

# VIEWPOINT

A Publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association

Vol. 43, No. 5

2791 - 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95818 • 916 452-3005 • [www.sierra2.org](http://www.sierra2.org)

December 2021

## Cocoa kindness

Devin and father Allen Perumal prepare a cup of hot chocolate for one of their Sunday morning customers Nov. 21. Devin and his younger brother Dylan had sent invitations to their Portola Way neighbors – offering a cup of hot chocolate for a donation of 50 cents with all money going to the Sacramento Food Bank. In a little over an hour, they raised \$126.50, according to Mom, Lydia Marque.

Photo/Joan Cusick



## Petrovich plan for gas station gets another hearing Dec. 7

By Dennis Cusick

City Council will conduct another public hearing regarding Petrovich Development Co.'s proposal to build a 16-pump gas station in the Crocker Village commercial district next to the Safeway supermarket.

The hearing has been scheduled for 5 p.m. Dec. 7 via videoconference.

The gas station proposal has been the subject of litigation since City Council voted 7-2 to reject the project on Nov. 17, 2015, overturning the city Planning and Design Commission's prior approval on appeal by SCNA.

Developer Paul Petrovich appealed the City Council decision to Sacramento Superior Court. On Jan. 3, 2018, Judge Michael Kenny ruled in Petrovich's favor. The judge said Councilmember Jay Schenirer demonstrated "an unacceptable probability of actual bias" and failed to act in an open-minded manner before City Council's vote to deny a conditional use permit for the station.

The judge ordered City Council to conduct another hearing on the gas station project. Instead, City Council appealed the ruling to the Third District Court of Appeal, which upheld the Superior Court decision April 8, 2020.

The public may attend the public hearing virtually by Zoom link, may submit written comments in advance, or make oral comments during the hearing. The meeting agenda will be posted online by the close of business Dec. 2. See <https://meetings.cityofsacramento.org> for details.

## Curtis Park residents at UN climate conference

By Michael Paparian and Caitlyn Hughes

We were privileged to spend two weeks at the U.N. Climate Change Conference, COP26, in Glasgow, Scotland, in November.

For the past two years, the biggest gatherings we've been around could probably be counted on two hands ... and maybe a foot. So it was quite a sensory shock to join more than 40,000 people gathered to address the climate crisis.

COVID was on the minds of organizers and participants. The "swag" given to all participants consisted of a mask, hand sanitizer and wipes. We tested for COVID daily and showed verification of the results before entering the conference facility. All tests for us and several colleagues were negative.

This was the sixth time Michael attended a COP (Conference of the

Parties), and the fourth one with fellow Curtis Park resident Caitlyn.

(A former Curtis Park resident, Maggie Thomas, attended COP26 as chief of staff of the Biden administration's Office of Climate Policy. She is the daughter of Hal Thomas and Kathy Les of Portola Way.)

Attendance in the "blue zone," where government representatives meet and others discuss the latest climate science and policy, was limited to those groups authorized by the United Nations. Caitlyn represented the U.N.-accredited organization Solar Cookers International. Michael represented the accredited InterEnvironment Institute and assisted Solar Cookers International and the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI).

A COP is much more than governments negotiating, speechifying, arguing and agreeing. We represent non-governmental organizations connecting with governments and non-

governmental entities to collaborate and advocate for our climate solutions.

For us, it was a two-week marathon of meetings, speaking, press conferences and more.

For example, Caitlyn met with representatives of Sudan, Kenya, India, Nepal, Brazil, the Marshall Islands and other countries to assist them in understanding the potential for switching from open-fire cooking to solar cooking. She managed six press conferences, conducted presentations with groups such as the World Health Organization, and accepted a California legislative resolution congratulating Solar Cookers International for winning the prestigious global Keeling Curve Prize.

For Caitlyn, it was an honor to be invited to give a workshop on solar cooking to the winners of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards. During the workshop, these determined women

*Please see Conference, Page 2*



### Thankful for partners

Kaiser Permanente and Kings help with Oak Park projects.

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### Help available for stressed students

Bret Harte program addresses challenges in time of pandemic.

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## No Viewpoint in January

The *Viewpoint* staff is taking a holiday break. The next edition will be in February. The deadline for that one is Jan. 15. Happy New Year!



# Crash alarming, not surprising near Marshall Way roundabout

By Patti Roberts

Three and a half years ago, neighbors near 24th Street and Marshall Way became concerned about the new roundabout that had been installed at the intersection. It seemed an awkward design – too large for the intersection, too low to see blocks away, lanes too narrow for easy navigation.

The neighbors have grown more concerned over the years as they've witnessed people confused on how to negotiate what is properly labeled a "mountable island," screeching cars, large trucks simply driving over the low hump, traffic accidents, flattened tires and flying hubcaps.

In October, an intoxicated driver sped through the intersection in the middle of the night, hopped the island, crashed into the streetlight, and barreled through the wrought-iron fence of southeast corner resident Lisa Giroux.

"All the nearby neighbors have been expecting an accident like this for a long time," Giroux said, echoing the sentiments of the neighbors interviewed. "It was bound to happen, but it was very scary just the same."

Giroux was disturbed not only to see the extent of the damage, but also to imagine what would have happened

if her fence hadn't been there. Video captured the car speeding down Marshall Way, not stopping for the stop sign, flying over the bump, and crashing into the fence.

"The circle is huge in circumference, it hasn't really slowed drivers down, and I don't think the traffic mitigation has served its purpose," said Giroux. "Plus, it's ugly as heck."

The mountable island was designed to slow traffic. It includes a large, low hump that emergency vehicles and big trucks can drive over. But the results have been mixed.

Ross Colburn, who resides at the southwest corner, ran out to see what had happened the night the driver smashed into Giroux's fence, and "was shocked, but not surprised, to see the extent of the damage."

On a regular basis, Colburn said, he hears speeding cars, screeching tires and honking horns. He often finds evidence of cars failing to navigate the circle – hubcaps that have popped off and curbs that have been blackened.

"It's gotten worse and the accident has made me more nervous," Colburn said. "It's evident that the drivers are confused."

Not only are the neighbors worried about the vehicles, they also witness



Photo/Will Carlton

Lisa Giroux says she can imagine what might have happened if the fence around her house hadn't been there to stop the speeding car after it flew over the mountable island.

near accidents with bicycles, baby strollers and pedestrians. And they have noticed a sharp increase in traffic flow with cars and large delivery and construction trucks driving to and from Crocker Village and the Safeway shopping center.

Apart from removal of the mountable island, neighbors have some ideas on how to mitigate future accidents, such as banning large delivery trucks, putting in additional speed bumps and yield signs, narrowing the circumference of the circle, and making the curbs more angular.

City traffic engineer David

Edrosolan said the mountable island was built in May 2018. At *Viewpoint's* request, he obtained police data from three years before the island's installation and three years after. The data indicated there were no vehicle collisions reported to police at the intersection in those periods.

The city's data are consistent with federal transportation data, which show that traffic circles actually improve traffic safety. "Compared with regular intersections, roundabouts significantly reduce injuries and deaths," according to an article posted online Nov. 20 by *The New York Times*.

## Conference: Invigorating 100,000-person climate march in Glasgow

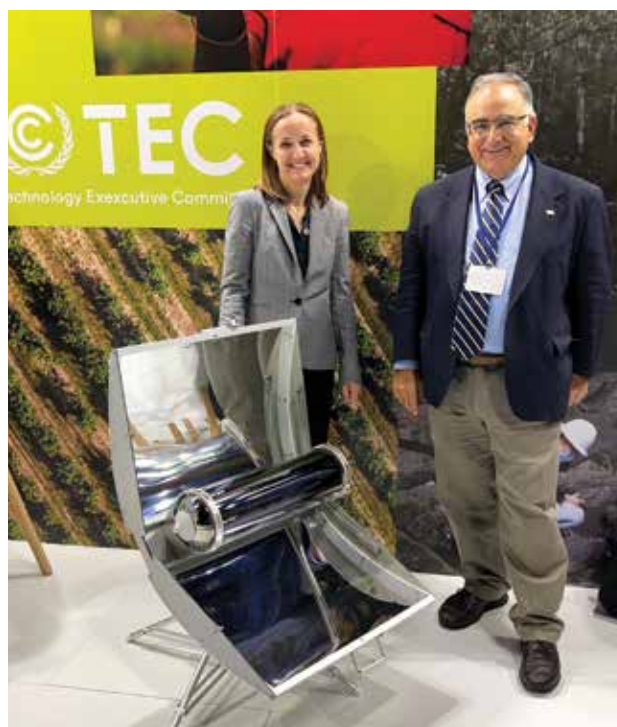
Continued from Page 1

community leaders described challenges they are working to solve – dirty water, disappearing trees, unsustainable business practices, not enough time for women with the demands of supporting families and communities, and being stuck at home during the COVID pandemic.

"Women are becoming increasingly effective at influencing the many facets of climate solutions," Caitlyn observed. "Educating these powerful women about solar cooking felt like the rainbows we saw after the downpours in Scotland because solar cooking addresses every single one of those challenges."

Michael engaged in policy discussions with key leaders on behalf of the InterEnvironment Institute and assisted CBI, in addition to helping Solar Cookers International by moderating two of its press conferences and promoting solar cookers with a variety of officials and organizations.

Shortly before leaving for Scotland, Michael learned that the state of California was going to issue a climate-certified bond for more than \$460 million to pay for the new very-green Natural Resources Agency headquarters. This is a big deal



Photo/Alan Bigelow

Curtis Park residents Caitlyn Hughes and Michael Paparian promoted solar cookers to government officials and non-governmental organizations.

in the environmental finance world and confirms that a bond is financing a project aligned with global climate goals of keeping global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is the first climate-certified bond issued by the state. It signals that the state is adding infrastructure finance to its climate leadership portfolio.

Michael was able to arrange a briefing at COP26 with Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, his staff and Climate Bonds chief executive Sean Kidney, to discuss California's climate goals as an example for other government and financial leaders.

Michael met with several members of the Armenian delegation (including the deputy environmental minister) following a happenstance conversation in the security line. Further consultations on overlapping interests on environment and finance are likely and a trip to the Armenian capital, Yerevan, is possible.

"Watching the younger generation take bold actions such as the 100,000-person march in Glasgow and asking the hard questions inside the venue helped invigorate me," Michael said. "I realized it is time for my generation to step back as the younger generations step up to energetically solve this crisis."



## POINT OF VIEW

# Some surprises in history of 100-year-old house

By Dennis Cusick

A century ago, looking out the front window of their new Portola Way home, Edwin and Ernestine Burns would have seen another new home for sale right across the street.

"A cozy new Curtis Oaks home of 5 rooms," read the ad in *The Sacramento Union*. "Fireplace, screened porch and concrete basement. Large lot with garage."

Several "cozy" new homes were going up in 1921 on Portola Way, which another newspaper ad called "one of the city's best residence districts."

A century later, the Burns home is our home. With its centennial approaching, I started researching the history of our block – in the files of the local newspapers, in city directories, in city and county records, and even in ancestry.com. Some of what I learned surprised me.

Before we bought our house, I already knew that this part of the neighborhood is the Curtis Oaks subdivision. It stretches from Portola Way to Donner Way and from 24th Street to Franklin Boulevard. It was the first chunk of William Curtis' ranch to be sold off for development, in 1907.

I always imagined that our house, built 14 years after the first lots were sold, had to be in-fill in an already thriving neighborhood. Not so.

There were still plenty of vacant lots on Portola Way in 1921. Two weeks before the Burnses signed their deed of trust, the Curtis Oaks Fire Company was called out to put out burning bales of hay in a field at 25th Street and Portola Way. The previous summer, firefighters had set fires in a number of vacant lots to prevent the dry grass from threatening the few existing homes.

"Cozy" the new homes might have been, but they were also modest Arts & Crafts bungalows and cottages, affordable to carpenters, plumbers, police officers, jewelers and machinists. Edwin Burns was a clerk at Thomson-Diggs Co., a wholesale hardware supplier.

Another surprise was how stable

No. 2473 Portola Way



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"It is most desirably situated, at No. 2473 Portola Way, Curtis Oaks. Cement porch and steps; hardwood floors in the two living-rooms; plate glass front window; pressed brick fireplace with writing desk on one side; chain electrical fixtures; beautiful panels in dining-room, that is given further distinction by a large and handsome buffet extending across the width of the room, with windows above. The large cabinet kitchen is all in enamel—both woodwork and walls. It has an unusual amount of cabinet space, magnesite drainboard, built-in ironing board and breakfast nook. Two fine bedrooms, one of them being a sleeping porch bedroom; and each room having an unusually large closet. Complete white enamel bathroom. Screened porch, with wash trays. The terraced lot is 50x121 feet and is especially attractive, with its fine lawns both front and back and high-grade wire fences. Garage and woodshed in rear."



*R.C. Fegans*

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"Thoroughly modern, cozy and homelike, this bungalow is especially desirable."  
— *The Sacramento Bee*, Saturday, Dec. 10, 1921

this neighborhood has always been. Real estate statistics indicate that the average Sacramento homeowner stays in a home about 11 years. Consequently, I expected a title search to be tedious, involving many changes of ownership. Instead, I found just two resident owners of our house in the first 90 years.

Although Edwin Burns died of a heart attack in 1941, Ernestine remarried a couple years later – to former nextdoor neighbor Harry Locke. Ernestine and Harry lived here the rest of their lives. She died in December 1967, Harry a month later.

George Dokos, a Greek immigrant who worked as a cook at Sacramento State University, bought the house in 1968, and lived here until he died in 2005. His widow, Euna, lived here until she died in 2010.

In addition to Ernestine, two other neighboring homeowners from the 1920s were still here in the 1950s, and one of them, Dolly Pearson, lived here into her 90s, in the 1980s.

Of our current neighbors, five have lived in the neighborhood more than 30 years. One neighbor was born in the house her parents purchased about 1950. Another neighbor lives in a house

his grandfather purchased in 1941.

And then there were the celebrities. It is widely known that internationally known furniture designer Ray Eames spent part of her childhood at the other end of Portola Way. But noted artist Wayne Thiebaud also lived on Portola Way, in the 1950s, and future Mayor Phil Isenberg was elected to City Council in 1971 while living in that cozy cottage across the street.

When Isenberg moved a few blocks to a house on Marshall Way, *Sacramento Bee* columnist Tom Arden asked whether he had "given any consideration to moving to the Land Park district or prestige residential areas, befitting a rising young attorney." Isenberg replied that he had not: "I wasn't about to throw away 40 days and 40 nights of door-to-door campaign work. Besides, I have the best people in the world living in my district."

Arden, whose "Backfence Gossip" column ran on *The Bee's* local news page for decades, was himself a resident of Portola Way for more than 30 years.

What came as no surprise to me were the kindness, generosity and sense of civic duty that have always characterized this neighborhood. Ernestine Burns was a poll worker for decades. Of Dolly Pearson at age 90, Arden wrote: "She not only is the matriarch of the neighborhood. She is always the first to volunteer help in time of need." And of Teri Pierini, who lived more than 50 years in a house across the street from Dolly Pearson, a 2017 obituary said, "The home she maintained on Portola Way became a mecca for many neighborhood kids in the area who knew her well and loved her as unofficial neighborhood mom."

We have experienced that warmth and kindness from our first night here, when a neighbor lent us a space heater so we wouldn't have to sleep in a chilly house. Another neighbor gave us an olive tree as a welcome present. We often answer a knock at the door to discover a neighbor with a pot of soup, a bouquet of flowers or a plate of cookies.

The neighbors on Portola Way take care of each other. Always have.

**KATHY  
LES**  
SCNA Board  
Vice President



### *Vice President's message*

## SCNA seeks volunteers to help plan major events

Tiptoeing forward into what is hoped to be a post-COVID future, SCNA is beginning to plan for the return of some traditional events.

In years past, nearly 400 kids and parents gathered for an annual egg hunt and pajama parade in April. Still for kids and parents to enjoy, the event in 2022 will focus less on Easter and more on spring. To plan an event that makes sense for the neighborhood's families, SCNA is creating a steering committee of parents to offer new ideas and help guide planning for the event. Interested? Contact Executive Director Terri Shettle at [terri@sierra2.org](mailto:terri@sierra2.org).

Similarly, SCNA could use help planning Curtis Fest, scheduled for June 26. This arts and crafts fair takes place in Curtis Park, attracting more than 100 artisans and about 1,500 attendees. Food trucks,

music and booths make this a popular event. If you are an artist or resident interested in helping plan Curtis Fest 2022, also contact Terri Shettle at [terri@sierra2.org](mailto:terri@sierra2.org).

SCNA will also pivot away from the annual crab feed in February due to the rising cost of crab. Instead, February Feast will offer a to-go dinner on Feb. 11 prepared by La Famiglia Catering. See details below.

Other SCNA annual events scheduled to return in 2022 include the Home & Garden Tour, April 23; the neighborhood yard sale, May 14; and Music in the Park, the last Saturdays in June, July and August.

The annual Wine Tasting event is expected to return in October 2022 in a different form. Planning is just beginning.

## February Feast fundraiser Feb. 11

February Feast, an SCNA fundraiser on Feb. 11, will be a chance to enjoy a three-course lasagna dinner for two prepared by La Famiglia Catering at the Sierra 2 Center.



The menu includes caprese skewers to start, followed by either

Lasagna Bolognese (meat) or Vegetarian Lasagna Alfredo, accompanied by garlic bread sticks and

Caesar salad, and topped off with cannoli for dessert.

Tickets may be purchased starting Dec. 1 at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org). Dinners for two are \$75. Red and white wines may be purchased for \$20 per bottle.

These to-go dinners will be available for pickup Feb. 11 at the rear door of Sierra 2 by special order in advance.

Additional offerings will include links to romantic classic movies, a trivia contest and a raffle for those who purchase tickets.

— Kathy Les

## SCNA members will vote at annual meeting Dec. 1

The SCNA board will summarize its actions for the past year and SCNA members will vote to fill board member vacancies at the annual SCNA membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 1 via Zoom.

Current SCNA members will be sent an email with the Zoom link on Dec. 1 to vote for board members via online ballot. This information will also be posted online at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org). To vote, you must attend the Zoom meeting.

To be eligible for SCNA resident membership, you must live within SCNA boundaries – west of Highway 99, south of X Street, east of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, and north of Sutterville Road.

SCNA bylaws say only current resident members can vote. You can learn more about SCNA membership at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org).



Become  
an SCNA  
member:  
[sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org)

### *Notes from Nov. 3 SCNA board meeting*

## Treasurer reports reduced revenue shortfall

SCNA's revenue shortfall was down to \$11,000 for the first quarter of fiscal 2021-22, "stopping the bleeding to a large degree," Treasurer **John Bailey** reported at the Nov. 3 SCNA board meeting. Revenues included \$60,000 from block and one-time users. There was \$131,000 in the checking account and \$426,000 in SCNA's portfolio.

Because the solar panels on the Sierra 2 Center are outdated, the board decided to remove them and make necessary roof repairs. SCNA hopes to discuss with the city during upcoming lease negotiations how to make Sierra 2 Center a green building with financial help to replace the solar panels. New lease language is expected from the city by the end of the year.

Events planned for 2022 include a winter dinner in association with a local caterer, Egg Hunt and Home Tour in April, Yard Sale in May and Curtis Fest in June. Music in the Park is expected to proceed as normal in 2022, but the Wine Tasting will likely return in a different form. Hosting a crab feed is no longer cost-effective.

Executive Director **Terri Shettle** reported that the new garden in front of the Sierra 2 Center is mostly installed. Marketing director **Heather Hogan** is preparing signs that will identify the plants.

The Yoga Center will remain as a tenant through the end of its lease in June.

**Dan Pskowski** reported on the presentation to the Neighborhood

Concerns Committee by Volunteers of America, which operates the X Street Navigation Center. To date, 57 guests were housed at the center. Volunteer opportunities were available. At a recent Navigation Center Advisory Committee meeting, neighbors expressed opposition to installing tiny homes under the freeway and urged that a list of alternative sites be developed.

Nine homeowners have agreed to include their homes in the proposed Montgomery Way Historic District. Dissenting homeowners were invited to attend the November SCNA board meeting, but none were present.

The board approved a letter urging the city to enforce fireworks restrictions during upcoming New Year's Eve celebrations. The board

also approved a letter in favor of the California Air Resources Board's proposed emission standards for small off-road engines.

**John Mathews** requested that letters written by SCNA over the last few years be posted on the [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org) website for the membership's review. Shettle agreed to ask Hogan to create a "filing cabinet" for letters on the website.

Mathews, who donated a Sierra School 1926 class photo to Sierra 2, will have it displayed in the Sierra 2 office.

Pskowski announced he would not run for re-election to the SCNA board.

The next meeting of the SCNA board will be the annual general membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1 on Zoom.

— Bruce Pierini, board secretary



## Angel Tree program returns to Sierra 2

By Stacy Gray

For the sixth year, neighbors are helping the Salvation Army make sure needy children get gifts through the Angel Tree program.

Sierra 2 Center staff had the Christmas tree ready with Angel tags on Nov. 10. Within a week, 26 tags had been selected and four tags with gifts had been returned. The tree had an additional 74 tags waiting for that special someone to come grab one or two.

This year, the Angel tags have both

a "wish" and a "Gift Wish L." The wish is the gift the child would like to find under the tree. Gift Wish L is the gift that a parent, guardian or someone at the Salvation Army thinks the child may like. The tags also have sizes of shirts, pants, shoes and coats.

People who select Angel tags have until Dec. 14 to bring the gifts to the Sierra 2 office. Givers should return the bottom portion of the Angel Tree tag taped to a gift.

For more information, contact Stacy Gray at [stacy@sierra2.org](mailto:stacy@sierra2.org) or 916 452-3005, ext. 200.

## Light Up Curtis Park adds caroling this year

The Sierra 2 Center staff invites Curtis Park residents to adorn their outdoor spaces with lights and decorations to celebrate the end of 2021.

Light Up Curtis Park spaces can be registered for the "People's Choice" competition at [sierra2.org/holiday](http://sierra2.org/holiday), beginning Nov. 29.

Voting will be online. Winners, to be announced Jan. 4, will receive gift cards donated by local businesses.

Neighbors are also encouraged



to take to the streets in song from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 11 and 18. Caroling captains can register at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org) and gather a festive group to wander the

neighborhood together. A free book of songs will be posted online for singers to download.

Caroling "zones" will be posted at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org) by the previous Friday so residents can be ready for the performances. — Heather Hogan



Photo/Judy Green Scheible

## Sculptural homage to railroad workers

A chrome sculpture of a muscular man about to pound railroad spikes has been installed at Crocker Drive and 10th Avenue in the second phase of the Crocker Village commercial district. "It's primarily an homage to the men who built the Transcontinental Railroad," developer Paul Petrovich explained in an email to Viewpoint. "When finished, he will have a sledge hammer in his hands with a hammerhead identical to the type used by the spike drivers." The sculpture has a belt buckle engraved with the name of Petrovich's father, Alexander John Petrovich. "That is my homage to him and the strength he instilled in me," Petrovich said. The sculpture is the work of Colorado-based artist Sean Guerrero, who scours the West for old car bumpers he can repurpose into his art. Guerrero also created "Spirit," the horse sculpture at Safeway at 19th and S streets.

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# Homeless shelter nears capacity in less than 2 months

By Kathy Les  
and Mimi Budd

The X Street Navigation Center, which was built to house 100 homeless people from the immediate vicinity, was approaching its capacity within two months of opening.

The goal has been to recruit guests from nearby blocks where five major encampments became established in recent months. Rather than focus on individuals, the emphasis has been on recruiting and accommodating small groups already living together.

"Community is really important to people," explained Amani Sawires-Rapaski, chief operating officer for Volunteers of America, operator of the center, who spoke to SCNA's Neighborhood Concerns Committee in October.

Of those entering the center in its first five weeks, 73% were chronically homeless, 44% over age 55, 63% male, 59% Black, 7% veterans, 56% mentally ill, 43% disabled and 7% HIV positive. The population had grown to 98 by mid-November, but Sawires-Rapaski expected the demographics of the residents to hold steady.

Many guests have a long history of trauma and a high incidence of drug use (75%), much of it intravenous. Guests are not drug-tested before entering, but are encouraged to enter drug treatment.

"Nobody is service-resistant once you figure out how they want to be served," Sawires-Rapaski said.

The focus is to get guests housed again, preferably within six months, so additional homeless people can take

advantage of the center's program.

It takes a high level of trust building to recruit guests into the center, Sawires-Rapaski emphasized. She is pleased that 10% of guests have been self-motivated to seek drug and alcohol treatment and 30% have been engaged in employment services.

The center has three caseworkers and is trying to hire two more. That's in addition to 13 support staff and three managerial staff.

The center is a partnership of 20 agencies, including Volunteers of America and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency.

For those concerned about the remnants of encampments nearby, Sawires-Rapaski offered encouragement that Downtown Streets Team, a local organization, will engage center residents to help clean up litter and debris within a two-block radius of the center.

Concerns about remaining encampments, homeless behavior or the center itself should be reported to the city's Department of Community Response at 311.org by email or by phone.

Volunteer opportunities are available to assist center residents with food service and supplemental self-improvement efforts including mentorship, financial literacy, drug-free activities and one-on-one adoption to provide meals and/or gifts.

For volunteer information, contact community engagement coordinator Victoria Monroe at [vmonroe@voa-ncnn.org](mailto:vmonroe@voa-ncnn.org) or call 916 265-3978.

Updated data about the center can be found monthly at <https://www.shra.org/X-Street-Navigation-Center>.

## LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

Local live music concerts continue. Masks may be required. Questions? Check the venue websites.

### THE SIDE DOOR

2900 Franklin Blvd.

<https://www.thesidedoor.net>

All shows 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20 • Vaccination card & mask required

Dec. 11 ....Shelley Burns (West Coast jazz vocalist)

Dec. 17 ....Forever Goldrush (Country, folk, blues)

Jan. 8.....Webster, Walton & Edwards (Mumbo Gumbo vocalists)

Jan. 22.....Rita Hosking (Americana, bluegrass)

### TWO RIVERS CIDER CO.

4311 Attawa Ave.

<https://www.tworiverscider.com>

All shows 6:30-9 p.m. unless otherwise noted

Table reservations suggested.

Advance tickets/tables available. Food truck. Outdoors with heat lamps, mini-firepits and blankets. Adjoining indoor venue is now open.

Vaccination cards required for indoor shows.

Dec. 2 ..... Line dancing for all with Trinidad Stassi – 5:30-6:30 p.m.

\$10 & pint, \$15 & flight

Dec. 2 ..... Todd Perez (acoustic) – free show

Dec. 3 ..... Be Brave Bold Robot (Indie rock) – \$10

Dec. 10 .... East Wind Band (Funk/soul/R&B) – \$20

Dec. 12 .... The Crescent Katz (Humor/traditional jazz) – \$15-\$30; 4-6 p.m.

Dec. 16 .... Line dancing for all with Trinidad Stassi – 5:30-6:30 p.m.

\$10 & pint, \$15 & flight

Dec. 16 .... J.B. Barton (Honky tonk country) – free show

– Mindy Giles



The Crescent Katz will perform humor/traditional jazz at Two Rivers Cider Co. Dec. 12.

Photo/Brandon Au

### HOLIDAY CARD DRAWING CLASS

Show the joy of the season through a hand-drawn holiday card. Bring your pencils and pens to create cards with Cara Gregor. We'll illustrate with pen and ink and use graphite paper to make carbon copies of your designs.

Five blank cards with envelopes, black fine-tipped pen, pencils and graphite paper are provided. Bring whatever tools you wish to add color to your drawings.

**Saturday, Dec. 4 • 10-11 a.m., Room 7 • Fee: \$20**  
Advanced registration required; attendance is limited.



## AT SIERRA 2 CENTER The LEARNERY Cultivating Curious Minds

### INTUITIVE ABSTRACT PAINTING WORKSHOP

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*Due to health concerns related to the spread of the coronavirus variants, events listed below may change. Please contact groups directly with questions.*



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**Intermediate Taiko Drumming**  
3-week class

Previous taiko experience required  
Tuesdays, starting Nov. 9  
7-8:30 p.m. in Studio 1; \$75  
Register: kristyoshiro@gmail.com

### FITNESS

**U-Jam Fitness**

All ages and fitness levels  
Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Studio 1  
Dr. Tracie Hall-Burks  
Backrowdiva2014@gmail.com

### GENTLE YOGA

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.,  
Room 12  
Fees: \$60/8 classes; \$30/4 classes;  
\$10/drop-in.

### STRENGTH & BALANCE

Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon, Room 11  
Wellness program fees  
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fee to instructors.

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Byron, Lohan36@sbcglobal.net

### OTHER

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Karen, karensharp51@gmail.com

**Friday Way Out**  
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**The Senior Center will be closed Dec. 20-28.**

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**BOOK CLUB**

2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Meets on Zoom

**Dec. 13:** "The Glory Road"  
by Anita Garner

**Jan. 10:** "Migrations," by  
Charlotte McConaghy

**NONFICTION BOOK CLUB**

3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon,  
Sierra 2 Green  
behind Sierra 2 Center

**Dec. 16:** "Metahuman:  
Unleashing your Infinite  
Potential," by Deepak Chopra

**LIFE HISTORY WRITING**

Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

**STITCHERS CIRCLE**

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2-4 p.m. Room 11.

**OPEN ART STUDIO**

Fridays, 12-3 p.m.  
Room 11

### EDUCATION

**MY STORY PROJECT**

Mondays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

### FITNESS

**GENTLE YOGA**

Wednesdays, 10-11:15 a.m.  
Fees: \$60/8 classes; \$30/4  
classes or \$10/drop-in. Room 12

**STRENGTH & BALANCE**

Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. Room 11  
**WELLNESS PROGRAM fees**  
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### CARDS & GAMES

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9 - Phil Pluckebaum



11 - Phil Pluckebaum



17 - Jay Heiman



23 - Marbella Sala



29 - Andrés Ramos



32 - Andrew Becker

## Decision near on new map of City Council districts

By Bruce Pierini

The Sacramento Independent Redistricting Commission continues to solicit community input as it narrows its focus in redrawing City Council district boundaries for the next decade.

Individuals and groups submitted 35 proposed district maps by the commission's Nov. 7 deadline. SCNA's Neighborhood Concerns Subcommittee on Redistricting submitted a map and its rationale.

Each submission had to satisfy the algorithms of seven major criteria for all districts, including maximum deviation of 5% from the target population of 65,815 for any district, contiguous borders, and other statistical variables showing that the maps were

not gerrymandered.

In redrawing district boundaries, the commission is considering population changes reported in the 2020 U.S. Census, avoiding diluting minority and ethnic communities' representation and political strength, identifying communities of social and economic interest, preserving neighborhoods, maintaining contiguous boundaries and balancing all eight districts' populations.

On Nov. 18, the commission staff presented its 10 semi-finalist maps, which were evaluated for serious consideration before six finalists were selected. The SCNA map was among the top 10, but wasn't among the six finalists.

Three of the six finalist maps (Nos. 9, 11 and 23) would keep the "appendix" or extension of District 5 south along Highway 99 to Meadowview Road, and would put the Land Park, South Land Park and Pocket neighborhoods together in District 7.

The three other finalists (Nos. 17, 29 and 32) would delete the "appendix," which SCNA's proposed

map also would do, and would put Curtis Park, Oak Park, Land Park and South Land Park into a single District 5. However, one finalist (No. 32) would put part of Land Park in District 4, along with the central city.

All six finalists would remove the Colonial Heights neighborhood from District 5 and place it in District 6.

Commissioners are looking at 2020 U.S. Census demographic data, such as race, ethnicity and household income, in evaluating the six finalist maps.

The commission is accepting written comments on the six finalists at

<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Clerk/Services/Redistricting/Comments>.

The commission scheduled two additional opportunities for oral comments – Dec. 1 and 8 – when speakers will be limited to two minutes each. The final map will be revealed at the commission's final meeting Dec. 16.

## Schenirer defuses tension over 'tiny homes' proposal

By Bruce Pierini

A Nov. 9 webinar sponsored by SCNA answered questions regarding a controversial city proposal to shelter up to 400 people under the WX Freeway between 18th and 24th streets in what are called "tiny homes."

Some attendees anticipated fireworks, given the extensive pushback from several neighborhood associations and the larger public. But, within the first 15 minutes, City Councilmember Jay Schenirer defused the situation.

"I don't think this proposal is going anywhere," Schenirer said. "One, because of the litigation. Two, the multiple contracts we currently have with developers and others for parking under the freeway. And three, the pretty large amount of opposition that we've had from this neighborhood, Land Park and Newton Booth

around this issue. Sometimes it's not worth the battle."

Schenirer's mention of litigation was a reference to a pending lawsuit accusing the city of failing to follow California's environmental quality law, which requires public disclosure of significant environmental effects of a proposed discretionary project.

In addition to Schenirer, panelists included Danielle Foster, the city's housing policy manager; Chris Jones, president of Hope for Sacramento and a board member of Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association; and Jeff Stowell, architect with Silva Stowell Architects and treasurer of the Broadway Business Partnership. SCNA board member Lily Harris was the moderator.

The expected contentious debate turned instead into a discussion of other city efforts to help the homelessness problem, including alternatives to tiny homes.

Jones, one of the most prominent critics of the tiny

homes proposal, said his preferred alternative would be something like Haven for Hope, a campus-based, centralized model away from residences and businesses in San Antonio, Texas. That city achieved an 80% reduction in homelessness after creating Haven for Hope in 2011, Jones said.

Skepticism regarding Jones' alternative regarded finding 20 or more acres of land in the city for such a campus. Jones suggested a city-county effort, including federal and state funding, philanthropy and land swaps could assemble the needed acreage.

Stowell called for city help to address vandalism, inadequate police protection and what he characterized as Councilmember Katie Valenzuela's indifference to the needs of businesses.

A video and transcript of the 90-minute Tiny Homes Webinar are available at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org).



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## Partners and partnerships mean so much to community

Over the years, I have been fortunate to collaborate with a significant number of partners in my work on the City Council. Today, I'd like to highlight two organizations that have just completed a project in the district benefiting the Oak Park community – Kaiser Permanente and the Sacramento Kings.

Just before Thanksgiving, I stood with representatives of Kaiser and the Kings to cut a ribbon at a new basketball court at McClatchy Park in Oak Park. This effort resulted from a couple of phone calls noting the poor condition of the old basketball court – blocked off with concrete barriers, now replaced by new fencing – as well as a bit of history of the work that we have accomplished at the park over the last decade.

City and state funding over the last decade helped to build the physical infrastructure of the Oak Park Farmers Market, the Joyland children's playground and spray field,

**JAY  
SCHENIRER**  
City  
Council  
Member  
District 5



new restroom facilities and a skate park, resurfacing the tennis courts, and a significant amount of work on the baseball/softball fields, bleachers and scoreboard.

Providing a safe, positive environment for our young people is critical. The new basketball court complements all of the accomplished work and is a nice finishing touch to the park itself.

My point today is that we can never do it alone, and that support from the community – in this case Kaiser Permanente and the Kings – can make a world of difference to those in



Photo/Hilary Coy

Sacramento Kings and Kaiser Permanente partnered in the resurfacing of the basketball court at McClatchy Park. Jay Schenirer and Supervisor Phil Serna participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony with others from Kaiser and the Kings.

the community.

This is a long way around to say thanks to all of our partners, current and past. I appreciate what you do

for the city and District 5. I look forward to continuing to work with you in supporting our youth and our community. Thank you!

## SMUD solicits comments on proposed ward changes; Herber says she'll seek second term

By Dennis Cusick

SMUD is asking its customers to comment on or before Dec. 15 on proposed changes to the boundaries of four of its seven wards, changes that became necessary because of population imbalances identified in the 2020 Census.

The customers who would be affected reside at the northern edge of the utility district's service area, which includes most of Sacramento County and parts of Placer and Yolo counties. The proposed changes – identified as Options 1 and 2 – would shift some of the population from Ward 5 to Ward 7, and part of Ward 2 to Ward 1.

Curtis Park is in Ward 4, represented by Director Rosanna Herber, who announced Nov. 2 that she would run for a second term next year.

Herber, a former SCNA president, was elected to the SMUD board in 2018, replacing Genevieve Shiroma, who had been a SMUD director for 20 years.

"I think I've kept all the promises I made in 2018," Herber wrote in an email to Viewpoint. "SMUD rates are lower than most utilities in California, our power is reliable and green, and SMUD continues to be a strong community partner."

Ward 4 is an irregularly shaped area on the southwest border of the service area. Its boundaries are not proposed to be changed because its population of 236,451 customers is within 5% of the average ward size. In contrast, Ward 1 is more than 5% below average, while Ward 5 is more than 5% above average. Because Wards 1 and 5 are not contiguous, customers had to be shifted from Wards 2 and 7 to bring all of the wards within 5% of average,



Rosanna Herber

as federal court decisions require.

Even though no alterations are proposed in Ward 4's boundaries, that could change as the result of public comments. The first comment posted on SMUD's website, by a customer identified only as Jon M., suggested that "ward boundaries should be as compact as possible and without appendages that give the appearance of gerrymandering. Wards 1, 3, and 4 have such appendages that should be removed in the process."

While the southern part of Ward 4 is roughly oval-shaped south of Cosumnes River Boulevard, the ward also includes a relatively narrow "appendage" to the north, including the Curtis Park, Land Park, South Land Park, Greenhaven and Pocket neighborhoods.

The proposed ward changes can be found at [smud.org](http://smud.org) with a search for "2021 redistricting."

Comments on the proposed ward changes can be made in writing by sending an email to [redistrict@smud.org](mailto:redistrict@smud.org). Comments also may be made orally at a virtual workshop from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 15 by sending an advance request to speak at the workshop to [PublicComment@smud.org](mailto:PublicComment@smud.org).

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# New state law requires cities to diversify housing in single-family neighborhoods

By Andrea Rosen

Prior to the enactment of Senate Bill 9 in September, Sacramento city officials were already discussing various ideas for the upcoming 2040 General Plan revisions that would permit a greater array of housing types in predominantly single-family neighborhoods.

When SB 9 becomes state law on Jan. 1, some of those ideas will be included in an emergency city ordinance expected to be adopted in December.

The stated policy goal of SB 9 is to streamline housing permitting that allows a minimum of two residential units per single-family parcel, an effort that could increase housing density, depending on developers' propensity to build such housing types.

Prior to SB 9, up to three residential units were permitted on a single lot under the existing accessory dwelling unit (ADU) ordinance, though ADUs are limited in floor area – up to one 1,200-square-foot unit or two 600-square-foot units. R-1 lots with existing duplexes could add up to two ADUs for a maximum of four units per lot.

Key provisions of SB 9 include:

- Required approval of two dwelling units per single-family parcel. Units must have at least 800 square feet of floor area.
- Required approval of a lot subdivision into two lots if a variety of limitations are met, such as resulting minimum lot sizes of at least 1,200 square feet. Up to two dwelling units per lot could be built if at least one unit is owner-occupied for at least three years.

## Several neighborhoods including the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association are objecting to SB 9 as overreach by state government.

- Establishment and application of objective zoning and design standards.
- Administrative approval of applications that “pass” the requirements with no public hearing required, meaning that an application must be passed or failed based on an objective checklist of requirements.

Like other state land-use laws, there are many exceptions and limitations. For example, the law excludes properties in historic districts and farmland. It builds in provisions to prevent demolition of rent-controlled properties and the like. By requiring administrative approval, these applications avoid environmental review because the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to administratively approved construction. Short-term rentals, defined as fewer than 30 days, are not allowed in units permitted pursuant to SB 9.

The city can exercise discretion in implementing the new law in some areas. For example, city staff have said SB 9 applicants may not also take advantage of the ADU ordinance, setting up an “either/or” choice for developers. This decision will cap the number of allowed units on currently zoned single-family lots as well as any newly created split lots.

Maximum height and lot coverage for R-1 zoning remains as is. Side and interior yard setbacks for new structures cannot be greater than 4 feet. The new law permits a requirement of one off-street parking space per unit unless the parcel is within one-half mile walking distance of a transit corridor or major transit stop, or if there is a car share within one block. The city's existing infill housing design standards will continue to apply.

Several neighborhoods including the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association are objecting to SB 9 as overreach by state government. Other neighborhood objections include the elimination of public input due to administrative approval and potential threats to the tree canopy on the assumption that trees will be permitted to be removed for housing construction. Others complain that the city should be incentivizing an increase in construction of smaller homes for first-time homebuyers instead of duplexes, which are typically, though not always, for rent. Others simply complain that the state law ignores the public's preference for single-family residences.

The SCNA board has not taken a position on SB 9, though it did write letters to the city concerning the city's goal of diversifying housing types in the 2040 General Plan, which would increase density in single-family neighborhoods.

An initiative to cancel all of SB 9 through amendment of the California Constitution has been submitted to the California Attorney General's office by some local elected officials. If it qualifies, it could be on the November 2022 statewide ballot.

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Photo/Judy Harper

Red, Rachel, Delphine, Grayson and Nike.

## From Brooklyn to Curtis Park

Three Brooklynites recently moved to Portola Way. Grayson Castro and Rachel Sima and their daughter, Delphine, are happy with their decision to settle in Curtis Park after a stint downtown. The family shares their new home with blue Great Dane Nike, bunny Mochi and a new rescue dog.

It's only been three months since they purchased their house, but the family already feels at home. Neighbors have left cookies in the shape and color of their "old" house and have invited them for movies on the lawn. They have enjoyed outdoor evenings with neighbors.

The couple wanted an older home on a tree-lined street. They were familiar with the neighborhood through Sierra 2 Center events.

Sima describes Curtis Park as "a dream of a community and much more than we bargained for." She is a portrait and event photographer/videographer with her own business, Rachel Sima Photography, [www.rachelsimaphotography.com](http://www.rachelsimaphotography.com). Castro is an emergency room nurse at UC Davis Medical Center. Delphine attends preschool at Arteria Beast's Academy of Play and Whimsy.

— Andrea Rosen

## Maggie's Table at Casa Garden opens Dec. 1 for breakfast and lunch

By Dennis Cusick

Maggie Estavillo twice applied for the job of head chef at Casa Garden, the restaurant run by a nonprofit board that generated \$3.4 million for the Sacramento Children's Home during the restaurant's 46-year existence.

"Someday" she would work there, she said to herself, even though she didn't get the job either time. "Lo and behold, someday came," she said recently while preparing to reopen the restaurant Dec. 1 as Maggie's Table at Casa Garden at 2760 Sutterville Road.

"I'm taking the name of Casa Garden to honor what was here for many years," she said. "Groups that have been here for decades, if they want to come back, we'll accommodate them."

Casa Garden, which had five paid employees and a volunteer crew of 200-plus, shut down during the pandemic. Its governing board, Los Niños Service League, decided to cease operations permanently as of Feb. 1 of this year. At the time, the Children's Home director of philanthropy, Todd Koolakian, said the home's leadership hoped to attract "some sort of revenue-generating new purpose to the restaurant space."

Enter Maggie Estavillo and her "someday" dream. Born in Sacramento, she attended Bret Harte Elementary School from kindergarten to third grade. "I grew up around here, so I am familiar with how tight-knit the community is," she said.

While she was a child, her family moved to Hawaii, where she became familiar with Polynesian cuisine, some of which will show up on her menu, on which "everything is fresh-scratch."

She has experience as a restaurant kitchen manager and for more than a decade she has operated Maggie's Catering.

Maggie's Table will be open for breakfast and lunch weekdays, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday



Photo/Carol Blackman

Maggie Estavillo will serve Hawaiian French toast made with Hawaiian sweet bread, special syrups, toasted coconut and macadamia nuts. "I want guests to feel like they're in Hawaii – with foods I grew up with," she said.

brunch, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturdays will be reserved for special events. To reserve space for a private party, call 916 385-8366.

Estavillo is encouraging customers to bring presents for children and place them under the Christmas trees in the dining rooms. She will pass the gifts along to the Children's Home or to a local charity for homeless children.

Susan MacCulloch contributed to this report.

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# Student Support Center provides vital resources



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SIN**

The Student Support Center at Bret Harte Elementary School, which opened nearly 30 years ago as part of California's Healthy Start program, is one of the oldest in the Sacramento City Unified School District.

The district has about 26 student support centers, which provide services for students with needs that may otherwise create barriers to learning. The centers connect families to basic items such as clothing, food and housing. They also provide mental health referrals and crisis intervention services.

Center coordinator Liz Sterba celebrates her 10-year anniversary with Bret Harte in December. Her



passion for serving students began while she pursued a degree in child development at Sacramento State University.

"I really just fell in love with the mental health side of the work (in education)," Sterba said. She is also a credentialed school social worker and is working on becoming a licensed clinical social worker. "I really wanted to be the most effective advocate I could for our kids and I felt that level of expertise was really helpful."

The center uses a multi-tiered system to meet the needs of students and families on the Bret Harte

campus. Sterba likens the tiers to the shape of a triangle. The bottom tier of the triangle is universal support that every child in the classroom receives. Next is strategic intervention, which helps connect families to basic needs. The top of the triangle, the smallest tier, focuses on individual intervention for students and families in crisis or in need of specific mental health support.

During the 2020-21 school year, Sterba and her college-level interns worked with kids in a virtual environment. "Last year we focused a lot on the bottom tier just trying to give different coping skills to kids," she said. "We were going in and teaching different mindfulness techniques."

Nearly 70% of Bret Harte's students received some level of support from the center last year. Sterba saw an increase in requests for basic needs at Bret Harte and throughout the school district during the pandemic.

One improvement since returning to in-person learning is that Sterba now carries a district-issued cell phone, which allows her to connect immediately with families.

The center, located in a trailer on the school's soccer field, is open Tuesdays and Thursdays during school hours. Sterba is also available throughout the week by phone.

Curtis Park residents have worked with the Student Support Center over the years. This holiday season, residents can adopt a Bret Harte family from the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. Sterba also recommends supporting organizations that Bret Harte students and families may rely on, such as Birth and Beyond, Read On tutoring, the Sacramento Food Bank, the Assistance League of Sacramento and the Black Child Legacy Campaign.



Photo/Lauren Gothard

Center coordinator Liz Sterba is flanked by social work interns Kacie Hurlimann, left, and Sarah Hoseny.

"The center is an extension of the school and we're here to support our kids," Sterba said. "One of the most important things that kids need, in addition to the extra resources we provide, is a safe, happy and healthy school community."

To connect with the Student Support Center, contact Liz Sterba at 916 826-3050.

...

The PTA will host a workday in the school's garden from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 18. For more information, contact the school's front office.

**See's fundraiser ending**  
Bret Harte's See's Candy fundraiser ends Dec. 3. To support Bret Harte, order candy at <https://tinyurl.com/jn7x9z5r>.

## COVID infection rate down slightly in 95818

By Mike Scheible

The COVID-19 infection level dropped somewhat in November in the 95818 ZIP code area, according to recent data. There were 58 new infections in the 30 days ending on Nov. 22, compared with 77 in the 30 days ending on Oct. 18. Seven new cases were recorded during the week ending Nov. 22, a welcome improvement over the more than 40 cases recorded weekly in August.

While small, the decline in cases locally is relatively good news considering the recent national

trend of cases rising by 25% since Nov. 1.

However, avoiding another winter surge is very much in doubt. Despite wide availability and the authorization of free vaccines and/or boosters for the 95% of the local population over 4 years of age, the fully vaccinated rate in mid-November stood at only 76% of those eligible.

Curtis Park has about 5,000 residents. It 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 at less

than the ZIP code area.

Sacramento County does not provide COVID data based on vaccination status. However, Kings County, Wash., which includes Seattle, does. Seattle's experience shows the value of being vaccinated. Over the last month, being vaccinated reduced the risk of COVID infection by 83% and the risk of dying from COVID by 94%.

If you or family members have yet to be fully vaccinated or receive a booster, you might want to reconsider, given the high level of protection provided by the vaccines.

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Viewpoints on Pickle Family

Born and raised on Marshall Way, Jamie grew up reading Viewpoint and helped to deliver it to the neighborhood.

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