

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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June 2022

'Politically correct' UnSupervised to perform at June Music in the Park

By Mindy Giles

The first of three free Music in the Park summer concerts will be in William Curtis Park on Sunday, June 26.

The nine-piece band, UnSupervised, was founded by Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna on bass and former Yolo County Supervisor Mike McGowan on percussion. They bring R&B, soul and funk music favorites to the outdoor neighborhood party from 6 to 8 p.m. following the Curtis Fest Artisan Fair.

The Curtis Park neighborhood holds a special place in Serna's heart because he and his family, including his late father, Mayor Joe Serna, lived in three different Curtis Park homes over the years, all located in Phil's supervisorial district.



Ready to entertain is UnSupervised, founded by Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna. From left in front, Nick Avdis, Jeff Townsend, Brandi Jauregui and Phil Serna. Back row, José Hermocillo, Mike McGowan, Bill Abbott, Danny Sandoval and Chris Ledesma.

Photo/Phil Serna

"Sacramento's most politically correct band" also includes West Sacramento City Councilmember Chris Ledesma (guitar) and Curtis Park residents Jose Hermocillo (trumpet) and Bill Abbott (guitar), as well as

Nick Avdis (lead guitar), Jeff Townsend (drums) and Danny Sandoval (tenor sax).

UnSupervised's new lead vocalist is Brandi Jauregui, who recently replaced another founding band member, Cindy Tuttle, the first female mayor

of West Sacramento who now lives in Hawaii. Jauregui will show off her vocal chops on cultural touchstone classics by Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, The Commodores, The Rolling Stones,

Please see Music, Page 12

Candidates for district attorney share views at forum

By Andrea Rosen

The two candidates running for Sacramento County district attorney – Alana Mathews and Thien Ho – spoke at a forum sponsored by SCNA on May 9 in Curtis Hall.

The more than 50 attendees were invited to submit written questions. The League of Women Voters, which moderated the proceedings, sorted and curated the questions.



Thien Ho



Alana Mathews

Mathews is a former prosecutor, law professor, community leader and a mother.

Ho is an assistant chief deputy district attorney. He has been in the district attorney's office since 2004. He has also taught as an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law.

Mathews and Ho are both the first in their families to attend college.

Please see DA, Page 3

4 seek to replace Schenirer in redrawn Council district

By Dennis Cusick

Four candidates are competing in the June 7 primary election to replace Jay Schenirer as the City Council member for the newly drawn District 5, which includes only that part of Curtis Park east of Franklin Boulevard.

Schenirer, who has been the councilmember since 2010, decided not to seek re-election this year.

The four candidates:

Tamiko Heim, 43, is an infrastructure manager who has worked for the state for more than 20 years. She bought a home at age 26, helped found

a neighborhood association in North City Farms, and has served on the city's Active Transportation Commission. Her emphasis as a councilmember would be to "protect home values by improving neighborhoods." She advocates opening a new library branch in Oak Park.

"As your councilmember, I want to be a bridge between the neighborhoods, the business community and public safety to continue moving our city forward," Heim said in a statement to *Viewpoint*.

Schenirer has endorsed Heim to succeed him.

Caity Maple is a nonprofit director
Please see Election, Page 10

Newborns on Curtis Way

Lots of strollers navigate sidewalks in neighborhood's new baby boom.
Page 9



Breath-centered yoga at Sierra 2

Experienced instructor Madeleine Lohman offers accessible class 3 days a week.
Page 11



Student art premieres

Show in cafeteria brings families back to Bret Harte for first time in years.
Page 12





Food, music, fun, crafts on June 26

By Heather Hogan

Curtis Fest Artisan Fair returns June 26 for its 14th year under the shade of trees in the middle of William Curtis Park.

Curtis Fest will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., followed by Music in the Park from 6 to 8 p.m. featuring Mr. Cooper (the childrens' favorite) and Unsupervised.

More than 70 vendors will offer handmade wares of all kinds at Curtis Fest. Longtime participants Bear Heart Jewels, Lionel's Place, Arizmendi Ceramics, Littlefield Art, Dania Lukey, and Driftwoods Clothing are returning. New vendors will include Miridae Mobile Nursery, Mostly Just Tired, Warewolf Ceramics, Rase Hall Studios, Made By DKB, Majestic Adornments and Wild Wonders Art Collective.

Booths will be set up back-to-back in pods. Vendor maps and additional information will be available at the Sierra 2/SCNA booth at the north end near the food trucks, which will include Fry Boys, Daisy's Desserts, Kado's Asian Grill, Richeese Burgers, Bangin' Bowls and Portu-Goal.

Live music will be performed throughout the day, opening with Betty Masenko, followed by The Pandemic Jazz Project.

A full day of magic and whimsy for the little ones will be provided by Pixie Tribe fairy troop.

Curtis Fest is sponsored by Realtors Steffan Brown and Paula Swayne, and Grateful Dog Daycare. Music in the Park is sponsored by Realtors Steffan Brown and Larry Easterling, SMUD and City Councilmember Rick Jennings.



Photo/Heather Hogan

Pixie Tribe will provide magic and whimsy at Curtis Fest.

Cooks' tour led here – circuitously

By Dennis Cusick

Catalina Orrego and Paul Remington didn't set out to be cooks – it was just one of many detours their lives took on the way to someplace else.

For several months, Orrego has been offering cooking classes four or five nights a week for up to 10 people in the kitchen of the home on Portola Way where they have lived since November.

Remington is a pizza cook at Masullo Pizza on Riverside Boulevard. "You can call me a pizzaiolo," he said.

Orrego was pursuing a degree in cultural anthropology at UC Santa Cruz when she got her first cooking job. After graduating, she got a kitchen job in San Francisco "and I just never left."

Finding San Francisco too expensive, she moved to Oakland, where she met Remington, who was then working as a teaching assistant. He has a degree in international relations and African studies from Beloit College in his native Wisconsin. But much of his childhood was spent in Africa, where his parents worked for Catholic Relief Services.

Before long, Remington was also working as a cook. Eventually they realized they couldn't afford Bay Area rents, so they moved in 2019 to Madison, Wis., where his parents had retired.

And then Orrego's mother purchased a high-water bungalow on Portola Way as an investment, started renovating and encouraged the couple to return to



Paul Remington and Catalina Orrego in their kitchen.

Photo/Joan Cusick

California. "She said, 'Just come and live in the house in Sacramento,'" Orrego said. And so they did.

In Sacramento, Orrego became affiliated with the Cozymeal cooking class company, which she describes as "like Uber for cooking classes. It's basically a platform to connect customers to cooking classes." Reservations are made and fees paid to Cozymeal, with Orrego as an independent contractor deciding when and what she'll teach.

Classes are from 6 to 9 p.m. When participants arrive, they wash their hands, put on aprons and get to work prepping a four-course meal – Mexican, Thai or Italian. "You learn knife skills and learn different skills in the kitchen," Orrego said. She guides them through food preparation for the first two hours, with the last hour reserved for eating their creations.

Participants have come from as far away as Oakland and Stockton, but

most are from the Sacramento area. One month, they were mostly retirees but generally participants are in their 20s to 40s. There are no age restrictions. She had two 16-year-olds coming one day recently and expected a 7-year-old girl to come with her mother for an Italian night. "It's a pasta class, so that class will be rolling out dough," Orrego said. "It's like Play-Doh, so that class will be really tactile."

Although they had lived in the Bay Area, Orrego and Remington admit that they really didn't know anything about Sacramento before moving here.

"I didn't understand how beautiful it is and how much it has to offer," Orrego said. "We just feel so fortunate to be living in this house, in this neighborhood. Everyone has been so friendly."

To sign up for one of Chef Catalina's classes, go to the Cozymeal website: <https://www.cozymeal.com/sacramento/cooking-classes>.

New neighbors Olivia and Trey Smith at Portola Way

By Kathy Les

Olivia and Trey Smith found their way to Curtis Park quite by accident. When they decided to leave Walnut Creek they knew little about Sacramento except Midtown and that it was where they needed to relocate to accommodate Olivia's retraining as a medical diagnostic sonographer. They remember driving into Curtis Park for the first time and saying "How did we get so lucky?!"

After working in medical research sales for the last three years in San Francisco, Olivia decided to return to school to pursue her passion for healthcare. She was accepted into a special program in Sacramento. Trey works in tech sales and is primarily remote, so the move worked out well for them both. Married just a year ago in June, they now share a house in the 2600 block of Portola Way with their two cats, Sunny and Benny.



Photo/Catalina Orrego

On their front porch are new neighbors Olivia and Trey Smith.

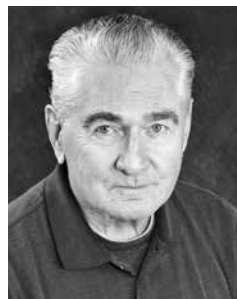
"We love how close everything is and the family friendliness of the neighborhood," said Olivia. They enjoy walking to Hop Garden, Pangaea, Chocolate Fish and Taylor's Market. "We really find ourselves so happy to have stumbled upon such a wonderful neighborhood that suits all of our needs and more."

President's message

Neighborhood comes through again on Big Day of Giving

**BILL
HOOVER**

**SCNA Board
President**



Curtis Park has done it again. SCNA's goal of \$50,000 for the Big Day of Giving was met and exceeded by

approximately \$2,000. We have continued to receive donations, the most recent being \$1,000. Regardless of individual amounts donated, every dollar contributed was important. The result speaks for itself. Read more in Kathy Les' article, Page 10.

May was a busy month and June promises to be the same. As we approach the end of the fiscal year, our financial situation seems to be improving daily. (Big Day of Giving definitely helped.)

SCNA hosted an in-person public

forum in Curtis Hall, an opportunity to see and hear the two candidates for Sacramento County district attorney. After opening the forum, I introduced the League of Women Voters moderator and turned the program over. The League has been a welcome partner in many SCNA forums over the years. Its presence brings neutrality, balance and impartiality.

Candidates Thien Ho and Alana Mathews each made opening remarks and then answered written questions submitted by the audience of more than 50 persons. As a retired prosecutor from that same office who worked for five different district attorneys, I was keenly interested in what the candidates had to say. SCNA board

members John Mathews, Sue Hida, Lily Harris and Andrea Rosen and Sierra 2 staff were responsible for organizing this very well-run forum.

Looking ahead a bit, autumn will be here before we know it, along with board elections. It is another opportunity to serve your neighborhood as an SCNA board member. Without sugarcoating it, the work can be challenging and time-consuming. However, the payoff is knowing you have helped Curtis Park remain a great place to live and raise a family.

If you are willing and able to serve, or have questions, please contact me (or other board members) at terri@sierra2.org.

Notes from May 4 SCNA board meeting

Sierra 2 bookings boost financial outlook

One-time renters and block users have returned to the Sierra 2 Center, tenants are stable and active, and the 24th Street Theatre is in use again, Executive Director **Terri Shettle** reported at the May 4 SCNA board meeting. The improved bookings foreshadow a stronger April-June quarter compared to the January-March quarter that had losses totaling \$56,000, Treasurer **John Bailey** said.

The prior quarter's losses included \$22,000 for unrealized investment losses that are expected to rebound eventually, and \$34,000 in operational losses, about \$5,000 greater than the budgeted loss. The loss in rental revenue due to the COVID-related closure in January was the biggest cause of the budget variance. Depreciation, a non-cash expense, accounted for \$18,000 of loss.

The SCNA investment portfolio is held and managed by Wells Fargo. The committee is seeking a different

investment adviser and has created a list of names to whom a request for proposal will be sent. Bailey encouraged board members to submit other names.

Gerre Buehler reported for the Facilities Committee that tenant leases are up for renewal July 1. She said the executive director has asked the city to de-commission the lift at the southern parking lot entry to the main building due to the excessive cost of repairing it, estimated at \$10,000 to \$20,000. A ramp provides for an alternative entry.

Kathy Les reported for the Development Committee that plans for Music in the Park, Curtis Fest and the neighborhood yard sale were underway. A fall event is also planned with **Shannon Motley** serving as chair. The event, scheduled from 3 to 7 p.m. Oct. 16 at Sierra 2, will bring together neighbors to enjoy food, entertainment and music. The fundraising goal is \$20,000.

Erik Fay reported for the

Neighborhood Concerns Committee that a cannabis delivery business has been proposed at 2122 X St., but there has been no movement to date. Sacramento Police Capt. **Daniel Monk** had noted that there is usually no reported crime increase from this type of business.

The X Street Navigation Center has reported 97% occupancy. Several board members have volunteered to serve meals at the center with additional volunteers being sought.

Matthew Winters of Seventh Avenue has volunteered to check a city-provided air quality monitor in Curtis Park once a week for the South Sacramento Environmental Justice Project. Neighborhoods are concerned about the increased number of jets flying low over Curtis Park and other neighborhoods en route to or from Executive Airport, possibly increasing toxic emissions. Diesel trucks are another cause for concern.

Sacramento State University Professor Emeritus **Rita Cameron**

Wedding, former head of the women's studies program and a Curtis Park neighbor, will discuss implicit bias and critical race theory at the Racial Justice Committee meeting from 8 to 10 a.m. June 8. Email mimibudd@comcast.net or kathy.les321@gmail.com for the link.

Board members **Emily Lemei** and **Shannon Motley** volunteered to attend a newly formed group that will make recommendations to the city on how to repurpose the Sacramento Zoo site after it relocates to Elk Grove. **Bruce Pierini** suggested a botanical garden would be appropriate at the site that is already heavily planted.

The board met in executive session with SCNA attorney **Patrick Soluri** for a discussion of the Petrovich Development Co. lawsuit against the city that named SCNA as a real party in interest. Following this discussion, the board returned to open session for the balance of the meeting.

The next SCNA board meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. June 1 on Zoom.

— *Mimi Budd, board secretary*

DA: Both candidates emphasize work with immigrants

Continued from Page 1

Ho emphasized his background as a Vietnamese immigrant having escaped with his family in a tiny fishing boat in 1976 and spending six months in a refugee camp in Malaysia before coming to California.

Both candidates focused on their work with immigrant communities, the importance of "know your rights" workshops and the need to protect due process rights of immigrants.

The candidates were asked about the fairness of the cash bail system. Mathews said she favored a pretrial risk assessment but wanted it expanded to assess mental health. Ho also supports pretrial risk assessment but emphasized the need to protect victims.

Mathews talked about the importance of using data analysis to track racial disparities in the criminal justice system to stop the school-to-prison pipeline. She prioritizes crime prevention

and measures to stop gun violence. She also stressed the importance of the district attorney being a trusted leader.

When asked about the death penalty, Mathews said the evidence shows it is not a deterrent and that it's racially biased as applied. Ho said he supports the death penalty, but in rare circumstances and in a "totality of the circumstances" approach.

Mathews has been endorsed by the Democratic Party of Sacramento County and Planned Parenthood Mar

Monte. She said she would increase protection against harassment of pregnant women. She also said she has refused to accept financial support from law enforcement organizations in the interest of transparency and accountability.

Ho has been endorsed by District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert and former District Attorney Jan Scully. He noted his experience with the district attorney's office budget, managing prosecutors and more than 100 trials.

Congratulations

to our CURTIS PARK GRADUATES

HIGH SCHOOL

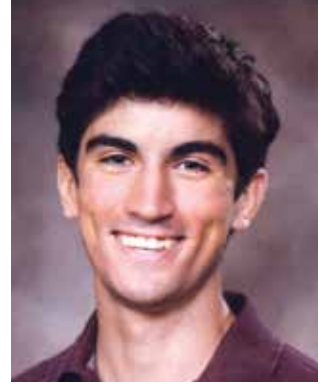
Macy Andrade, daughter of Tiffani and David Andrade of 24th Street, is graduating from C.K. McClatchy. She will attend Orange Coast College and play for the water polo team.



Nina Chenu, daughter of Jeff Chenu and Wendy Holmquist of Sixth Avenue, is graduating from Christian Brothers. She will attend the University of Washington.



Lucas Dawson, son of Gwynnae Byrd and Chris Dawson (and twin brother of Cedeira) of Coleman Way, is graduating from J.F. Kennedy. He will attend Oregon State University to major in mechanical engineering.



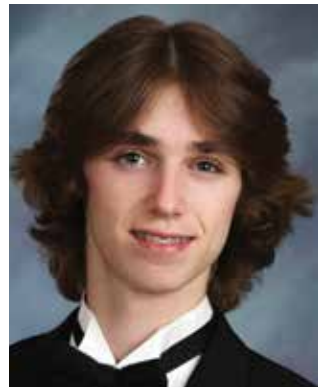
Oliver Birdsong, son of Patrick and Angie Birdsong of Fourth Avenue, is graduating from C.K. McClatchy. He will attend the University of San Francisco to major in architectural design.



Olivia Correia, daughter of Laura and Jay Correia of Coleman Way, is graduating from C.K. McClatchy (HISP and VAPA programs). She will attend Occidental College to study political science and global women's studies.



Jack Ghirardelli, son of Alyssa Ghirardelli of 27th Street and David Ghirardelli of Second Avenue, graduated from Natomas Charter Performing and Fine Arts Academy. He will attend Sacramento State to study physics and music.



Dinara Brown, daughter of Jody Brown of Marshall Way, is graduating from C.K. McClatchy. She will attend CSU Long Beach to major in communications.



Cedeira Dawson, daughter of Gwynnae Byrd and Chris Dawson of Coleman Way, is graduating from C.K. McClatchy. She will attend the University of Oregon to major in political science.



Salem Howes, daughter of Wade and Kathie Howes of 27th Street, is graduating from C.K. McClatchy (HISP program). She will attend the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and be on the diving team.

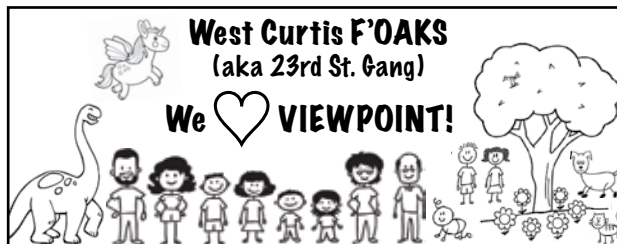


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of Curtis Park

HIGH SCHOOL

Carson Kersieck, son of Jill Correll of Marshall Way and Christopher Kersieck, is graduating from C.K. McClatchy. He will attend Sacramento City College.



Emily Singh, niece of Lantrel and Jessica Stockton of Coleman Way, graduated from Bella Vista. She will attend Sacramento City College in the Pathway to Law School program.



Shane Stockton, son of Lantrel and Jessica Stockton of Coleman Way, graduated from Bradshaw Christian. He will attend UC Riverside to major in psychology.



Elliott Lee, son of Elizabeth Lee of Third Avenue, is graduating from Jesuit. He will attend the University of Oregon.



Cole Spake, son of Valerie Spake of 23rd Street, graduated from Bradshaw Christian. He will attend William Jessup University to study business and English. He hopes to play on the baseball team.



Leo Wagner, son of Ann Clark and Jason Wagner of Castro Way, graduated from West Campus. He will attend Sacramento City College and play for the basketball team.



Simone LeForestier, daughter of Marc LeForestier and Mary-Beth Moylan of Seventh Avenue, is graduating from Christian Brothers. She will attend Northumbria University in Newcastle, England, to study sports and exercise science and to be a goalkeeper with the i2i International Soccer Academy.



Sheila Enos, daughter of David and Sheila Enos of 25th Street, is graduating from Occidental College with a bachelor's degree in politics and double minor. She plans to continue her internship with the Center for Intersectional Media and Entertainment for the summer.



Jonathan Tanihana, son of Becky and Russell Tanihana of 23rd Street, graduated from Sacramento State with a bachelor's degree in communication studies and a minor in recreation administration.



COLLEGE

Eleanor Love, daughter of Terri Hardy and Dennis Love of 27th Street, is graduating from C.K. McClatchy. She will attend the University of Southern California to study public policy.



Aidan Y. O'Brien, son of Susan and Kevin O'Brien of Markham Way, graduated from West Campus. He will attend UC Santa Cruz to study art and design (games and playable media).



Viewpoint wants your story ideas

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

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

Deadline for *Viewpoint* copy is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

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JUNE ACTIVITIES

Due to health concerns related to the spread of the coronavirus variants, events listed here may change. Questions? Please contact groups directly.

BICYCLE SAFETY

Urban Bicycling and Scooting 101
June 27, 6:30 p.m. Curtis Hall
City Transportation Manager Jennifer Donlon-Wyant will give this one-hour class. Topics will include how to check your equipment, rules of the road and tips for families and kids. Free and open to the public.

FITNESS

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

WW Studio Workshop

Th/Fri/Sat, 8:30-10:00 a.m., Room 10
800 374-9191, weightwatchers.com

ADULT DANCE

Two Rivers Dance Center/
River City Taps
Mondays-Thursdays/Saturdays
For times, richard@
tworiversdancecenter.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)
karensarp51@gmail.com

Dancing with Heidi

Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. Adult/Teen
Basic Ballet, Studio 2
Wednesday, 3-4:30 p.m. Adult/Teen
Mixed Level Ballet, Studio 2
Thursday, 6-7:30 p.m. Adult/Teen
Intermed./Advanced Ballet, Studio 1
Thursday, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Adult/Teen
Pointe/Pre-Pointe, Studio 1
dancingwithheidi@gmail.com

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

MARTIAL ARTS

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

Eagle Claw Kung Fu

Monday: 6-7 p.m.
Wednesday: 6-7:15 p.m. Studio 2
Saturday: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Studio 2
Sifu Mary Melliza: 916 802-3144
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LEISURE

BOOK CLUB
2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Meets on Zoom
June 13 – “The Sentence,”
by Louise Erdrich

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

June 16 – “1000 Years of Joys
and Sorrows,” by Ai Weiwei

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

BUNCO
Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Room 12

FUN BRIDGE (Contract)
Thursdays (except 2nd Thursday),
1-3 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.

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

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

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
\$60/10 classes; \$35/5 classes or
\$10 drop-in

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, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

For more information about the new Bunco game, see next page.

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

Advance tickets/tables available. Food truck.

Outdoors with heat lamps, mini-firepits.

Adjoining indoor venue is now open.



Skyler's Pool

Photo/Mark T. Kallweit

Vaccination cards required for indoor shows.

Every Tuesday

Drag bingo with local drag queen Apple Adams

Every Wednesday (7 p.m.)

Trivia night (Free)

June 3PHROGG (Surf rock)

June 4The Verge (So-Cal dance band)

June 5 (9 a.m.) ..Record swap/DJ day

June 10.....Steelin' Dan (Tribute band)

June 11 (12:45-3:45 p.m.)..... Yoga dance party

June 17DJ Stipe record release party

June 18 (noon-10 p.m.) WALNUT JAM FESTIVAL,

featuring Joy & Madness, Skyler's Pool, Forever Goldrush,

ACME Soundtracks, Watt Ave. Soul Giants, Mau,

Loose Engines, Noize

June 19 (9 a.m.) ..Musical equipment swap

June 20.....Saints of Circumstance (Grateful Monday)

June 24No Reason To Cry (Eric Clapton tribute band)

June 25.....Red's Blues (Chicago & Texas blues)

June 30 (5 p.m.)..Line dancing with Trinidad Stassi



Photo/Dustin Hormel

K Street Orchestra concert June 18 at 24th Street Theatre

The K Street Orchestra is set to perform at 1 p.m. June 18 at the 24th Street Theatre.

The orchestra is led by conductor Krystyna Taylor.

The K Street Orchestra started in 2006 with a small number of adult students who had expressed a desire to play chamber music with other beginning string players. Today the orchestra has 25 adult beginner and intermediate string students.

The suggested donation is \$10-\$20. For more information: Krystyna@sacramentostringworks.com.

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Enjoy a painting class with a twist. Unleash your creativity with your favorite beverage in one hand, paintbrush in the other and discover the artist within. No previous experience is required. You'll be guided step-by-step by artist Cara Gregor, who will help you create your own original canvas mixed-media painting of a colorful cactus. Join with your friends or take part solo, bring your favorite drink (wine and beer, no cocktails please), a glass and a snack. Enjoy painting in a casual party atmosphere. An 8-by-10 canvas will be supplied. Buy an art kit or bring your own acrylic paints and brushes. Masks/proof of vaccination required.



Friday, June 10, 6-8 p.m., Room 7
Fee: \$25 for class; \$20 optional art kit (paint and brushes) Advance registration required:
sierra2.org/event/paint-sip-class-cactus/

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.sierra2.org/thelearnery

Bunco: Let the good times roll at the Sierra 2 Senior Center

The term "bunco" is slang for a swindle or confidence trick, but you may know it better as the name of a social game played in homes across the country. It was introduced into San Francisco during the Gold Rush by a crooked gambler who gave its name to "bunco parlors." In the late 20th century, the game was reborn worldwide as a family or group socialization game. Players take turns rolling three dice and accumulating as many points as possible to win each of the six rounds of the game. Gather up your friends and come join us for bunco in the Senior Center every Tuesday.

"We won't be playing for money but instead for camaraderie, coffee, tea and laughter." Social time begins at noon. The game is played from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.



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Politics look different from perspective of 'the spouse'

Life as an elected official isn't easy and it's definitely a marathon, not a sprint.

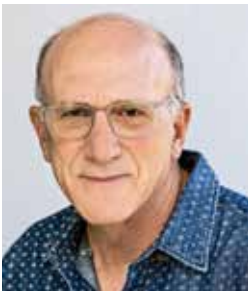
Between the school board and the City Council, I have been an elected official for nearly 20 years. This does not include an additional three to four cumulative years of campaigning for office – another job in itself.

After thousands of nights and weekends, thousands of hours away from home – my kids and my wife, Bina Lefkovitz. I have started to reflect on those years and what accomplishments I have achieved.

Now I find myself in a situation where my wife is running for re-election to the Sacramento County Board of Education. She did not have an opponent the first time she ran, so this is really her first experience in a campaign – certainly where she is the object of both positive and negative comments.

**JAY
SCHENIRER**

**City
Council
Member
District 5**



Knocking on doors, phoning, interviewing for endorsements, raising money – a campaign can quickly and wholly take over one's life. I have great respect for how hard she is working.

Being "the spouse" has certainly been a learning experience for me. Learning what it's like to pick up added domestic duties around the house. Learning what it's like to go knock on doors for someone else. Learning what it's

like to go to an event as Mr. Lefkovitz. And learning what it's like to better understand the stress that public life puts on an individual and her/his family. For myself, I have always been able to compartmentalize my work. My day job, my family, my elected office, and the rest of my life. But this seems to be different.

I recently heard someone telling potential candidates that the campaign was the tough part and that the requirement of an elected official is that you go to a meeting once a week. Hah! Done right, the job is unrelenting, demanding and always under public scrutiny.

Add social media into the mix and the unfettered ability to post without basis of fact or for authentic dialogue. It's exhausting, even with a thick skin and many years of this type of one-sided conversation. I have often thought, "This person does not know me, has never had a conversation with me, and unless

I want to get into an online battle, there's no opportunity to defend myself and they will never understand my value system, why I do what I do, and what I hope to accomplish."

And now I see my wife, who has worked diligently for 35 years supporting the success of young people, facing the same types of very vocal criticism. It's brutal to see that side of politics from the perspective of the spouse.

Democratic elections are intended to hold our civic institutions and decision-makers accountable. As another election nears, my hope is that we hold each other accountable for our actions and not reward the type of behavior described above, in any election.

I hope that good people will continue to run for office, but please let's respect them for the sacrifices they made to get there and even if we disagree, how they can continue to represent us all.

District 7 staff is dedicated to public service

Happy June! Those of you who have received and reviewed your ballots for the June primary may have noticed something a little unusual: I am running unopposed.

I am honored by the support I have received, and I'd like to use my column space this month to reiterate that my approach as your elected representative will be unchanged by this fact.

As your councilmember from now through 2026, here is my commitment to you: Throughout my term, my staff and I will provide you with top-class service both through advocacy and direct assistance. I'm a strong believer in the concept of the servant leader.

My job is to represent you and your community to

**RICK
JENNINGS**

**City
Council
Member
District 7**



the best of my ability, which I have done for the old District 7 for two terms and now am doing for Curtis Park.

To demonstrate my dedication to this commitment, my office has quickly transitioned to providing constituent services and sponsoring events in the new areas of the district, such as the Music in the Park concert series in Curtis Park.

We are happy to have already received numerous contacts from Curtis Park residents, ranging from advocacy letters to requests for constituent services to general comments.

Having long ago made the decision to dedicate our lives to public service, my staff and I are always happy to interact with District 7 residents, and we encourage you and your neighbors to drop us a line whenever you need assistance or want to express your opinion.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about your local government or need any support or service from my office, please do not hesitate to contact my office at rjennings@cityofsacramento.org.

As always, it is my immense privilege to be your councilmember. Have a great month!

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Photo/Isabella Quinonez
Adam and Nicole Quinonez with Beckett, Harrison and baby Chloe.



Photo/Keaton Marcel
In January, daughter Vivette was born to Nancy and Keaton Marcel.



Photo/Travis Lowin
In April, Travis and Sheila Lowin welcomed son Troy to their family.



Photo/Don Whittlebum
Big sister Piper with Wren, born in April to Katrina and Don Whittlebum.

Curtis Way contributing to neighborhood baby boom

By David Knox

You may have noticed a lot of strollers navigating the sidewalks around the neighborhood lately. Contributing in a big way are residents of Curtis Way.

Four babies in the last seven months have been welcomed in one block. In November, Nicole and Adam

Quinonez brought daughter Chloe into the world to the wonder of her two older brothers. In January, daughter Vivette was born to Nancy and Keaton Marcel. And in April, Sheila Lowin gave birth to son Troy with the expert help of husband Travis, and Katrina and Don Whittlebum became parents of daughter Wren.

Some of the older generation on

Curtis Way are enjoying grandparent-hood. Fran and Rand Anderson's grandson Doug (son of Vic) is a year old. Carla and Andy Meyers' daughter Kristin, who grew up and still lives in Curtis Park, gave birth to Lola in February. Janneke Lang, daughter of Jordan Lang and Terri Kerth, gave birth to Piper last summer.

There are also a number of

COVID puppies you'll see on the street and in the parks. They include Willow, Bader, Maude, Poppy and Larry, Kristin's sheepdoodle, probably accompanying Lola on visits to her grandparents.

All this new blood is bringing fresh energy and excitement to the neighborhood. It will be fun to see these young'uns develop.

POINT OF VIEW

World-renowned pianist at home in Curtis Park

By Greg La Traille

Renowned concert pianist Lara Downes, who lives in Curtis Park but frequently travels worldwide on tour, recently gave a performance at the Mondavi Center. She performed "World of Change" by Clarice Assad, music that expresses transformation, both destructive as well as reborn.

One comes away from a Lara Downes concert with more than just a mood. This piece, as well as others on the program, left a vivid impression.

Downes' repertoire encompasses famous, rarely heard and newly commissioned works. She studied with acclaimed musicians in her youth in San Francisco, and then studied in Europe for more than a decade, performing masterpieces and new music.

On her return to America, she discovered the backstories of 20th century music, created by minorities

as well as survivors of war and prejudice. She sensed the effect of this music on American culture and through this emerged a deeper feeling for the love of imagination, beauty and greatness of music.

Concerts and highly collectible albums followed, devoted to music of Billie Holiday, refugee composers from Europe, African-American composers and female composers. Her "America Again" album, featuring music inspired by the Langston Hughes poem "Let America Be America Again," is not to be missed.

Her most recent release, "Reflections – Scott Joplin Reconsidered," reveals through her insightful playing the beauty and poetry of Joplin's rags, which foreshadowed future jazz and New Orleans stride keyboard styles. Downes' album is a must-have of insightful ragtime performance.

Downes is a complex, highly gifted multi-award-winning musician; a resident artist for National Public



Courtesy/Lara Downes

Lara Downes sensed the importance of music created by survivors of war and prejudice.

Radio; a host of "The Green Room," a behind-the-scenes radio series about musicians; and founder of the Rising Sun Music record label.

We're lucky to have such a great artist with us whether she is at home in Curtis Park with her husband, a biology professor, or on tour presenting new music, bringing a deep appreciation of the lives, joys and sorrows and backgrounds of the composers.

Greg La Traille of 10th Avenue is a composer, instructor, visual artist and music critic. He promoted Lara Downes and other performers in the 1990s.

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Police consider Curtis Park a low-crime neighborhood

By Lily Harris

The Curtis Park neighborhood is relatively safe compared to other parts of the city, especially with respect to violent crime, Sacramento Police Lt. Brian Kinney told SCNA’s Neighborhood Concerns Committee on May 18.

Kinney cited statistics showing reported crime in the neighborhood declined 15.4% from 2020 to 2021.

The job of the police is not just to keep people safe but to “help the community feel safe,” Kinney said. He has noticed that a lot of people don’t call the police because they think it’s too much of a hassle, or they’re frustrated about response time, or dispatch tells them to file online.

Kinney attended the committee’s meeting with Capt. Dan Monk. Both work in the department’s South Command.

Monk encouraged the community to say something when they see something. “Certainly, we can’t be everywhere all the time and you know your neighborhood better than we do.

“If something doesn’t feel right, don’t hesitate to call us,” Monk said. “We may not be able to get

out as quickly as you’d like, but the squeaky wheel does get the oil. We’re here to partner with all our communities.”

The department is data driven. When reports indicate increases in incidents, resources are redirected. For example, when the police hear about an uptick in package thefts in a certain area, they will partner with members of the community to drop baited packages to try to catch package thieves in the act. They buy Amazon and Apple boxes with GPS tags. When stolen, the tags go off, dispatch is notified and patrol officers are sent out. The program has been successful, especially during the holidays. Similar bait programs exist for vehicles and bikes.

The police officers stressed that residents shouldn’t hesitate to call. In an emergency, dial 911. If the incident isn’t an emergency, call 916 808-5471 to make a request of service. If you have a bike, register the serial number with the city online, so that if it is stolen and recovered, it can be returned. Kinney urged residents to keep the police accountable. If you’re not getting the services you need, you can call him directly at 916 808-0331 or send him an email at bkkinney@pd.cityofsacramento.org, he said.

Sierra Curtis Park Neighborhood Association 2020 v. 2021			
Crime	2020	2021	% change
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	1	1	0
Robbery (person).....	7	6	-14.3
Robbery (business).....	4	2	-50
Assault w/deadly weapon (firearm).....	1	1	0
Assault w/deadly weapon (no firearm).....	4	10	150
Burglary (residence).....	22	18	-18.2
Burglary (business)	10	11	10
Larceny.....	74	75	1.4
Vehicle burglary	51	27	-47.1
Motor vehicle theft.....	35	31	-11.4
Vandalism	63	48	-23.8
TOTAL	272	230	-15.4

SCNA exceeds \$50,000 goal in Big Day of Giving campaign

By Kathy Les

SCNA has raised more than \$52,000 in the Big Day of Giving May 5 fundraising campaign, exceeding its goal of \$50,000.



After three years of mounting debt from COVID-19 cancellations and closures, SCNA undertook a third year of active Big Day of Giving fundraising to make up the losses. Once again Curtis Park neighbors demonstrated their heartfelt concern for the Sierra 2 Center by giving generously.

Money raised will help fortify SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center going into the second half of the year, following an unexpected required closure in January for a few weeks and attendant cancellations for use of space.

The 15 members of the SCNA board were each asked to raise \$1,000. Four board members pledged to raise \$1,000 and match it with their own money. All were successful. Two board members, Bill Hoover and Mimi Budd, raised more than \$6,000 each from friends and neighbors in Curtis Park.

Of the 245 donations received, 70% were \$100 or higher, up from

60% last year. Sixteen donors gave \$1,000 or more.

Residents posted campaign lawn signs, which inspired their neighbors to donate. The highest donor rates appeared to be from the 2400 block of Curtis Way and the 2900 block of 25th Street. Both streets were peppered with lawn signs.

In addition to the widespread lawn signs, the campaign was assisted by an active social media presence, Viewpoint story and display ads, and direct-email outreach by board members to their neighbors.

Several who donated to this year’s

fundraising campaign cited their love for the activities sponsored by SCNA and their general love for the Curtis Park neighborhood as their reasons for donating.

While SCNA’s fundraising goal last year was \$75,000, the board set a lower goal this year, recognizing that many had generously donated in the two previous years and were likely anticipating higher personal costs.

Summer Moon Yoga, Miridae Mobile Nursery, and Art and Comics by Eben Burgoon helped make SCNA’s May 5 front-lawn festivities lively and fun.

Election: Jennings is running unopposed in District 7

Continued from Page 1

and businesswoman who worked three jobs to finish high school and complete college while sometimes homeless and sleeping in her car. She now owns her home in Oak Park. Maple told *Viewpoint* the “significant issues that plague our great city and prevent us from reaching our full potential ... include lack of affordable housing, skyrocketing homelessness, and poverty. I’m running to bring community voices to the forefront with a focus on solving these complex issues.”

The *Sacramento Bee* endorsed Maple, saying she “has experience challenging deep-pocketed developers and powerful local institutions with the goal of making inclusive development more than a buzzword.”

Chris Baker of South Sacramento was an intern for a councilmember for three years. He completed the Sacramento City Planning Academy and the Sacramento City Manager’s Academy. He credits those experiences with giving him the skills to help bring a grocery store to a food desert in South Sacramento. He ran

unsuccessfully in 2016 for the District 8 seat on City Council as well as the Elk Grove school board.

Kimberly Sow, 55, is an administrative assistant who has lived in Oak Park for eight years. “I believe I am the best candidate for the job as my diverse background has prepared me for this position,” Sow said in a

statement to *Viewpoint*. “My top three priorities are addressing affordable housing, investing in the youth, and gun violence.”

In District 7, which now includes most of Curtis Park as well as Land Park, South Land Park, Greenhaven and the Pocket, Councilmember Rick Jennings is running for re-election unopposed.

Thiebaud exhibition returns to Crocker Art Museum

The exhibition “Wayne Thiebaud: A Celebration” has returned to the Crocker Art Museum through Aug. 7.

Originally planned to honor the 100th birthday of the renowned Sacramento artist in 2020, the Crocker exhibition of paintings, prints

and drawings closed prematurely because of the COVID pandemic.

Since then, the exhibition has appeared in art museums in Toledo, Ohio; Memphis, Tenn.; San Antonio, Texas; and Chadds Ford, Pa.

Thiebaud and his family lived in Curtis Park in the 1950s while he was

an art instructor at Sacramento City College. He went on to teach at UC Davis for more than 40 years. He died last December at age 101.

Another exhibition, “Twinka Thiebaud and the Art of the Pose,” opens June 19 at the Crocker. Twinka is one of Wayne Thiebaud’s daughters.

Breath-centered yoga now offered at Sierra 2

By Valerie Burrows

Yoga instructor Madeleine Lohman, who has 18 years of teaching experience, is now offering breath-centered yoga three days a week at the Sierra 2 Center.

Breath-centered yoga is a gentle, accessible yoga class, focused on cultivating kindness to yourself while also building community with others. When you enter this class, you will feel fully welcomed and respected as you are.

Lohman believes the practice of yoga must be continuously adapted to meet the needs of the individual, including physical and mental capacities, priorities and goals, season of life and even time of day.

The style of yoga that she teaches, called “Viniyoga,” focuses on how yoga poses can support functional movement in the body, and lay the groundwork for integration of mind, body and soul.

When Lohman asked her students what they would tell others about her classes, they said this is “a perfect class for those of us that are afraid of yoga,” offered in a “welcoming healing environment for all ... beginner to seasoned yoga practitioner.” New students will find “a diverse, supportive and accepting community of all skill levels” and can expect “personalized guidance and caring support.”

Class sizes are intentionally small to offer the attention and communication

this style of practice requires and can be attended in person in Room 9, or via Zoom for those who would prefer to attend virtually.

“I’ve lived in Curtis Park since 2008, and I’ve always loved the community feeling at Sierra 2,” Lohman said. “It just happened to work out that I was looking for a new place to call home when Sierra 2 was opening back up operations.”

Lohman offers three 70-minute classes a week – Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m. (The Thursday in-person option is currently sold out.)

Pre-registration is required, either by emailing mad@madyoga.org or calling/texting 916 290-2693.



Photo/Brandi Rollins

Yoga instructor Madeleine Lohman

Contact Lohman if you would like to try a free class before you commit, to see if this is the right fit for you.

Pilates studio takes over old College Cyclery site

By Patti Roberts

Maria Bardet was surprised last year to see a “For Sale” sign in front of her favorite bicycle shop – College Cyclery on 21st Street. The owners, hit hard during the pandemic, made the difficult decision to sell the iconic building after no one stepped up to keep it a bike shop.

While Bardet was saddened, she also saw an opportunity. She was ready to move her Humani Pilates Studio from Midtown and was looking around for a new location.

“I visited the location many times when it was a bike shop,” Bardet said. “I love older buildings that have a lot of history. And I have always loved the neighborhood.”

Three months ago, Bardet was able to open up her new Humani Pilates Studio in the old 1920s building that she has lovingly upgraded while keeping the historical presence intact.

The studio offers Pilates-based classes seven days a week, primarily on Pilates machines: Reformer, Chair and Cadillac. Private sessions and movement education workshops are also offered.

Bardet said the building needed some serious improvements, including mechanical, plumbing and electrical upgrades, and a new heating and air-conditioning system. But she also wanted to keep the original integrity of the building by using original building materials where possible while highlighting some of its unique features.

The 1920s building began as a series of markets including Piggly Wiggly, but eventually morphed into the bike business, starting in 1946 as College Hardware and Cyclery, and finishing as College Cyclery.

“I really respected the original bones,” Bardet said. “For example, we exposed the original 100-year-old hidden wood, refinished them, and they are now the main feature in our hallway.”

The College Cyclery shop owners



Photo/Will Carlton

Maria Bardet, right, opened Humani Pilates Studio on 21st Street three months ago.

kept their beloved neon sign, while the historic exterior corner tiles were donated to an interested neighbor because they were starting to crumble with age.

“The construction process was challenging and arduous, considering the building’s age,” Bardet said.

“However, we had a lot of fun doing it. I enjoyed designing the building myself and our general contractor, Ohana Renovations Inc., hit it out of the park!”

Bardet has studied Pilates for 18 years and has been teaching for 10 years. She opened up Humani Pilates Studio eight years ago.

“My goal is to help my students not only feel better and move better, but to also help them learn about their body so they can become more confident in their day-to-day life,” she said. “This also helps them adapt to changes, pains or aches, and helps them continue to do the things they love to do every day.”

Bardet said the best way to check out the studio is to participate in one of her “new student specials,” join a Machines 101 class, schedule an introductory private session or simply drop in on a class.

Most of her clients from her Midtown location have transferred to her new studio, including many who had been commuting from Curtis Park.

Humani Pilates Studio is at 2760 21st St. For more information, visit the website, humanistudios.com.



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Bret Harte welcomes families back to campus with student art



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A student art show was the first student-family event on the Bret Harte Elementary School campus in more than two years. Brightly colored pictures in paint, crayon and marker were on display in the cafeteria for students, families, teachers and neighbors to view on April 28.

In preparation for the show, the Parent Teacher Association and parent volunteers opened the library during lunch recess every day for a week to provide a space for students to create their art pieces. The idea of art at lunch was so popular that students waited anxiously outside of the library for an open seat on the first day.

Fourth-grader Malachi worked in the library every day throughout the week to create several different pieces for the show. He enjoyed having the freedom to create anything he wanted. "My favorite thing about art at lunch was being able to make whatever we wanted and feel whatever we wanted and not have to follow directions," Malachi said. His art creations included a rainbow castle and an underground house, places he thinks would be cool to live in when he grows up.

Prompts for students, based on the theme "We Are Bret Harte," included things students enjoy, their families or what they hope for in the future.

Second-grader Maxwell drew his version of Spiderman, officially titled "Spider Max" by his

classmate and fellow budding artist Caileigh.

Other student art displayed use of favorite colors, depictions of siblings and pets, and even expressions of emotions and inspirational sayings.

Kindergarten teacher Steve Peterson said several of his students were "always saying how much fun they had and planning what they were going to do the next day. Students enjoyed the art opportunity because they have a creative side to them and they are always looking for times to be able to express it."

Having an event back on campus was an added highlight. Malachi remembers how much fun he had at school events before the pandemic. "I loved seeing everyone's art together and having mine on display," he said. "It was exciting to see people together again."

Families shared the same excitement about being back on campus. Parent volunteer Janet Moody, who has a fourth-grader and a kindergartener at Bret Harte, said that being back on campus for events helps her connect with her children's peers and their families. "We loved seeing all the art students produced, but we also enjoyed getting to meet new families," Moody said.

Connecting families through school events helps build community both on and off campus. "Making connections with other families is so important," Moody said. "It is those connections that ground your family to the school."

Second-grade teacher Karen Lim believes art can help create those connections. "It is important because it is intrinsically motivating to share art with each other and it brings students, parents and school staff closer together," Lim said.

The PTA intends to host more student art activities in the next school year, an idea that students and teachers support.

"I would like to see this program continued again next year, hopefully more than just one time



Photo/Lauren Gothard

Fourth-grader Malachi describes his artwork at this display as "A Rainbow Castle," at far left.

if possible," Peterson said. "With all of the time constraints on the day achieving the academic portion of school, there is little time left to offer art during the school day, so any time it can be offered is a fantastic win for the students."

Curtis Park neighbors and Bret Harte families who are interested in supporting student art activities can contact the Bret Harte PTA at BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com.

Music: Band is known for helping nonprofits raise funds

Continued from Page 1

Santana, Chaka Khan and LaBelle.

These musicians have all played in many other bands over the decades. From 2010 to 2013, Serna, Townsend, Hermocillo, Abbott and McGowan played in a band called Rhythm Method. Serna also played drums and bass with The Peabody Incident and Bad Clams.

From 2002 to 2017, Jauregui fronted some of Sacramento's most

popular local bands, including The Midnight Players and Solsa.

Sandoval is the most prolific performer in UnSupervised. He toured internationally with the Sista Monica Blues Band and leads his own band, Danny Sandoval Swinging Quartet. He is also the featured sax in the Mick Martin Blues Big Band, Two Tone Steiny and the Cadillacs, The Delta Wires and Clean Slate.

Bill Abbott plays mandolin in a bluegrass group, the Ryman Brothers.

UnSupervised is known for helping nonprofits raise funds. Serna estimates the band has raised more than \$500,000 for charitable causes spanning dozens of gigs. The band even created a nonprofit charitable organization called Music on a Mission.

Music in the Park concerts will be the last Sundays of June, July

and August, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the south end of William Curtis Park near Sutterville Road. Bring a blanket and chairs, maybe a picnic (no alcohol please). Jazz vocalist Vivian Lee and her Quartet will be featured July 31. The classic rock big band On Air will close out the summer season Aug. 28.

Sponsors are Realtors Steffan Brown and Larry Easterling, SMUD and City Councilmember Rick Jennings.

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