

VIEWPOINT

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July 2021

Crocker Village olive harvest meaty, tender

By John Mathews

Cheri Davis and her husband, Ted Frink, watched the mature olive trees being transplanted throughout Crocker Village and spotted the ripe stone fruit clinging to the upper branches.

Cheri remembered how much fun she had with friends who taught her how to brine olives in salt water with herbs and spices. She and Ted returned with buckets and a ladder and harvested more than 4 gallons of olives.

Cheri hadn't cured olives since she and Ted moved to Curtis Park more than 10 years ago. She researched brining Sevillano olives and chose two different recipes. One method took her two months from start to finish, the other four months. Both recipes were successful in creating unique flavors in the final product.

Neighborhood gourmand Bruce Pierini and his French language group recently tasted Cheri and Ted's olives. Bruce found the olives meaty and tender with a tasty blend of garlic, vinaigrette and herbs with the right hint of salt and bitterness.

Cheri's olives might be the first and last Crocker Village olives to be



Cheri Davis and her husband, Ted Frink, of 25th Street have found pleasure in harvesting and brining Sevillano olives from the trees in Crocker Village.

Photo/Ted Frink

brined and eaten. From now on, the blossoms on the trees will be removed (by spraying them with water) to prevent new olives from growing. Cheri

hopes that olives that don't drop on the sidewalk can remain so neighbors can enjoy the next crop. For Cheri and Ted's brining recipes, please go to: sierra2.org.

Porch Picnic fundraiser returns Oct. 2

By Kathy Les

Porch Picnic, an SCNA fundraising event, returns on Saturday, Oct. 2.

Neighbors will be able to enjoy dinner from one of several popular local restaurants delivered to the front door.

Last year's Porch Picnic was a chance for neighbors to partake of a festive dinner in proximity to each other. Curtis Park neighbors enjoyed a special evening of good food and al fresco dining, some gathering in small groups on their porch or in their front yards.

Planning is still in the works. Many of the same restaurants are expected to return. A few new features this year will be live music and beverage options.

In place of SCNA's annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction, this event will be the last SCNA fundraiser of the year to help eliminate the financial deficit from Sierra 2 closure during Covid-19.

Porch Picnic sold out last year. Watch for details to get tickets at sierra2.org.



Vaccinations up, COVID-19 cases down in 95818 ZIP code

By Mike Scheible

Recent health statistics suggest the Curtis Park area is well on the way to the COVID-19 vaccination level thought to be needed to provide "herd immunity," the vaccination rate needed so that new infections will decrease naturally.

The fully vaccinated rate has exceeded 73% of the

population age 16 or over, with another 6% having received a first dose.

Once vaccinations took hold, the progress against COVID infection was rapid. COVID-19 rates in 95818, as measured by the number of new daily infections per 100,000 people, went from eight in early May to about five in late May, to about two during the first three weeks of June.

In February, *Viewpoint* reported that the 95818 area had fared much better than some neighboring ZIP codes – 95811, 95816, 95817, 95820 and 95822 – during Sacramento's December-January COVID-19 surge. However, when looked at over the 15-month course of the pandemic, the local performance, while better than average, was not exceptional.

Please see COVID, Page 2

Converting from gas to induction

SMUD's plan of zero carbon emissions by 2030 gains interest. Page 5



City planners addresses housing needs by creating plex-zoning

Goal is to create more "missing middle" affordable housing. Page 6



Bret Harte garden flourishes

Volunteers have helped to develop vibrant plantings. Page 8





Photo/Mike Scheible

Early start in family business

Amelia Pendarvis has been selling coffee and tea on weekends at her PowWow stand at 26th Street and Portola Way. She told one customer that the coffee came from Brazil. "That's in South America. We brew it ourselves," she said. Encouraging the young entrepreneur is her father, Chris Pendarvis, owner of Naked Coffee. "I'm really proud of my daughter," he said. "Every morning she sets up the stand herself. She's really mature for a 6-year-old."

Gunther's Ice Cream ranked best in state

Gunther's Ice Cream has been selected by Food & Wine Magazine as the best ice cream in California in a review of the best ice cream in each of the 50 states.

"There are two types of Californians: those who imagine there is some sort of debate to be had surrounding where one might find the best ice cream in the Golden State, and those who grew up in and around Sacramento, the capital, for whom there is typically no debate," wrote David Landsel, a New York-based travel writer. "As they will tell you, like you should have known all along, the answer to your question is Gunther's, which goes back more than 75 years."



Among California's neighbors, the favorites were Sweet Republic in Scottsdale, Ariz.; Luv-It Frozen

Custard in Las Vegas, Nev.; and Salt & Straw in Portland, Ore.

About Gunther's, the article said: "Like moths to flame on a warm summer's evening, this bright, classic shop with the unmistakable neon sign draws locals young and old to a relatively quiet corner in the Curtis Park neighborhood for scoops of house-made black walnut and the lemon custard, or one of their exceedingly popular fruit freezes, a fitting treat in a town surrounded by many an orchard and grove."

Established in 1940, Gunther's Ice Cream is at 2801 Franklin Blvd.

COVID: Since pandemic began, 951 positive cases were found in 95818

Continued from Page 1

Since the pandemic began in March 2020, a total of 951 positive cases, infecting 4.4% of the area's population, were detected in the 95818 area. This was slightly higher than the 3.7% rate in East Sacramento, but below the 6.8% average in other adjacent ZIP codes and the 7% rate in the city overall. However, it is similar to the 4.8% rate in the part of Sacramento

County outside of the City of Sacramento, and slightly below the 5.6% rate in the six Bay Area counties.

Curtis Park has about 5,000 residents and shares the 95818 ZIP code with another 17,000 residents of the Land Park, Newton Booth and Poverty Ridge neighborhoods. Statistics on COVID-19 infections and vaccinations are not available publicly for smaller

areas than the full ZIP code area.

Deaths related to COVID-19 are publicly available at the city and county levels only. As of June 15, a total of 962 deaths were associated with the 59,493 COVID-19 infections in the city, a mortality rate of 1.6%. If area COVID-19 cases had the same mortality rate, about 15 of the 962 deaths in the city would have been residents of the 95818 area.

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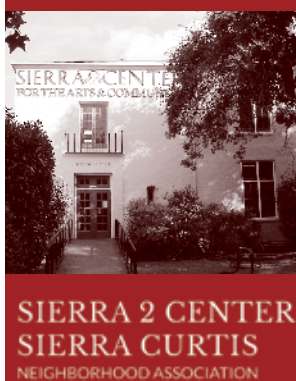
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CURTIS PARK NEWS SINCE 1979

Music in the neighborhood

Live music is back in the neighborhood at Fountainhead Brewing Co., 4621 24th St.; The Side Door, 2900 Franklin Blvd. (at Fourth Avenue); and Two Rivers Cider Co., 4311 Attawa Ave. (a block west of 24th Street). Here's a guide to shows in July and August. Call ahead to reserve tables.

— Mindy Giles

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[fountainheadbrewingco.com](https://www.fountainheadbrewingco.com)

All shows 6-9 p.m.

July 2..... Sharp Family Trio (Two daughters & Dad)

July 23..... Inverness 95 (Raw '90s rock)

Aug 6 Sharp Family Trio

Aug. 27 ... Acoustic Night w/Roni

THE SIDE DOOR

<https://www.thesidedoor.net>

All shows 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20

July 3..... Richard March Band – Fundraiser for National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

July 31..... John Green & The Sidedooros (Classic country)

TWO RIVERS CIDER CO.

<https://www.tworiverscider.com>

All shows 6:30-9 p.m.

July 2..... Phrogg (Surf/Sci-fi rock)

July 10..... Grateful Bluegrass Boys (Dead ala bluegrass)

July 19..... Morning Dew (Grateful Dead-related covers)

July 24..... Knuf (Twangy jam band trio)

July 30..... Jasmine Bailey (Pop singer/songwriter)

July 31..... Mind X (Jam band kings)

Aug. 6 Phrogg

Aug. 6 Lantz Lazwell (Rock 'n' soul)

Aug. 13 ... Love Mischief (Jam band/psychedelic rock)

Aug. 21 ... Jessica Malone (Americana singer-songwriter)

Aug. 28 ... The Californios (Americana/country)



Photo/R. Standiford
Richard March
Band at The
Side Door July 3

Sierra 2 Center restarts cautiously

The Sierra 2 Center's return to full operations will be gradual as it moves forward with policies that feel safe and at a level of business within the staff's capacity. The Center serves all walks of life, from daycare children to older adults in the Senior Center, and therefore needs to operate cautiously.

What to expect

- **Building and office hours** are limited and depend on what activities have been booked on-site. If you need assistance, call or email first. Appointments are strongly encouraged over walk-ins. Staff contact information is available at <https://sierra2.org/sierra-2-center/contact-us/>.

- **Masks are currently required** in public areas (i.e. hallways, bathrooms). Mask requirements within rooms will be up to the business, instructor or group occupying the space, and based on comfort level/vaccination status of the attendees.

- **Staff will not ask for verification** of vaccination; this will be done entirely on an honor-based system.

- **Some classes and activities** hosted by the Sierra 2 Center may



Sierra 2 from Fourth Avenue, 2004

have special registration instructions and class size limits.

- **Patience, flexibility and understanding** are greatly appreciated as the Sierra 2 Center slowly ramps up operations after being closed to the public for 15 months.

- **Additional classes** will be announced in a measured way, due to CDC guidelines for COVID and staffing constraints. If you have questions about classes or activities, contact Katie Byram at 916 452-3005, ext. 208 or email Katie@sierra2.org.

For updates on building hours, activities, events and policies, check the sierra2.org website and social media, and subscribe to Sierra 2's email newsletters.

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President's message

New fiscal year brings new challenges for SCNA board

Thanks to a marvelously successful Big Day of Giving and recent easing of COVID restrictions, I can discuss something other than budget matters.

The really good news is that the Sierra 2 Center is gearing up to reopen, albeit in stages. There is a lot of pent-up demand for rental space. Despite all that has transpired since March 2020, Sierra 2 retained all but one of its tenants. The Italian Cultural Society, a fixture at Sierra 2 for many years, chose not to renew its lease last July.

The new fiscal year is just around the corner, and it promises to be a challenging one. Although we would like to schedule events immediately for the neighborhood, the bigger ones

**BILL
HOOVER**

**SCNA Board
President**



(our Wine Tasting & Silent Auction and Home Tour) require more planning time than is available for this year. However, the Development Committee is working on a Music in the Park event and a reprise of the Porch Picnic.

SCNA board elections are on the horizon as well. We are always on the lookout for folks willing to donate their valuable time to serve on the board

and help continue to make Curtis Park a great place to live. If you have a particular talent or skill, so much the better. If you know a particular board member, talk to him/her and if not, contact Sierra 2 Executive Director Terri Shettle. She will put you in touch with one of us. If you are unable to commit to a term on the board but are interested in volunteering, let Terri know.

On a broader scale, City Council continues to move forward on its General Plan 2040. As previously mentioned, it would eliminate R-1 (Single Family Dwelling) zoning with the goal of creating more affordable housing and increasing inclusivity in traditional neighborhoods such as Curtis Park. This approach would

increase density in these neighborhoods through construction of more multiplexes.

SCNA's recent housing forum on this subject provided a great opportunity to hear various sides of this issue. However, questions remain relating to SCNA's previously expressed concerns about supporting data for the plan and potential tax consequences. The forum was recorded and is available at Sierra2.org.

I have only touched upon some of the things taking place in our neighborhood and city that are currently before your SCNA board. It is a busy and challenging time; I want to assure you we are doing our best to represent you and keep you informed.

Notes from June 2 SCNA board meeting

Big Day of Giving attracts donations from outside SCNA

Some 418 individuals contributed to SCNA in the Big Day of Giving fundraising campaign, Sierra 2 Center Executive Director **Terri Shettle** reported. A survey indicated that about half of contributors were not SCNA current members or former members.

Ten SCNA board members volunteered to deliver thank-you notes personally to Big Day of Giving contributors.

Keeping sufficient staffing at the Sierra 2 Center during its gradual reopening is expected to be a problem. Volunteers are sought, especially for the Senior Center, where a welcoming person is needed on Wednesday mornings.

The Finance Committee will work collaboratively with all committees in developing a budget to be approved by the board.

The Facilities Committee reported that the solar panels at Sierra 2 need to be taken down and evaluated for reuse. The smaller cottage is now empty because Warmline moved out. Empire Arts is taking over Room 13.

Another Porch Picnic fundraiser has been scheduled for Oct. 2. (See Page 1.)

The Neighborhood Concerns Committee sent a letter to the city in support of the proposed Montgomery Way Historic District.

The "use of force" language proposed by Sacramento Community Police Reform Commission Chair Mario Guerrero was adopted by City Council, Racial Justice Chair **Kathy Les** reported.

The next meeting of the SCNA board will be on Wednesday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

— Bruce Pierini, board secretary

VIEWPOINT

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POINT OF VIEW

Consider an induction cooktop for safer, healthier cooking

By Cheri Davis

Some homeowners in Curtis Park are converting to induction cooktops, which heat food two to three times faster than gas, are safer because there are no exposed flames, and are more energy efficient, resulting in much cooler kitchens.

Induction is not new and has been used in Europe and Japan for decades.

But, you say: I love my gas stove.

So did Nancy and Mike McKeever of Cutter Way. Then they tried induction and were hooked.

"I cook every day, so I wanted the best stove available," said Mike McKeever, the cook in his household. "I love it for the power, speed and exact temperature control. It can't be beat."

Induction works by passing electricity through a coil below the surface of the cooktop, creating a magnetic field that heats your cookware. This past year, according to the Wall Street Journal, national sales in induction cooktops rose by 30%.

Best of all, SMUD offers a \$750 rebate if you are converting from gas to induction.

Last summer, SMUD declared a "climate emergency." In April 2021, SMUD announced a commitment to zero carbon emissions by 2030. Sacramento recently became the 46th city in California to ban or discourage gas hookups in new buildings when it adopted a residential electrification ordinance with a commitment for residential retrofits

as well. Residential and commercial buildings are responsible for roughly 25% of California's greenhouse gas emissions.

While gas stoves are a relatively small contributor to climate change, they are arguably the biggest obstacle to electrifying the American home – a key requirement for slowing climate change. Many people just don't want to give up their gas cooking.

There is another reason to switch, though. Studies show that homes burning natural gas have indoor air with excessive levels of formaldehyde, which can cause cancer, and nitrogen oxides, which can cause asthma. Children in homes with gas stoves are more likely to develop asthma.

Cast iron, enameled cast iron, blue or black carbon steel, and many stainless steel pans with magnetic material work with induction cooktops. When in doubt, put a magnet to the bottom of your pan. If it sticks, your cookware is compatible with induction.

The Curtis Park Electric Stars, a group of energy savvy women, will soon embark on a partnership with SMUD to spread the word about making your home



Photo/Nancy McKeever

Mike McKeever says his induction cooktop "can't be beat."

more climate friendly. The group hopes Curtis Park can become a model community for carbon reduction.

To talk to a Curtis Park neighbor already using an induction cooktop or get more information on the Curtis Park Electric Stars, contact Nancy McKeever at nancymckeever@comcast.net or Cheri Davis at Cheri.Davis@smud.org. For more information on SMUD rebates, go to SMUD.org.

Cheri Davis of 25th Street supervises SMUD's residential decarbonization programs and is a member of the Curtis Park Electric Stars.

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City's housing challenges addressed at SCNA forum

By Kathy Les and Erik Fay

Possible solutions to Sacramento's housing challenges were discussed at SCNA's Housing Forum in late May.

More than 80 people participated in the Zoom forum, listening to six speakers who offered varying perspectives on the city's proposed strategies for housing in the 2040 General Plan Update.

City planners hope to address housing shortages through a new designation known as plex-zoning to create more "missing middle" affordable housing. Additionally, planners want to provide a pathway to live in neighborhoods throughout the city previously closed off to racial minorities by way of restrictive covenants and redlining. As a result of such historical factors, wealth and poverty are concentrated in different Sacramento neighborhoods.

The six speakers represented local government, leaders from other neighborhood associations, and an historic preservation advocacy organization.

A city proposal aimed at alleviating disproportionate concentrations of racial minorities by rezoning all R-1 properties to allow up to four units inside the building footprint currently allowed for a single-family home was a focus in the forum presentations. This would be in addition to state law, which already allows two Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on R-1 lots.

"The primary action cities can take is to provide more lower-cost options in the highest opportunity areas of the city," said Matt Hertel, the city's acting long-range planning manager.

Greg Chew, a senior urban planner for the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, said, "Sacramento needs to look at three themes: 1) produce more housing; 2) prevent sprawl and promote infill, and 3) allow for more diverse housing types."

Some speakers raised concerns regarding how rezoning may affect affordability and, conversely, potentially have a detrimental impact on already vulnerable low-income neighborhoods.

Chris Jones, project manager with UC Davis Information Technology, and a resident of the Colonial Heights neighborhood, recommended: "Rather than up-zoning, we should enable ADU development in targeted communities, sustainable public financing in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, expedited permits, create an approved plan 'library,' and decrease taxes and fees on modest and affordable homes." Jones also suggested that abandoned and underutilized commercial properties should be converted to residential use.

Also participating were William Burg, president of Preservation Sacramento; Kirk Vyverberg, chair of the Land Park Community Association's Land Use Committee; and Councilmember Jay Schenirer.

The 90-minute forum is available for viewing at sierra2.org.



Biology professor Tom Peavy boxes up the recent cabernet that he and his neighbor friends have made in their wine co-op for over 18 years.

Photo/Mike Scheible

Cabernet is ready at 23rd Street co-op

By Judy Green Scheible

Tom Peavy makes red wine for a hobby. Lots of it. The wine is split up evenly among the 15 members of his nonprofit co-op. Each person helps with the process.

Tom, a biology professor at Sac State, and his wife, Josie, a second-grade teacher, live on 23rd Street in Curtis Park with their daughter, a graduating senior at McClatchy

High School, and their son, an entering freshman.

Tom learned winemaking at the University of California Davis Extension.

For next season, he plans to make Barbera wine from grapes purchased from a winery in the foothills. "The best grapes are key to the best wine," Tom says, adding that every year he makes a different variety. This year it was cabernet.

In the District

Pandemic silver linings? There are a few to mention here

As the city, state and federal governments reopen, we will continue to see the pandemic's short- and long-term impacts on our economy and way of life.

Last year, we looked at using the \$89 million in federal stimulus funds to invest in our communities through the pandemic – for small business, workforce development, youth programming, housing and homelessness and the creative sector.

This year, the second round of federal funds focuses on post-pandemic relief. The city received \$112 million over two years.

I believe our two greatest and most immediate needs are to support the business community, particularly small, ethnic businesses;

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



and to continue to house and provide supportive services to the unhoused.

It's hard to talk about the pandemic's silver linings, but I do think there are a few. Clearly, people took the opportunity to learn how to work remotely. Many were able to rearrange their schedules to spend considerable time with their families. While we have become more effective in our time management, many are

working harder – back-to-back Zoom calls seem to have become standard operating procedure. I believe many of us will have to recalibrate our work/life balance in this area.

A second silver lining is how we've adapted our public spaces and streets into places to safely socialize and dine. We have talked about place-making for years, but had never gotten to any implementation at scale.

Al fresco dining, particularly in Midtown, has been hugely successful. City Council just passed an extension of these permits through June 2022 and will soon take up a permanent ordinance to support this initiative citywide. I thank our restaurants and others who made this initiative so successful.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we will need to make many decisions. Importantly, individual businesses and government organizations will need to decide about individuals working remotely vs. bringing people back to offices. An important example of this is with our downtown business community, in which the city has invested heavily over the years. Downtown remains dependent on workers eating, shopping and recreating in the area.

In July, the city will make decisions about how to support reopening, balancing a myriad of needs in our community. I welcome your input on these and other reopening issues as the city discussion moves forward.

New baby on Highland Avenue



Photo/Judy Harper

The Guyot family on Highland Avenue

By Kelsey Wehsels

Highland Avenue has a new neighbor with the birth of **Camila Rose Guyot** on March 21 at Sutter Roseville hospital.

Camila is the fifth member of the Guyot family, behind parents **Mark** and **Monica Guyot**, older brother **Cruz**, age 2 ½, and **Willi**, an 8-year-old mixed breed dog.

While Monica says giving birth during the COVID-19 pandemic was stressful, she is glad for the timing of Camila's arrival. "I am so relieved that Camila was born as conditions improved and vaccinations are now available," she said.

If she could give advice to new mothers, it would be to trust your instincts. She also stressed the importance of taking care of yourself.

Monica is a speech language pathologist for the San Juan Unified School District. Mark is a regional manager of group purchasing services at McKesson Corp.

Monica grew up in the Sacramento area. Mark grew up in Connecticut but has lived in Sacramento for 15 years. The couple has lived in Curtis Park for six years.

Congratulations to our **CURTIS PARK GRADUATES**

Ethan Bianchi, son of Eric Bianchi and Donna Zick of Portola Way, graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School. He will attend UC Berkeley in the fall.



Jenan Ozeir, daughter of Mohamad and Jennifer Ozeir of 25th Street, graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School. She will attend UC Berkeley in the fall.



Angelo Benny Bertagnini IV, son of Angelo and Karen Bertagnini of Sixth Avenue, earned his master's degree in public policy from Columbia University. He accepted a position with the New York City office of the Rocky Mountain Institute.



Henry McKay, son of Anne Marquiss and Andy McKay of Curtis Way, earned a B.S. in city and regional planning and a statistics minor from Cal Poly in March. After graduating, he started work for Caltrans as a transportation planner.



Sierra 2 staffer honored

Heather Hogan, the Sierra 2 Center's marketing and outreach director, is a member of a team of three artists selected to paint a mural at the Sam & Bonnie Pannell Community Center, 2450 Meadowview Road.

In June, the city selected 10 teams of artists to paint murals on

buildings in each City Council district in its Community Murals Sacramento project, with two murals each in Districts 2 and 8.

The mural site in District 5 is at 4611 Freeport Blvd., sponsored by the Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association.



Photo/Heather Hogan

City chose Heather Hogan for artist team to paint public art mural.

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Bret Harte garden expands education at all grade levels

By Lindsey Sin
and Lauren Gothard



Bret Harte Elementary School's beautiful garden at the center of campus is a source of pride for students, teachers and families. Each classroom has some involvement in its cultivation. Every year, students help plant, grow and harvest vegetables, such as lettuce, chard and peas, or watch flowers grow from seed or bulb.

A wooden arbor, covered in grapevines and welcoming all who pass through, marks the entrance to the garden. Six large fruit trees stand as sentries on one side – apple, persimmon, pluot, lemon and two

A perfect location for exploration and learning, the garden is often cited as one of the educational activities that pull families to Bret Harte.

varieties of oranges. Poppies and other flowers grow along the outside perimeter fence of the garden, while pansies and lavender grow inside.

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In 2015, two Bret Harte parents, Fayzah Mughal and Gerine Williams, were determined to start a garden at the school. Having noticed the lovingly cultivated front yard of a Sixth Avenue home from her daily walk around Curtis Park, Mughal approached the residents and inquired if they'd be interested in helping her. The residents, Brian and Karen Hill, along with their neighbor Dennis Gunvalson, and the Bret Harte parents created a committee and laid out a plan for the garden. Since then, Gunvalson has maintained the garden area outside the school on Franklin Boulevard and Ninth Avenue and has helped the Hills maintain and care for the main garden inside the campus.

Karen Hill attended Bret Harte as a child. She

saw the garden project as a positive opportunity after moving back to the neighborhood to retire. "We have always been engaged with kids and with gardening, and it was our neighborhood school, which we felt could use some positive attention," she said.

Any program could have been created to provide other learning opportunities, so what makes a garden so special? "Children learn differently and can take what they're learning about in the classroom to the garden and have hands-on experiences," she said.

Over the years, the Hills acted as emergency foster parents to at least 30 children in Oakton, Va. Karen Hill also created an entire art curriculum and lesson plans for her own two children when funding was cut for the school program. So, starting a garden seemed like small potatoes.

In fact, it was not so smooth in the beginning. The Hills approached the former principal about starting a garden at Bret Harte, but it didn't really take root until Principal James Tucker was hired. They then had to convince the teachers to take on another lesson in an already established curriculum.

One former Bret Harte teacher was particularly resistant to using the garden. After several months, one day in fall students in her third-grade class harvested and washed apples, which were then counted, sorted and distributed to the other classes. Brian Hill recalls that the reluctant teacher said that was "her favorite day of teaching," and that's when I knew we'd done it.

After that, teachers were eager to be in the garden with their students, doing everything from planting and using earthworms in the soil, to pressing flowers and learning about butterflies with a high-powered microscope.

"The curriculum follows standards of learning and



Photo/Lindsey Sin

Grape arbor in the Bret Harte garden next to the playground looking north toward Seventh Avenue.

has different lessons for each grade," Karen Hill said. The students have grown and thrived in the garden, too. Brian Hill recalled a young boy who lit up when he realized the daffodils they were planting didn't involve seeds, but grew from bulbs instead.

Thanks to grants and donations from Lowe's, City Councilmember Jay Schenirer and others, the garden now has equipment, supplies and educational tools. But, as with all living things, it requires ongoing attention and love. The Hills plan to pass along care of the garden to students, families and teachers this fall, as they begin their own long-awaited retirement plans.

Volunteers will be needed to till the soil, pull weeds and prune the fruit trees during seasonal work days. Neighborhood residents who like to play in the dirt are encouraged to sign up with Principal Tucker by email to James-tucker@scusd.edu.

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