission's recommendations for police reform.

Clean and Quiet Yard Care ad hoc committee, along with chair **Kathy Les**, will work with the city and Councilmember Jeff Harris to enforce and enhance the new leaf-blower ordinance. The committee will work with the California Air Resources Board's Demo Wagon to pilot electric lawn equipment in the neighborhood, will monitor the air board's adoption of new rules on gas lawn equipment, will seek opportunities to promote electric and manual lawn care, and will partner with regional lobbying organization Mow Better to advocate healthier lawn care.

*Viewpoint* Committee chair **Bruce Pierini** outlined the broad picture of active cooperation between the board and the *Viewpoint* editorial staff. Editor **Dennis Cusick** described how the paper is put together and conservatively estimated that the paper utilizes 1,200-1,500 volunteer hours per year. This number is particularly important when SCNA applies to granting agencies that look favorably on such extensive nonprofit volunteer networks putting in large numbers of hours.

Your comments on the board's priorities are welcome. Please send them to [kathy.les321@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.les321@gmail.com).

*Joan Cusick took all board member photos except Bruce Pierini's, which was taken by Wayne Adnerson.*



Erik Fay



Bruce Pierini

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# Shelter: Master plan is intended to designate sites to help thousands

*Continued from Page 1*

it is really owned by the community. There are so many community-based organizations within walking distance of this site that can really participate in the life” of the shelter.

The Kaiser Foundation provided \$5 million of the funds to operate the shelter at the request of Mayor Darrell Steinberg. The state provided \$819,000 and the city \$1.1 million, by reallocating Measure U funds that were previously designated for Capitol Park Hotel operations.

Council also authorized the executive director of the city Housing Authority to contract with a qualified shelter operator to run the X Street shelter and contract with other providers for services at the shelter.

The shelter is one component of the city’s Homeless Master Plan, which also includes goals for permanent housing, triage centers, safe camping, safe parking and motel conversions.

“The master plan is intended to designate sites – and really pre-approve sites – as much as we can to create thousands of roofs, beds and spaces for people,” Steinberg said.

The mayor emphasized the need to create enough shelter space so the city could operate effectively under *Martin v. City of Boise*, a 2018 federal appeals court ruling that said government could not impose criminal penalties “against homeless individuals for sleeping outdoors, on public property, when no



The shelter is one part of the city’s Homeless Master Plan, which also includes goals for permanent housing, triage centers, safe camping, safe parking and motel conversions.

Photo/City of Sacramento

alternative shelter is available to them.”

The mayor linked the *Martin* case with the city’s “desire to regulate... the time, place and manner in which people can camp. The only way we can do that is if we create enough capacity to be able to offer someone who is camping where we don’t want them to camp a safe place where they can camp or hopefully a place where they can have a roof over their heads.”

Councilmember Katie Valenzuela, who has

been leading work to help campers displaced by construction on the W/X freeway, said she had identified potential locations in her district to accommodate up to 2,000 people in tiny homes, triage centers and safe camping.

City Council will review specific sites in each district at workshop meetings scheduled for April 13 to May 4. The final vote on the master plan likely will occur in June.

## Neighbors’ advice sought on best use of stimulus funds

Without a doubt, 2020 was a horrible year.

Between the pandemic and the economy, Sacramento has had its share of challenges. One bright spot, if you can call it that, was Sacramento’s receipt of \$89 million in federal CARES Act funds. We have been able to put those funds to good use, funding four buckets of relief: small business recovery and assistance; youth and workforce training programs; city homeless and rapid rehousing plans; and the arts, creative economy and tourism.

The impacts of those funds were positively felt by thousands of Sacramentans. We are fortunate at

**JAY  
SCHENIRER**  
City  
Council  
Member  
District 5



this point to have, in partnership with the county, \$91 million in federal and state rental assistance funds to help us do everything possible to keep more individuals from entering homelessness.

We now have another bright spot, thanks to President Biden. With the passage of the American Rescue

Plan Act, Sacramento will receive \$121 million in new federal stimulus funds, as well as relief for individual households. Fortunately, these funds come with fewer strings attached than the first \$89 million.

I solicit your advice on the best uses of those dollars.

Should we use the same buckets previously described to make expenditure decisions for this second round of stimulus funds?

How would you rate the following in order of importance for support: small businesses; job training and workforce development; basic needs, including food and transportation; youth programming; increased housing options; and the arts, our creative sector, and tourism?

What else are we missing?

Please take a few moments to go to <https://bit.ly/3sik9TM> and complete the survey. Please note that the stimulus dollars are one-time funds and good budgeting practices direct that they not be used for ongoing programs.

I’ll report the results of the poll at a City Council meeting and in my column next month. Thank you for your input.

Also, I’d like to see if there’s anything that Curtis Park residents want to know – how we plan to reach out to the unhoused population in anticipation of the X Street Navigation Center, which is scheduled to open this summer; whether Music in the Park will occur; and the ways I’ve beaten shelter-in-place boredom.

Please send your input and comments to Jay Schenirer at [JSchenirer@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:JSchenirer@cityofsacramento.org).

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## E-blasts offer ideas for coping with pandemic

*Editor's note: During the pandemic, Katie Byram, the Senior Center coordinator at the Sierra 2 Center, has been sending out "Catching Up from the Couch" e-blasts of cultural and political items of general interest as well as fun ways to keep distantly social. Her offerings include book, movie and TV recommendations, funny stories, poems, recipes, comics, pet photos and tips for sheltering-in-place. Here are some excerpts.*

### New words, old words

During the pandemic, there have been many significant cultural, political, and historical events ... so much so that Merriam-Webster Dictionary added 520 words and definitions in January. At merriam-webster.com, you can select your birth year (or any year) to learn some of the words that were added based on cultural events, historical moments and trends. The website also has word games and puzzles.



### Gardens of Park Winters

With a \$25/person reservation, you can stroll through the manicured gardens of Park Winters, a working farm with a "chicken palace" about 35 minutes west of Curtis Park in Winters. Reservations include a table for enjoying cheese & charcuterie boards, local drinks and artisanal cocktails.

### Celebrate California!

National California Day is Feb. 22. The National Day Calendar selected this date in 2017, when it decided to give each state its own day, based on the order they entered the Union, starting after Independence Day. California is the 31st state, so its day falls 31 weeks after July 4. Neat!

## COVID-19 infections in 95818 decline sharply

New COVID-19 infections in the area that includes most of Curtis Park have declined sharply in the last month, according to Sacramento County data.

As of March 22, just 26 new COVID-19 cases had been reported in the 95818 ZIP code in the previous 30 days, down from 66 in the 30 days prior to Feb. 22. New infections averaged six per week in the first three weeks of March, compared with 45 infections per week in December, 28 in January, and 18 per week in February.

The 95818 ZIP code includes 22,000 residents

### Interesting geography

The highest and lowest points in the contiguous 48 states are both in California. The elevation of Mount Whitney is 14,495 feet. Less than 100 miles away is Death Valley, 282 feet below sea level.

California is home to the most national parks in the country – nine.



### Daily meditation

Get your day started with a virtual meditation offering on Zoom. You can tune in every day at 7:15 a.m. for 15 minutes of communal meditation. To register and receive a Zoom link, send an email to The Summer Moon Studio at [info@thesummermoon.com](mailto:info@thesummermoon.com).

Beginning April 1, The Summer Moon Yoga Studio will be moving classes outdoors to the north end of Curtis Park and to a small number of in-studio participants in addition to live-streaming. For the current schedule, visit [TheSummerMoon.com](http://TheSummerMoon.com).

### Postcrossing

Postcrossing is a project that allows anyone to send and receive postcards from all over the world. It's a sweet, affordable way to receive fun surprises and friendly messages from nice people in familiar countries (and ones you've likely never heard of, too.)

Paulo Magalhães created the project in 2005, when he was a student in Portugal, with the goal to "connect people across the world through postcards, independently of their country, age, gender, race or beliefs." Postcrossing currently has more than 800,000 members in 206 countries. It reported that 60 million postcards were traded in 2020.

To participate, visit the Postcrossing website at <https://www.postcrossing.com/> and create a free account. Request an address and send your postcard. The system relies on members registering their received postcards to ensure a fair participation between sending and receiving.

of the Curtis Park, Land Park, Newton Booth and Poverty Ridge neighborhoods. The area had logged a total of 813 COVID-19 cases as of March 22.

Vaccinations have increased substantially. Through March 19, an estimated 320,000 residents of Sacramento County (21%) had received at least one dose, 165,000 of whom had been fully vaccinated.

While progress has been significant, health officials caution that continued vigilance is essential to defeat the virus.

— Mike Scheible



### Pet squirrels!

Neighbor **Debra Hulbert** shares a picture of her pet squirrel, Fleabag, resting on a warm day. Debra writes, "She has been around for five years, knocks on the back door for peanuts and lets me pet her. Such a joy to watch her and her two friends romp around all day. Best entertainment ever."



### Local wildlife

Curtis Park resident **Janice Joe** is a big advocate of exploring and enjoying the natural world found around your home. She often watches the squirrels and birds, observes celestial bodies, and drinks in the sweet aromas of fresh cut grass and local flowers that the Delta breeze carries to her backyard. Her recent nature discoveries include the adventures of new feathered neighbors: a mother robin and her four babies. These birds reside in the rafter of her backyard and pluck worms from their grass, all of which is a treat to watch.

*More than 40 editions of Katie Byram's e-blasts are archived at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org). You may sign up for future e-blasts at <https://sierra2.org/subscribe/>.*

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## Birds of Curtis Park

# Western bluebirds hang out in parks

By Dan Murphy

Bluebirds are symbols of happiness in many cultures. Our local western bluebird is certainly a cheerful sight, especially in prime breeding plumage in spring.

It's no surprise that they can usually be found in William Curtis Park. Western bluebirds prefer open, park-like forests where they can perch and nest in tree cavities. Unlike eastern and mountain bluebirds, western bluebirds do not favor large, open meadows.

Philosopher Henry David Thoreau aptly noted: "The bluebird carries the sky upon his back." Western bluebird males have brilliant blue plumage on their heads, wings and tails, with rust-colored breasts. Females are duller and have more brown and gray in their feathers. Immature birds show white speckles.

Most color we see results from pigments that absorb light wavelengths and reflect a limited part of the spectrum. However, birds cannot make blue from

pigments. Instead, a blue feather grows molecules of keratin, a protein, separate from water. The water dries and is replaced by air, leaving nanostructures of keratin with air pockets. When white light strikes a blue feather, these evolved structures through diffraction cause red and yellow wavelengths to cancel each other out. Blue wavelengths of light reinforce and amplify one another and reflect back to the beholder's eye.

While western bluebirds are a thriving species, they have suffered in some areas from competition with larger European starlings for limited cavity nest sites. In response, fans have established trails of bluebird nest boxes with 1½ -inch diameter entry holes to block starlings. In colder seasons, bluebirds may roost together in nest boxes or other cavities for warmth at night.

Western bluebirds are socially monogamous. Both parents usually care for the young, but they also mate outside the pair bond. Almost half of their broods



Western bluebird dines on berries. Photo/Dan Murphy

had one or more chicks with an extraneous father. Sometimes adult male relatives or juveniles from earlier broods help to feed the nestlings.

Bluebirds forage primarily on berries and fruits through the winter, insects during the warmer months. Wintering bluebirds are especially abundant in years and in areas when mistletoe and juniper berry crops are plentiful.

## Trees in Curtis Park

# Local knowledge necessary to avoid problems with trees

By Dan Pskowski

One of my goals as an arborist is for everyone to appreciate trees. This would encourage tree care, preservation of existing trees and tree planting.

Most people, especially Curtis Park residents, are aware of the valuable benefits that trees provide, such as oxygen, shade, carbon sequestration (removal) and wildlife habitat.

People are also mindful that trees can and do cause problems. The sticky mess from an insect infestation, damage caused by falling branches, roots heaving concrete, allergies from pollen and the list goes on. Some property owners think a tree's removal will eliminate the problem, but this is not always the case. If owners understand the problem, they are less likely to take drastic action and remove a tree.

One example is pigeons roosting in Canary Island date palms. Homeowners do not like the bird droppings on a car or sidewalk and want the

palm removed. However, they change their minds when I explain that if the palm is removed, then the pigeons will start roosting on the eaves of their roof. Why? Because there is a source of food and water nearby, and they will find a new roost rather than move away.

But there are tree inspections in which I recommend the removal of healthy and structurally sound trees due to species and location. This is very disconcerting because the homeowners, after internet research, believed they had selected the right tree for the site. There are gardening/landscape websites that contain erroneous information.

However, even the respected governmental and



Chinese tallow tree

university websites sometimes are not accurate. Plants and trees respond differently to local soil and climatic conditions. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that the Chinese tallow has a noninvasive root system. Another site lists it as a small to medium-size shade tree.

I was not familiar with the Chinese tallow tree when I moved to Sacramento. The city planted it as a street tree. But over time I came to realize this was not an appropriate street or residential tree, because its roots can grow as large as the diameter of the trunk. This tree belongs in a park setting and has been removed from the city's street tree list.

Transplanting mature palm trees in Sacramento requires a different technique from the industry best practices standards. This is due to areas with silt loam soils. There are various soil types throughout Sacramento, which is why I recommend homeowners walk around their neighborhood to see which tree species thrive in their community.

The key to avoiding certain tree problems is local knowledge. The internet has numerous websites, but check out local sources, such as the Sacramento County Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners at [https://ucanr.edu/sites/UCCE\\_Sacramento/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/UCCE_Sacramento/) or 916 875-6913. Another source is the Sacramento Tree Foundation at [sactree.com](http://sactree.com) or 916 924-8733.

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# Bret Harte welcomes all to neighborhood school

By Lauren Gothard and Lindsey Sin

The start of a child's academic career is an exciting time for families. Children spend their elementary years making friends, learning to read and write, and growing into their unique personalities.

The process of school selection and enrollment for first-time parents can be complicated and confusing. Sacramento City Unified School District is comprised of 62 elementary schools, 10 of them within three miles of Curtis Park and Oak Park.

Bret Harte Elementary is the neighborhood school for Curtis Park and part of Central Oak Park. But, because the school district allows parents and guardians of school-age children to apply for open enrollment at a district school of choice, there are many options.

Richard Blatchford and his partner, who are long-time residents of South Oak Park, have two children at Bret Harte – one in third grade and one in kindergarten.

"We chose Bret Harte because of the holistic approach to education that we saw when we toured the school," Richard said. They toured several other schools within the district, and chose Bret Harte through the open-enrollment process.

"We were impressed with the different programs, such as gardening, wellness classes, the music program

and the family engagement. The staff and faculty were very kind and eager to meet and get to know our children," Richard said.

With just over 200 students currently attending, Bret Harte feels like a small community where teachers and staff easily identify each student by name.

The Akiyama family lives in Curtis Park and Bret Harte is their neighborhood school. After learning that their oldest child was not accepted into their first-choice school, Alice Birney, they enrolled their daughter at Bret Harte. "We wanted to try a Waldorf school because of its educational style and philosophies. Once we found out we didn't get into Alice Birney, we enrolled online for [Bret Harte], which we were planning to do anyway if Alice Birney didn't work out," said Aya Akiyama.

"The online application was super easy, though we didn't get confirmation of enrollment except for a short, automated email," said Aya. "Since it was our first time enrolling, I emailed Bret Harte directly to check that we were enrolled and both the principal and my child's teacher got in touch right away to confirm and welcome us to the school."

As with many important milestones in a child's young life – from selecting a pediatrician to selecting an elementary school – the choices and information can seem endless. Hearing other families' experiences and recommendations can help ease some of the stress



Photo/Lindsey Sin

Students, teachers and neighbors tend the school garden and use it to enhance the school curriculum.

associated with these choices.

"We have been happy with Bret Harte despite the difficulty of having to start kindergarten in the online format," Aya said. "From what we have experienced, the teachers and parents involved in PTA are working hard to make the school a place where kids want to attend and learn."

To connect with current Bret Harte parents, contact Principal James Tucker at james-tucker@scusd.edu. Neighborhood school enrollment for the 2021-22 academic year is currently open. However, the open-enrollment period has closed. Visit [scusd.edu](https://www.scusd.edu/enrollment-center-k-12) or contact the enrollment center at <https://www.scusd.edu/enrollment-center-k-12>.

## Kids: Balance of hours spent at home and at school is not right yet

Continued from Page 1

"Social-emotional development, conversations, reading books, singing – that's really what preschool should be about," Stephanie said. "The kids are calmer outside. You don't need to have as much control, if you will."

Lenay Franks-Brooks, the sole teacher and caregiver at Great Beginnings right now, is responsible for doing all of the things that she and Stephanie agreed on to keep the school open with the least risk.

This group of 10 kids, ages 2 to 5, might be particularly well suited to weather the pandemic. Lenay said they adapt so well because they learn actively at this age. They want to know about the "Coronavirus sickness" as one kid put it. "That's the time to talk to them because they're curious... so I tell

them," Lenay said. "The minute they ask that question, that's the time."

Being outside all of the school day, every day, has amplified that curiosity. "They pick up a rock and they're like, 'This is our baby,'" Meg said.

Before the pandemic, Brianne would go to school in the dark and come home in the dark during the winter months. Stephanie has agreed to more hours for preschool soon, but said, "I'm never going back to 7:30 to 5:30."

Everyone involved has been constrained by COVID-19 – the kids, the parents and the preschool. But everyone agrees that this new way of life is better than what came before, even if only this little piece of it.

"If I could work from home every day, I would," Meg said. There is a lot of talk about allowing employees

flexible hours and more time working from home."

All now seem to agree that time with parents should not be minimized. Before the pandemic, "sometimes even (a kid) that had been there for three years would all of a sudden just have a breakdown," said Lenay, referring to the long hours in preschool.

Stephanie said, "I can tell the kids whose parents spend a lot of time with them – conversations, bike rides, games and things like that. Their ability to do work and think, it's very obvious."

Still, all agree that the balance of hours spent at home and at school is not right yet.

Everyone also agrees that Great Beginnings should be open longer. Just how long will be the next test of everyone's power to adapt.



Photo/Sean de Courcy

Brianne de Courcy, 4, tends her tomatoes in the morning.

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