

# VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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April 2022

## President's message

### SCNA seeks support for Sierra 2 Center in Big Day of Giving

*Omicron restrictions set back goal of positive cash flow*

By Bill Hoover

I truly did not want to write again about the Sierra 2 Center's need for additional financial support.

However, SCNA's financial recovery has been delayed by at least one quarter because of restrictions relating to the Omicron variant. Instead of writing about positive cash flows, we remain in negative territory. Our ongoing loss is a little over \$3,000 per month.

Over the last two years, Curtis Park folks and others have been incredibly generous, donating more than \$130,000 to SCNA in the Big Day of Giving fundraising campaigns. These donations, coupled with various grants and the Paycheck Protection Program, provided the safety net to get us through 2020 and 2021.

Unfortunately, federal and state programs are no longer available. Until Sierra 2 is fully up and running, this leaves us with only a single available source of funds – our neighbors and friends.

This year's Big Day of Giving is May 5. I respectfully ask you to consider a donation to SCNA.

SCNA's primary focus is to cover recent losses and repay our Reserve for Replacement Fund. To accomplish this, we have a \$50,000 goal.

As SCNA enters its fourth fiscal quarter, it appears likely that we may soon turn the corner and begin normal operations at Sierra 2. Demand for the facility is high, but our biggest issue now is ensuring we have enough staff to handle the bookings.

Applicants have been few, but Executive Director Terri Shettle reports that she has hired three new staff and is evaluating a fourth individual. This helps but we still need at least three more hires. A lack of staff to manage increased use of the facility could limit our support capability.



New Principal Roxanne Wolfe greets students in front of Bret Harte Elementary at the start of the school day.

Photo/Joan Cusick

## Principal wants kids to play

*Bret Harte's new leader says learning should be fun*

By Lauren Gothard  
and Lindsey Sin

Growing up in a family of educators, Roxanne Wolfe always knew she wanted to become a teacher.

As a kid, Wolfe realized her love for teaching while assisting her mother, a special education teacher, during one of her summer school classes. Wolfe led her own small group, teaching students how to tell time and count money.

"I loved when I was able to teach somebody something and they were successful," Wolfe said. "I knew I was going to be a teacher; there was nothing else I planned for."

Early in her teaching career, Wolfe also set her sights on becoming a principal, thanks to the encouragement of a former principal and mentor. From that point on, Wolfe made it her goal to teach every grade from kindergarten through middle school. She has a master's degree in multicultural/bilingual education and a doctorate in educational leadership. She also holds a multi-subject teaching credential.

Two months ago, she became Bret Harte Elementary School's new principal.

Wolfe brings a wealth of experience and abundant energy to Bret Harte Elementary School, having worked 20 years as a teacher in Sacramento City Unified School District and the last 4 ½ years as an assistant principal.

She is passionate about education and believes children learn best by having fun in the classroom and trying things out for themselves.

"Learning happens through fun and engagement and conversation," she said. "I tell my teachers lessons should be short – 15- to 20-minute teacher talks. The students should have the majority of the time to play, experiment, touch and work with each other in collaborative groups."

Wolfe likens teaching to a team sport. The coach teaches the players everything they know during practice, but doesn't play on the field during the game. "This is how it should be in our classrooms: student driven and student conversations, and the teacher is coaching from the sidelines," she said. The advantage is that students are able to explore and experiment according to their own style of learning, rather than sitting through a lecture.

*Please see Principal, Page 8*



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## POINT OF VIEW

### City's 2040 General Plan

Writer is concerned about distribution of low-income housing.

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### He walked with history

Before living here, Marc Grossman was Cesar Chavez's aide for 24 years.

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## Tiny twins of Donner Way

Twins June (in striped pants) and Nora have joined the Rudman household of Donner Way. Their mother, Sammy, is a mental health therapist. Father Willie works in the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. At 3 weeks, Nora weighed 6 pounds, June 5 pounds, 4 ounces. Although the twins were sleeping most of the time, it has become "less and less each week," Willie said. Willie and Sammy and their dog Eddie have lived in the neighborhood since 2017.

Photo/Joan Cusick



## Electric mowing is the future

At a demonstration held last month in Curtis Park, SCNA Board President Bill Hoover, center, and board member Erik Fay, right, listen to Orlando Jarquin of Mean Green Mowers on the latest state-of-the-art all-electric mower, designed for large-scale park mowing.

Photo/Kathy Les



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

## UOP plans construction on campus in Oak Park

By Sue Hida

The University of the Pacific has asked the city to rezone nine properties on its Sacramento campus, which includes McGeorge School of Law and parts of the School of Health Sciences and education and business programs.

Two of the parcels are parking lots – at Marshall Way and 33rd Street, and at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street in Oak Park – on which the university proposes to construct academic buildings. Both buildings would be designated for a mix of administrative uses and student housing in support of

the health program, which expanded to the Sacramento campus five years ago.

No changes are proposed on the other seven parcels, which would be rezoned to "bring existing uses into alignment" with zoning laws, the university said in its presentation to the city. The seven parcels, which would be rezoned from R-1 to R-4 or from R-4 to C-2, are the core of the McGeorge campus, in the area from 32nd to 33rd Streets and from Montgomery Way to Marshall Way. They include classrooms, offices, a library, a student center and student housing.

McGeorge School of Law dates

to the 1920s, when attorney Adrian McGeorge started teaching night classes downtown at what became the Sacramento Law School. The school, renamed in his honor, moved to Oak Park in 1957 and merged with the University of the Pacific in 1966.

Ten years ago, UOP developed a strategic plan to "redefine the role of Pacific's three current locations to meet our educational vision." It was intended to "create a single distinctive brand for Pacific that is well recognized and distinguishes us from our peers."

In practical terms, the dental school in San Francisco and law school in Sacramento would expand their

missions to include "market-responsive graduate programs in health, food technology, policy and education," utilizing the strengths of the existing professional programs.

A review of the strategic plan five years later reported that the San Francisco campus had expanded. The Sacramento campus had added programs in public policy and administration, education, health and analytics.

Six students graduated last December from the School of Health Sciences' Sacramento campus. Another 10 are scheduled to graduate in December 2022.

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## Save the dates! SCNA events resume

SCNA outdoor activities cancelled during COVID are now making a return. The neighborhood's traditional community events are now being planned for the spring and summer. SCNA board and staff remain cautiously optimistic about the following activities.

The annual yard sale will be May 21. To get on the Yard Sale map, please register at [sierra2.org](https://sierra2.org). SCNA will advertise the event in the *Sacramento Bee*, *Viewpoint*, Craigslist, Facebook, Twitter, and other media and news outlets.

Curtis Fest will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 26 in William Curtis Park. This year's event is in June, instead of our traditional August date, in hopes of cooler weather.

### Curtis Park Neighborhood Yard Sale



To the delight of many neighbors and friends, the bands have been booked for Music in the Park.

As in past summers, these concerts will begin at 6 p.m. on the last Sunday of June, July and August. UnSupervised with R&B, soul and funk will perform June 26. Vivian Lee Jazz Quartet will jazz up July 31. Classic rock band On Air returns Aug. 28.

Still reeling from losses due to COVID, SCNA continues to rely on the neighborhood's annual generous support. This year's Big Day of Giving is May 5; please donate to SCNA/ Sierra 2 Center at <https://sierra2.org/event/bdog22/>. Help us return strong.

### Music in the Park



## VIEWPOINT

### Editors

Dennis Cusick and Susan MacCulloch

### Managing Editor

Carol Blackman

### Contributors

Mimi Budd, Will Carlton, Joan Cusick, Anne da Vigo, Erik Fay, Mindy Giles, Lauren Gothard, Judy Green Scheible, Judy Harper, Sue Hida, Lily M. Harris, Heather Hogan, Bill Hoover, Rick Jennings, Kathy Les, John Mathews, Dan Murphy, Nancy McKeever, Bruce Pierini, Dan Pskowski, Patti Roberts, Ginger Rutland, Andrea Rosen, Mike Scheible, Jay Schenirer, Terri Shettle, Lindsey Sin, Kelsey Wehls

### Proofreaders

Fran Coletti, Carol Ann Hackley, Lily M. Harris

### Ad Manager

Fran Coletti

### Distribution Manager

Gerre Buehler

## Notes from March 2 SCNA board meeting

### SCNA board hosts Councilmember Jennings

The SCNA board had its first meeting with District 7 Councilmember **Rick Jennings**, who was accompanied by two staff members – chief of staff **Dennis Rogers** and community affairs director **Henry Adkisson**. Jennings expressed his delight to be representing Curtis Park as a result of district realignment. He explained his staff structure and whom to call when help is needed. “We’re here to serve,” Jennings said.

Treasurer **John Bailey** reiterated SCNA's financial losses to date as \$10,000 for each of the last two quarters, totaling \$20,000 as

projected. The Paycheck Protection Plan forgiveness notice of \$106,000 was received, canceling any potential debt there. Bailey and Sierra 2 Executive Director **Terri Shettle** noted that due to world circumstances the portfolio had declined from \$412,000 to \$402,000 just in the last few weeks. Bailey suggested \$50,000 as a fundraising goal for the upcoming Big Day of Giving to help recoup losses.

**Gerre Buehler** reported that reduced facility usage resulting from COVID and its variants in recent months has resulted in continued revenue losses and that Sierra 2

Center operational costs are also higher. She suggested this could require increases in some rents. The Sierra 2 lease renewal with the city is moving forward; discussion of solar panels will be added to a list of requests for city funding of capital items.

Development Committee co-chair **Kathy Les** highlighted that SCNA outdoor activities that were cancelled during Covid are now making a return. Plans are in the works for the neighborhood Yard Sale, Curtis Fest and Music in the Park. Big Day of Giving will take place on May 5.

Neighborhood Concerns

Committee co-chair **Bruce Pierini** gave a brief overview of the exchange of ideas with Save Sacramento Neighborhoods regarding city implementation of SB9 and SB10, two new state laws that changed single-family zoning. A presentation on comparison of positions between SCNA and SSN was planned as part of the board meeting but was deferred until April. SCNA President **Bill Hoover** put out the call for other board members to get involved with NCC on this and other issues.

The next SCNA board meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. April 6.

– Kathy Les, vice president



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## May 9 Candidates' Forum for District Attorney at Sierra 2

The SCNA Board is hosting District Attorney candidates Thien Ho and Alana Mathews from 6:30 to 8 p.m. May 9 in Curtis Hall at the Sierra 2 Center. There will be candidate presentations followed by Q&A. Outdoor seating will be provided. The League of Women Voters will moderate the event.

The election is Tuesday, June 7.



Thien Ho



Alana Mathews





SIERRA 2 CENTER  
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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## APRIL ACTIVITIES

*Due to health concerns related to the spread of the coronavirus variants, events listed below may change.*

*Please contact groups directly with questions.*

### FITNESS

#### NEW!

#### Gentle, Breath-Centered Yoga

Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
4:30-5:40 p.m., Room 9  
Saturdays, 8:30-9:40 a.m.  
(no class 2nd Sat), Studio 2  
mad@madyoga.org, 916 290-2693

### MUSIC

#### Beginning Taiko Drumming

3-week class  
No experience necessary.  
Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.  
Studio 1; \$45

#### Intermediate Taiko Drumming

3-week class  
Previous taiko experience required.  
Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Studio 1; \$75  
Register: kristyoshiro@gmail.com

### ART

#### Glass Acts Mosaics Collective

All skill levels welcome.  
Tuesdays, noon-3 p.m., Room 11  
Drop-in fee is \$12; monthly fee  
is \$40 (includes supplies)  
Karen, karensharp51@gmail.com

### MARTIAL ARTS

Yi family Tai Chi/Qi Gong,  
Shaolin Martial Arts  
Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.;  
Saturdays, 10-11 a.m., Studio 2  
Byron, Lohan36@sbcglobal.net

### ADULT DANCE

#### Two Rivers Dance Center/ River City Taps

Mondays-Thursdays/Saturdays  
For times, contact Richard, richard@  
tworiversdancecenter.com

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### LEISURE

#### BOOK CLUB

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

Meets on Zoom

**April 11:** "Fun Home,"  
by Alison Bechdel

#### NONFICTION BOOK CLUB

3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon,  
Room 12

**April 21:** "Last Best Hope:  
America in Crisis and Renewal,"  
by George Packer

#### LIFE HISTORY WRITING

Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

#### STITCHERS CIRCLE

A social group for sewers,  
knitters and more.  
2nd Thursday & 4th Monday,  
2-4 p.m. Room 11.

#### OPEN ART STUDIO

Fridays, 12-3 p.m., Room 11

### CARDS & GAMES

#### MAHJONG

Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon.  
Room 12

#### PINOCHLE

Fridays, 12-3 p.m., Room 12

#### FUN BRIDGE (Contract)

Thursdays (except 2nd  
Thursday), 1-3 p.m. Room 12

### NEW!

#### Starting April 19

#### BUNCO

Tuesdays, 12-3 p.m., Room 12

#### WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Meet new friends and discover  
new hobbies. 2nd and 4th  
Wednesday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### FITNESS

#### GENTLE YOGA

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

#### STRENGTH & BALANCE

Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon,  
Room 9

#### WELLNESS PROGRAM fees

apply. Punch cards: \$60/10  
classes; \$35/5 classes or \$10  
drop-in. Purchase cards in the  
Sierra 2 office or pay drop-in  
fee to instructors.

### EDUCATION

#### MY STORY PROJECT

2nd Monday, 12-3 p.m., Room 12

## Taylor's Kitchen hires chef

Taylor's Kitchen has announced the hiring of new head chef Rob Lind, who previously spent nearly a decade as head chef of Ella Dining Room & Bar.

Taylor's Kitchen will remain closed until the second week of April to give Lind time to hire and train staff.

"We're now working with our new and soon-to-arrive kitchen staff to retool the menu and reassess the

post-pandemic restaurant," general manager Keith Fergel wrote in an email to customers. "We've also been fixing equipment, doing some spring cleaning as well as putting systems in place to gear up for the incoming chef."

Before the reopening, Taylor's Kitchen will host a couple of private events that do not require a full kitchen staff, Fergel said. — Viewpoint staff

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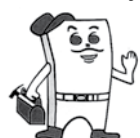
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April 1.....John Green & The Side Dooros (1960s-70s California Classic Country)

April 2.....Webster, Walton & Edwards (Mumbo Gumbo's vocalists)

April 8.....Ray Bonneville & Richie Lawrence (Bluesey Americana Raconteurs)

April 15.....Mike Beck & John Green (Western Americana from a Cowboy Poet)

April 16.....Doug Pauley & The Cover Girls (Sisters band sing the new Great American Songbook)

April 29.....Kathy Kallick Band (West Coast-based Grammy-winning bluegrass)

April 30.....Chris Webster & Nina Gerber (Alluring soul, folk & jazz ballads)



Photo/Courtesy of Ray & Richie

Richie Lawrence (keys, accordion, vocals), left, and Ray Bonneville (vocals, guitar, harmonica) will perform April 8.

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Vaccination cards required for indoor shows.

April 1.....Guilty Pleasures (Rock Covers) Free show.

April 2.....Lantz Lazwell and the Vibe Tribe (Funk/blues/rock)

April 5.....Mikaela Davis & Southern Star (Jam/psychedelic/rock)

April 8.....Jonathan's Dead (Jam)

April 9.....Acme Soundtracks (Yacht rock) Free show.

April 14.....Joe Craven and Jonny Mojo (California folk rock)

April 15.....Sean Lehe Band (Psychedelic rock)

April 16.....Easter Carnival variety show - 7-10 p.m.

April 18.....Possum (Grateful Dead night)

April 22.....Steadydrop (Ska/rocksteady/reggae) Free show.

April 23.....Ballin' That Jack (Jam band)

April 28.....Line Dancing For All (It's a class!) 5:30-6:30 p.m. Free.

April 29.....Wild Ginger (Acoustic folk/Americana) Free show.

April 30.....Katie Rae & the Sizzle (Soul/blues/R&B)

— Mindy Giles

## MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA will be served May 8



Celebrate Mother's Day with us. The Novel Tea, in partnership with The Learnery, has planned a high tea with special treats. A photographer will take photos in the room and courtyard that can be downloaded through an emailed access link.

There will be a presentation of the history of Mother's Day.

The menu includes a traditional tea service on vintage china with two selections of limited-edition tea and three-tiered stands with a tier of savories and sandwiches, then scones and breads and another with desserts. Bring proof of completed COVID vaccination.

**Sunday, May 8, 12:30-2 p.m. Fee: \$50 per person**

**Garden Room & Courtyard • Advance tickets required: [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org)**

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## City is asking for voluntary reduction in water use by residents, businesses

Happy April!

As we are all acutely aware, Sacramento – and California in general – suffers from chronic drought problems. On March 15, we ended a 66-day period without any measurable rainfall, an all-time record for the winter months.

Here's an update about the ongoing partnerships between the City of Sacramento and the State of California to improve water conservation.

In mid-March, California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot emphasized the need to take steps in our personal lives to conserve water. "Now is the time to make conservation a part of your life," he said, adding that we should assume that we won't get much additional rain for the rest

of the year. "Save water every day. Use only what you need."

In response, the city is asking all residents and businesses to voluntarily reduce water use by 15%.

To make this an easier task, the city is offering increased rebates for residents willing to get serious with their conservation efforts. Homeowners interested in converting their grass lawns to drought-friendly turf can receive \$1.50 per square

**RICK  
JENNINGS**

**City  
Council  
Member  
District 7**



foot of replaced turf (up to \$3,000). This and many more rebate programs are available. We hope to add you and your neighbors to the thousands of Sacramento residents who have applied to the River Friendly Landscape program.

Find more information on the city's water conservation efforts, as well as programs to receive a rebate, at [www.cityofsacramento.org/drought](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/drought). Together we can do our part to improve water conservation and fight the drought.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding water conservation or any topic, please contact me at [rjennings@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:rjennings@cityofsacramento.org). As always, it is my immense privilege to be your councilmember.

Have a great month!

## Marijuana business has positive impact on city

When I ran for City Council 13 years ago, I never imagined being the "cannabis guy" on the council. However, once marijuana was legalized statewide in 2016, I quickly realized its potential for the city. It was legal. We could ignore it and see the black market flourish. Or we could regulate marijuana to ensure the population's health and welfare plus bring in significant revenues for the city.

There was no model in California, but with staff's help and support, we designed and implemented a system that allowed permitting and licensing of marijuana dispensaries, delivery, distribution, manufacturing and labs. We also started an equity program

**JAY  
SCHENIRER**

**City  
Council  
Member  
District 5**



designed to support those impacted by the "War on Drugs" to enter and profit from the industry.

We always knew that at some point we would need to step back and review what was built and make changes to ensure its sustainability. Now is that time.

The council's Law and Legislation Committee, which I have chaired

for 11 years, initiated a series of five committee workshops on the cannabis industry's status in Sacramento. The workshops will use a recently completed report as the foundation for discussions about city decisions, objectives and impacts regarding marijuana.

The report finds that marijuana is the ninth-largest industry in Sacramento, with annual economic activity totaling more than \$2 billion. Net revenue to the city's general fund last year from cannabis taxes was more than \$25 million. Marijuana businesses account for more than 12,000 jobs.

In spite of historical biases against a now-legal industry sector, the

marijuana industry in Sacramento has had a positive impact on our community: increased general fund revenues, thousands of jobs and even safer communities, resulting from security measures we require at their facilities.

Updating our codes and regulations to reflect what we've learned is complicated. Not all my colleagues agree with investing the time and energy into marijuana.

I disagree. I believe the investment is very much worth it, given marijuana's role in the Sacramento economy. I look forward to continuing the work in creating and sustaining the marijuana industry in Sacramento.

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## POINT OF VIEW

# Is economic segregation city's solution to more housing?

*Editor's note: Jennifer Holden is lead of the Mangan Park Neighborhood Association. In a story in Viewpoint's March issue, she expressed the concern that low-income housing is being placed in the city's poorest neighborhoods. We asked her to elaborate.*

By Jennifer Holden

The city's 2040 General Plan envisions "a greater array of housing types in Sacramento's residential communities" to "help create more equitable and inclusive neighborhoods."

These are great sounding generalities we can all support. We all want to end historical inequities in housing, and we all want more affordable housing. But what are the specifics about housing production contained in the city's recently passed Housing Element of the 2040 General Plan?

Sacramento's current goal is to build 45,580 new housing units by 2029.

City figures show vacant and underutilized sites have the potential to accommodate 26,794 additional housing units – 16,132 of them low-

income, 6,572 moderate-income and 4,090 above-moderate.

How are these numbers going to be accomplished?

An analysis of the Housing Element's Vacant and Underutilized Sites Inventory suggests the city may try to meet its affordable housing needs by building thousands of low-income infill units in areas that are already low in community resources, such as grocery stores and banks, while gentrifying other existing areas and creating large, new subdivisions of above-moderate housing without any low- or moderate-income units.

Existing lower-income areas such as the South Area (Meadowview/Parkway/North Laguna) and Fruitridge/Broadway (Oak Park east to Avondale) appear to be destined for a disproportionate share of low-income units.

The sites with the largest suggested infill numbers in the South Area are all within an area bounded by Franklin Boulevard, Florin Road, 24th Street and Meadowview Road. Three parcels along Meadowview Road are suggested for nearly 1,400 low-income units and no moderate or above-moderate units. Another parcel, on Indian Lane,

is suggested for 690 low-income and 230 moderate-income units, but no above-moderate-income units. A parcel at 7150 Franklin Blvd. is suggested for 378 low-income units and 377 moderate-income units, but no above-moderate-income units.

In contrast, the largest sites in the South Area for above-moderate-income housing are all near the Delta Shores shopping center. No low- or moderate-income housing is suggested there.

Curtis Park is in the Land Park Community Plan Area, which has 21 parcels of a combined 17 acres listed for 432 lower-income units, and no moderate or above-moderate units on those parcels. The majority of those parcels are on the major commercial corridors south of Sutterville Road and in Upper Land Park, a triangular neighborhood west of Riverside Boulevard, south of Broadway and east of the Sacramento River.

No low-income units are suggested for the Curtis Park and Land Park neighborhoods.

The Land Park neighborhood has six parcels listed with less than an acre of combined area for six above-moderate units, but no lower-income

or moderate-income units suggested anywhere in Land Park.

Curtis Park has nine parcels with 1.07 total combined acres. They are suggested for 21 moderate-income units and six above-moderate units on Burnett Way, 21st Street, 24th Street, Sutterville Road and Franklin Boulevard.

Despite a lot of talk about ending redlining with the 2040 General Plan, the Sites Inventory suggests the city is receptive to continuing its practice of redlining – intentionally creating high-income, high-resource areas separate from low-income, low-resource areas.

I call upon all good people of conscience to watch the City Council agendas and pay close attention to any agenda item about the 2040 General Plan, and attend any community meetings that might be held to discuss the Plan.

Will the city truly deliver on the promises in the 2040 General Plan?

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The Sacramento Housing Element can be reviewed at: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Long-Range/Housing-Programs/Housing-Element>.



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# Longtime aide says Cesar Chavez inspired lifetime commitment

By Andrea Rosen

Marc Grossman often says he is asked “how a Jewish boy like me got hooked up with the likes of Cesar Chavez.”

His standard answer: “Well, I love history and I realized it would be more meaningful to be part of history than just read about it.”

Recently, Grossman spoke to SCNA’s Ad Hoc Racial Justice Committee about his 24 years as Chavez’s spokesman and speechwriter, his continuing work with the United Farm Workers and the Cesar Chavez Foundation, and his insights into the ongoing struggle for justice.

Grossman and wife, Maria Lopez, communications director for Assemblymember James Ramos, have lived on East Curtis Drive since 1995, the result of a tip from a longtime friend, Mayor Joe Serna, who knew about a house for sale near his own home. Grossman, now 72, says he loves living where he does and looking out at the park through his office window.

Grossman was a history student at UC Irvine in 1969, hoping to become a journalist, when he volunteered to help the United Farm Workers’ grape boycott, which caught the attention of Chavez. Grossman would go on to work for Chavez in a variety of tasks, including speeches, press releases, correspondence and as his personal aide.

When Chavez died, in 1993, *The Sacramento Bee* reached out to Grossman for comment. “Last night, Cesar was in good spirits, enthusiastic, he was up,” Grossman told a reporter the day of Chavez’s death. “He did complain about some weakness when he was doing evening (yoga) exercises, (but) he seemed to be in good health.”

Grossman considered Chavez a demanding boss. Chavez was a driven leader who kept a grueling schedule of meetings, marches, phone calls and organizing. Grossman walked thousands of miles with Chavez. On one such walk in 1975, they started at the Mexican border, headed north to Salinas, drove to Sacramento, and then walked south through the San Joaquin Valley to union headquarters in Keene, southeast of Bakersfield – a journey of a thousand miles in 59 days, designed to bring attention to the need for justice for farm workers, including better working conditions, wages and workplaces.

Grossman credits Chavez’s commitment to nonviolence, and his deep and abiding respect for all people, including those at the bottom of society, for the inspiration he felt that resulted in his decision to work for La Causa his entire life. Chavez inspired those who worked with him to achieve their full potential.

Grossman and Serna became friends as a result of their work in the farm workers’ movement. Grossman managed Serna’s campaign for re-election as mayor in 1996, and lobbied to have the city’s Plaza Park renamed Cesar Chavez Plaza the following year. When Serna died, in 1999, Grossman was one of eight pallbearers at his funeral.



Getty Images photo by Cathy Murphy

Marc Grossman, left, alongside Cesar Chavez in the Central Valley during his 1,000-mile march up and down California over 59 days in summer 1975. The grueling trek came through Sacramento as it informed agricultural workers of their new rights under the just-enacted state farm labor law.

Grossman continues to handle media inquiries and communications for the Cesar Chavez Foundation, and lobbies state government on behalf of the United Farm Workers for a wide variety of reforms, including voting rights that will enable farmworkers to vote.

Will the work ever end? Grossman quotes Chavez: “In our work, La Causa, the fight for justice, you only lose when you stop fighting – you only lose when you quit.” Grossman learned many lessons from Chavez and has been satisfied with his early choice to be part of making history instead of merely studying it.

Grossman says: “The lesson was clear – Victory is ours when we persist, when we resist, and when we refuse to give up.”

## Principal: Impressed with staff’s willingness to support her ideas

Continued from Page 1

Wolfe is encouraged by the warm reception she has received from students. “What I like the most are the kids. They made me feel so welcome. They are so curious,” she said. “That was a great surprise when I got here. They’re helpful and kind.”

She is also impressed with the staff’s dedication to the students and the school, as well as their willingness to support her new ideas. Wolfe has been meeting with staff to set goals for the future and



Photo/Joan Cusick

Principal Roxanne Wolfe

learn what teachers need to be more successful in the classroom.

She sees collaborative relationships with staff, students and the community as crucial to reaching her long-term goals for the school.

One of her goals is to raise academic achievement, “to make sure that Bret Harte is comparable to the surrounding area... if not better.”

Wolfe would also like to see intramural sports and extracurricular activities added to the campus. She’s also looking to the more immediate future to offer movie nights, dances and multicultural events when COVID restrictions are lifted.

Another long-term goal is to increase student enrollment at Bret Harte. Wolfe recognizes how much the school has to offer families and students.

Dedicated staff, engaged students, an active PTA and a unique classroom design help make Bret Harte a welcoming neighborhood school. “It’s a beautiful campus that you don’t normally see,” she said. “The design is quite unique with its pods, which is another space that can be utilized for learning.”

Wolfe encourages prospective families to tour the school or participate in school-wide events.

“We’re open,” she said. “You want to come see us, check us out. My door is always open.”

Wolfe is confident that anyone who takes the time to check out Bret Harte will fall in love with it, just like she did.

If you would like to schedule a tour, call the front office at 916 395-5190. The principal also can be reached by email at Roxanne-Wolfe@scusd.edu.

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