

# VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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July 2022

## Farmers market struggling after switch to Sunday

By Judy Green Scheible

Moving the Community Market in Oak Park from Saturday to Sunday is a work in progress. The Sunday market is different. Its director is still gathering vendors and customers. The switch to Sunday has been tough for the organizer, NeighborWorks, and the customers who had a 10-year Saturday habit.

At the market June 5, market director Shandenia Piper said she is “still pushing through” to make the move to Sunday work.

Piper’s boss, NeighborWorks board president Lauretta Casimir-Mahoney, talked by phone about moving the market to Sunday, the changes COVID caused and customer reactions to the changes.

“The market’s going great. Oak Park loves the changes. The world has changed with COVID,” Casimir-Mahoney said. “We had to change. The Saturday market was running at a six-figure deficit.”

Casimir-Mahoney and NeighborWorks CEO Crystal Smith said the market was moved to Sunday so the agency could create farmers markets in the food deserts of the 10 other counties where they exist. To date, a few of those markets are in the planning stage.

NeighborWorks is a national nonprofit. Its Sacramento branch has been in Oak Park for 35 years.

On June 5, the market had one farmer with a bountiful table of vegetables, one vendor of honey, one with fresh bread and one with microgreens. There were several makers of salt blends, teas and coffee, cooked

*Please see Market, Page 2*



Photo/Kathy Les

White House staffer Maggie Thomas as she appeared in second grade.

## Primary education endures *Alumni grateful for Bret Harte’s life lessons*

By Lauren Gothard  
and Lindsey Sin

Next year, Bret Harte Elementary School will celebrate 100 years since its founding as one of Curtis Park’s neighborhood schools. Over the decades, thousands of children from Curtis Park, Oak Park and beyond have experienced a love for learning, made lifelong friendships

and shaped their worldview at Bret Harte.

Karen Hill of Sixth Avenue attended from 1964 to 1971. She recalls the many events and field trips around Sacramento and Northern California, including trips to the Governor’s Mansion, Sutter’s Fort, the Nimbus Fish Hatchery and Coloma State Park.

*Please see Alumni, Page 16*

## Neighborhood voters partial to incumbents in June primary

*Turnout much lower than in 2020 election*

By Mike Scheible

Low voter turnout, at 40% in Sacramento County, was the norm for the June 6 primary. Even among the dedicated voters in Curtis Park, 90% of whom voted in 2020, turnout was about 60%.

Countywide, three-quarters of the 343,000 ballots cast had been counted by June 18. While the final percentages may differ, none of the outcomes are likely to change.

Gov. Gavin Newsom captured 80% of the neighborhood vote, compared with 58% countywide. Republican Brian Dahle was a distance second with 6% and the remaining 24 candidates split the final 14%. Newsom will face Dahle in November.

In the race for state attorney general, Democratic incumbent Rob Bonta had 71% of the neighborhood vote, compared with 50% countywide. Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert was second in the neighborhood, with 19%. The remaining three candidates split the final 10%.

For state schools superintendent, incumbent Tony Thurmond was the clear choice in the neighborhood, receiving 68% of the vote, compared with 48% countywide.

In the federal races Rep. Doris Matsui and Sen. Alex Padilla received a large majority of the neighborhood vote, 78% and 81%, respectively, compared to

*Please see Primary, Page 12*



### It’s OK to be silly in improv

Story lines come from word cues, responses and body language. Page 5



### Everyone has biases

Neighborhood expert trains police to identify own blind spots. Page 6



### Ride a bike, save a tree

Dan Pskowski describes trek that combined his passions. Page 13



## Long-table feast Oct. 16 at Sierra 2

By Terri Shettle

Feast on local barbecue, wood-fired pizza and other tasty offerings at a neighborhood gathering from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, at the Sierra 2 Center.

It will be a casual, but elegant, affair under a large tent with decorative lights, beautiful table settings and live music.

It has been three years since SCNA's last Wine Tasting fundraiser. Neighbors have provided generous support to SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center since the pandemic hit. In particular, the Porch Picnic and the Big Day of Giving have helped sustain SCNA over the last couple of years.

At the Oct. 16 fundraiser, friends and neighbors will gather at long community tables to savor barbecue specialties with all the fixings, on-site oven-baked pizza and flatbread with meat and vegetarian options, and other fare that is still being confirmed.

Local and regional wines will be available in the bar area as well as special beers and handmade cocktails and mocktails.

Create-your-own ice cream sundaes will be available for dessert.

VIP tickets will include an early entry reception from 3 to 4 p.m. The reception will include a specially made cocktail, designated wine and beer offerings and nibbles. VIPs can take an early peak at the silent-auction tables and get first dibs on the long tables.

Want to help? It takes a team to put on an event like this. Community sponsors and volunteers are needed to help get the party started. People are needed to make a few calls to solicit donation items. Items are being solicited to set off a bidding frenzy at the silent auction.

To volunteer, sponsor or donate, please contact [Terri@sierra2.org](mailto:Terri@sierra2.org) or sign up for the volunteering newsletter at [sierra2.org/volunteer](http://sierra2.org/volunteer).

Tickets for this event will be available about Sept. 1.

**FALL FUNDRAISER**  
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Save the date!



## UOP planning clinic on Oak Park campus

University of Pacific is planning to build a clinic near 34th Street and Fifth Avenue that “brings dental and medical care together,” *The Sacramento Business Journal* reported in late June.

The university announced June 20 that it had received a \$4 million gift from Stephen and Pamela Thorne to help create “an innovative teaching and patient care facility that will be one of the first of its kind at a university.”

The university said the clinic would provide comprehensive health care to the public and “serve as a safety net for vulnerable and underserved populations in Sacramento’s Oak Park and surrounding neighborhoods.”

Donor Stephen V. Thorne IV is founder and CEO of Pacific Dental Services. His father graduated from UOP’s School of Dentistry. Two brothers are also UOP alumni.

## Market: Farmers work a Sunday stand at other locations

*Continued from Page 1*

foods, plus colorful wooden garden boxes on legs and tie-dye for children.

The following Sunday, the regular vegetable vendor was there along with one selling fruit from the Fresno area for the first time. About 10:30 a.m., the vegetable vendor, Ima Garcia, said business was slow. Her table was still loaded.

That day there were no flowers, no eggs and no frozen chicken. All these stalls had been regulars at the Saturday market, which had thrived for 10 years at the McClatchy Park site, which was built by the City of Sacramento.

NeighborWorks canceled the market scheduled for June 26, saying they thought it would be too hot. The market’s hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The temperature at 9 a.m. June 26 in Sacramento was about 70 degrees, at 1 p.m. about 92 degrees.

City Councilmember Jay Schenirer, a market patron, is part of the market’s history. He helped move the market from an empty lot on Broadway to its current site. He is intent on the market surviving.

“About the move to Sunday, we will have to see what happens, if it can build its audience,” Schenirer said by phone. “I know NeighborWorks is putting effort into building the market. I hope they’re successful. Anything new takes time. I agree it’s not doing well, but it’s been less than two months.”

One former vendor, Herguin Lopez of RHJ Farms in Watsonville, talked to *Viewpoint* on June 11 about how the change to Sunday affected him. He was at the Midtown market at his table loaded with strawberries, greens, squash, beets, onions and green beans.

Lopez, who was a vendor at the Saturday market in Oak Park for 10 years, said, “When they changed to Sunday, everything changed. I tried it for two weeks, but nobody came. They didn’t put up signs. The new

people never asked the farmers about changing the day.”

“Joany (Titherington) ran the market for 13 years and there was never a complaint,” Lopez said. “They destroyed the market.”

There are conflicting stories about Titherington’s absence. She started the market in 2010 and ran it for 12 years as an employee of NeighborWorks. When she was told she would be reassigned to create farmers markets in 11 counties and to do outreach work in Del Paso Heights, she handed in her two-week notice. She said the agency told her to leave immediately.

Piper, the current market director, said Titherington is not at the market because she did not reapply for her job.

Market customer Adrian Rehn, president of the Oak Park Neighborhood Association, said his group acknowledges the start-up problems for the Sunday market. “We have concerns. It’s challenging for us. We don’t want it to fail. We want people to share their concerns with NeighborWorks.”

For Casimir-Mahoney, the pivotal point is that the NeighborWorks Sacramento Community Market, Oak Park serves the community. “We will be here so long as the community finds what we do to be of value,” she said. “The best way the community can support us is to show up, be engaged and positive about what the market brings to the community.”



Photo/Judy Green Scheible

At the market, Ima Garcia of Yanez Farms, left, and Barbara Steinberg.

## Current law required rejection of gas station, city says

City Council was required by law to reject the request by Petrovich Development Co. to build a gas station in Crocker Village, the city says in answer to the developer’s petition for a court order.

In April, the developer filed a petition for writ of mandate asking Sacramento Superior Court to order City Council to grant a conditional use permit for a

gas station.

The city’s answer, filed June 27, says City Council “could not lawfully approve the Project under laws currently in effect,” citing a city ordinance that places limitations on where gas stations may be located.

City Council has twice rejected the developer’s requests for a conditional use permit. In 2015, the

vote was 7-2. But a Superior Court judge overturned that decision and ordered a rehearing. At the rehearing in January, City Council voted 7-0 against issuing a permit.

SCNA, former SCNA President Eric Johnson and SCNA board member Andrea Rosen were identified in the petition as “real parties in interest.”

## President's message

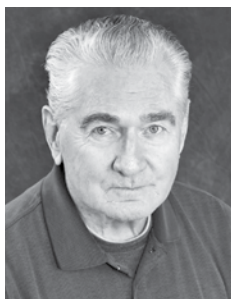
# SCNA's outlook goes from skeptical to optimistic in 6 months

It seems as though it was only yesterday that we ushered in 2022 with some skepticism. But, at midpoint, that skepticism has been replaced by genuine optimism as we look forward to finishing the year on a high note.

SCNA's Development Committee is working hard on a new twist to our pre-COVID annual fall event, the Wine Tasting & Silent Auction. The crew is combining it with the Porch Picnic theme, calling it "Gather at the Long Table". The new event, featuring wine, food and music, is described further on Page 2.

Meanwhile, in recognition of positive financial news relating to Sierra 2

**BILL  
HOOVER**  
SCNA Board  
President



Center rentals and bookings, the Finance Committee is moving away from a quarterly budget to a semi-annual one. But, we will project out a year so that as conditions continue to improve we can easily shift to a regular annual budget. We continue to be wary of COVID variants

that sweep through almost on cue.

The Facilities Committee maintains its oversight over the Sierra 2 Center physical plant and operations. As we approach negotiations on our expiring lease, the goal is to have the city accept greater responsibility for major repairs to our historic, 100-year-old building. Over the next five years, expenditures of \$500,000 are projected for major items.

The Neighborhood Concerns Committee continues to slog its way through the multitude of issues that seem to crop up almost daily. NCC and its two ad hoc committees (Racial Justice and Clean and Quiet Yard Care) are

dealing with such issues as homelessness, affordable housing, increased density in residential areas, and noise and air pollution, especially as those matters affect Curtis Park and adjacent neighborhoods.

The Petrovich Development Co. petition for writ of mandate will likely be heard in the near future. Although the city is the primary defendant, SCNA is named as a real party in interest along with Eric Johnson and Andrea Rosen individually.

The *Viewpoint* Committee's activities are obvious, as this month's issue attests.

Overall, your SCNA board is working hard to represent the neighborhood in the best manner possible.

## Notes from June 1 SCNA board meeting

# City grant sought for Music in the Park events

Executive Director Terri Shettle reported that she has applied for a city-funded "City of Festivals" grant to supplement funding for Music in the Park events.

Most Sierra 2 tenants have renewed their leases for the next fiscal year.

Two staff members developed COVID symptoms that necessitated a brief closure of the Sierra 2 Center, Shettle said.

### Treasurer

SCNA has \$160,000 in the checking account, largely due to Big Day of Giving proceeds and deposits for future rentals that are at the highest level in some time, Treasurer John Bailey said.

A conference call was held with SCNA's Wells Fargo investment manager to discuss the investment portfolio and plans by the committee to seek a new adviser. The committee will issue a request for proposal after the market stabilizes. Other candidates may be submitted for consideration.

### Facilities

The city has rejected the Facilities Committee's request to decommission the lift at the southern parking lot entry to the main building. Gerre Buehler said that Sierra 2 would have to repair the lift before July 15 or incur penalties. The lift repairs are expected to cost \$10,000 to \$15,000 and last for about two years.

Hal Thomas of Portola Way made a presentation to the committee about adding solar panels at Sierra 2 and described options for financing the installation. The committee voted unanimously to ask Thomas to prepare a preliminary, conceptual proposal for a third-party investor option.

The committee discussed and adopted the executive director's proposal for tenant rent and utility increases for the next fiscal year.

### Development

Although the Development Committee has determined the

time is not yet right to consider reinstituting the Wine Tasting and Silent Auction, Shannon Motley, chair of an alternative event, "Gather at the Long Table," reported that the committee is moving forward with the fall fundraiser. The goal is to bring friends and neighbors together at Sierra 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. Oct. 16 at Sierra 2 for barbecued foods, pizza, drinks, music, maybe dancing and possibly a modified silent auction or raffle to help raise funds. The goal is to raise at least \$20,000.

Curtis Fest and Music in the Park on June 26 will include six food trucks and 80 vendors, a record high number of participants. The band UnSupervised will play that evening.

Kathy Les reported that the board and neighborhood came through again on Big Day of Giving, exceeding the \$50,000 goal by at least \$2,500. Of the 172 donations, 70% were \$100 or more, up from 60% last year. There were 16 donations of \$1,000, including four from board members, 11 from neighbors, and one from an out-of-town family.

### Boundaries

SCNA boundaries may change as the City Council districts undergo changes in 2022 according to John Mathews. New boundaries would be decided by a general membership vote at the general meeting at the end of the year.

### General plan

No neighborhood representatives have received acknowledgment from City Council members of the letter requesting a slower rollout of the 2040 General Plan, Bruce Pierini reported. The city turned down a request for a debate on the process and transparency of the plan, citing no added information since SCNA's March 2021 housing forum.

Pierini and Erik Fay are teaming with Kirk Vyverberg of the Land Park Community Association to create a 10- to 20-minute video to explain to residents of Curtis Park and Land Park the purposes of the 2040 General Plan and how neighbors can get involved.

The next SCNA board meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. July 6 on Zoom.

— Mimi Budd, board secretary

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## Neighborhood yard sale benefited several charities

By Heather Hogan

Beautifully mild weather graced the return of the annual Curtis Park neighborhood yard sale on May 21. Shoppers walked, biked and drove the blocks of Curtis Park looking for treasures. Neighbors set up sales on lawns, driveways and patios. Chit-chat could be overheard as neighbors and friends conversed and caught up.

Bret Harte Elementary School held a large sale, organized by PTA President Adam Gothard. Merryhill Preschool had items for sale and a few local clubs and scout troops banded together to raise funds.

Some had innovative donation-based sales where buyers could select

which cause to support by placing money in the appropriately marked jar. Many folks had free piles set up throughout the day.

Shoppers came from far and wide, including Leah VanderMei from San Francisco. "I grew up in Sacramento and my mom and I have a long-standing tradition of meeting up for the Curtis Park yard sale every year," she said. "It was so wonderful to finally be back home looking for treasures together after a couple years break."

Neighbors may have seen (or heard) the big box truck, lent by real estate agent Steffan Brown, circling the area nabbing choice leftovers to donate to the Sacramento Food Bank's clothing closet and rehoming programs.



Photo/Heather Hogan

Curtis Way front yard displayed an event sign and many items for sale.

Leonardo da Vinci K-8 School parent Terri Clark, her son Oscar and I loaded up the truck and drove the items over for donation.

Those interested in helping sort donations and filling requests at the Sacramento Food Bank can email [Heather@sierra2.org](mailto:Heather@sierra2.org).

## Builder makes progress on mixed-use project at 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Castro Way

By Erik Fay

HK3 Development Co. has completed all underground work and framing on the ground floor on its mixed-use building project at 24th Street and Castro Way.

Framing of the second-story apartments recently began, expected to be completed by mid-July. The wiring, plumbing and duct work will start after that and take approximately two months to complete.

Construction began more than a month ago on the two-story building, which was approved by the city's Planning Division on Aug. 31, 2020. It is estimated that project construction will be completed in October.

The building will be known as Amalia. The name reflects the Spanish architecture and activity, which seems a good fit for a building with Spanish Revival tiles and other design features.



Courtesy of HK3 Development Co.

An artist's rendering of the Castro Way mixed-use building project view from the northeast.

The finished building will contain a mix of commercial and residential units – six one-bedroom apartments and two studio apartments. Six apartments will be on the second floor and two on the ground floor. The apartments will range in size from 500 to 850 square feet. Large windows will bring natural light into each apartment.

The lobby will be in the middle of the ground floor on 24th Street. It will open to a steel staircase. At

the rear of the lobby, residents will have access to an open grass area.

There will be parking off Sakura Alley for bicycles and five cars.

The project has three commercial spaces planned for the ground floor. The commercial spaces will range from 500 to 1,900 square feet. Announcements regarding tenants will be coming next month.

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### Viewpoint wants your story ideas

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

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

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

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Photo/Andrea Waybright

Geoff Miller to perform July 1

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July 1..... Geoff Miller (Honky-tonk country singer-songwriter-guitarist)

## Music in the Park

**Wm. Curtis Park • 6-8 p.m. (Free)**

July 31.....Jazz vocalist Vivian Lee and her Quartet  
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**Vaccination cards may be required for indoor shows.**

July 2..... For The Record (Ska/punk) \$5 general admission; tables \$15-\$30

July 7..... Open acoustic jam – **6 p.m.** (All are welcome to join)

July 8..... The Urban Sherpas (Jazz rock fusion)

\$5 general admission; tables \$15-\$30

July 9..... Boca Do Rio (Brazilian samba/funk) Tickets TBD

July 10..... Monster Crate Dig & Record Swap

Vendor load-in at noon; gates open **1 p.m.**

July 12..... Water Tower Band – **7:30 p.m.** (Indie/folk/bluegrass) Free

July 14..... Hair of the Dawg (Americana/roots/rock) Free

July 15..... San Kazagascar (Art punk) Free

July 16..... Forever Goldrush (Roots/Americana/rock) Tickets TBD

July 18..... Grateful Monday w/Tommy T & Friends - Grateful Dead tribute

\$8 general admission, tables \$30-\$50

July 22..... Hattie and the Moon Howlers (Roots/folk)

\$10 general admission, tables \$40-\$75

July 23..... Lo-Fi Lowdown (Rock/country/bluegrass) Tickets TBD

July 28..... Thursday Night Deathdrop (Drag queen lube wrestling)

\$15 general admission, \$25 VIP, \$65 small table, \$130 large table

July 29..... Smokey Red (Rock 'n' roll) Free

July 30..... Watt Ave Soul All-Stars (Rock/funk/soul)

\$6 general admission, tables \$15-\$30

– Mindy Giles

## Improv classes get students out of comfort zone

By Patti Roberts

“Six characters in 60 seconds,” Jessilee Windhaus instructs her improv students. Each one gets a turn in trying to come up with six completely different characters in rapid response – a cranky toddler, a hunter, a scolding grandmother, an awkward date ... The students get stuck after quickly coming up with the first couple of ideas, but muster through with the support of classmates and Windhaus.

Windhaus’ improv theater classes at Sierra 2 Center start with quick drills to spark creativity by trading words, responses and body motions with each other. Throughout the two-hour evening class, the students work on quick dialogue exchanges as well as gestures, expressions, reactions and interplay with their fellow actors to create characters, plots and story lines for their skits.

The six-week class ends with a performance by the students on a stage Windhaus built in the upstairs classroom at Sierra 2, with friends and families applauding their efforts.

Windhaus’ classes are part of Empire Arts Collective, her performing arts nonprofit that includes improv, choir, poetry, group sing-alongs and theater. When Windhaus went looking for a permanent location for Empire Arts this year, she was already familiar with Sierra 2, having performed at the facility’s theater while in high school.

“Shout out to the Light Opera Theatre of Sacramento, where I rehearsed and performed at Sierra 2,” she said. “Being back here is wonderful – the staff is so professional. The venue is also very financially



accessible to nonprofit organizations like ours, and physically accessible to our patrons and performers with disabilities, which is a big priority for us.”

Windhaus grew up in Sacramento, where she fell in love with improv and theater, went to theater summer camp, and majored in theater at California State University Sacramento. Her background includes touring with the world-renowned Missoula Children’s Theatre and as a mainstage performer at Sacramento Comedy Spot and ComedySportz Sacramento. In 2013, she started a local sketch comedy group, “That Plus Chips,” that eventually morphed into Empire Arts Collective. Core members help produce pop choirs, poetry, theater, improv, classes and sing-alongs. The next sing-along is the Broadway musical “Hamilton” on Wednesday, July 27.

“I love improv because it allows me to keep that sense of play we all had as a child,” Windhaus said. “It’s also a nice coping mechanism to share feelings and moments with other people in the improv community, those we think of as fellow tribe members.”



Photos/Joan Cusick

Above, Jessilee Windhaus teaches Improv as part of Empire Arts Collective. At left, creating characters in a quick skit are students Josh Marston, left, and Teo Morgan.

Her students also share a love of improv. Josh Marston has been doing improv for 12 years. He is taking the class to get reinvigorated about improv. “I love it because I get to be with other goofballs like myself, people who professionally embarrass themselves,” he said.

In the introductory class, people have limited experience in improv, if any at all. For the intermediate class, participants range from some experience to those doing regular standup or improv.

Lauren Taber has taken the introductory and intermediate classes, honing skills she has learned onstage and in classes.

“I really like it as a way to get out of my comfort zone,” Taber said. “It’s fun and refreshing, though it can be intimidating. You have to be willing to look a little silly. And I really like Jessilee’s teaching style – she’s fun and willing to jump into the silliness.”

For more information on improv and other Empire Arts classes and performances, see [www.empireartscollective.com](http://www.empireartscollective.com).





Photo courtesy of Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding

Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding at home in Curtis Park

# Expert on prejudices sometimes reflects on her own

By Kathy Les

We can all be too quick to pre-judge others, said Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding, a resident of Donner Way and former chair of the Women’s Studies Department at Sacramento State University who has traveled the world teaching how to recognize and guard against racial prejudice.

“We’ve all been taught by society who the people are we can trust and those we cannot,” she told SCNA’s Racial Justice Committee at its June meeting.

As an example of her own internal bias, she recounted her guarded response while walking one day from Curtis Park to Sacramento City College. She passed four individuals she quickly assessed as possibly threatening. Each of these people, she said, had an unfamiliar set of traits that caused her to question their presence.

“If I can’t respond intelligently, I will respond poorly,” she said. On her walk, she paused a moment to question her bias and was able to catch herself.

Cameron Wedding has trained judges in more than 45 states, designed a program to mitigate the effects of the school-to-prison pipeline. She also has spent years assisting the juvenile justice and foster care systems to help avert racial discrimination in matters involving children and teens. In 2019, she developed a train-the-trainer curriculum for security officers and spent the next two years training participants in more than 10 countries.

On the flip side, she has found herself being sidelined in the grocery store checkout line.

“I live in Curtis Park and have social class privilege, but I still face bias because of my blackness,” she said. “If I speak up, I will be considered too aggressive. Unfortunately, we’re all so paralyzed around racism.”

When Cameron Wedding was looking to buy a home in the 1990s, she had her eyes on Curtis Park. Her real estate agent tried to steer her away, showing

her homes in south area neighborhoods where lower-income Black families resided. She persisted, however, and found a home in Curtis Park where she has lived for 25 years with her wife.

From her part of the neighborhood, she says she has witnessed people engaging in all kinds of behavior that in a poor neighborhood would be suspect, but in Curtis Park it goes largely without question.

Hence, personal experience helped inform her well-honed skills and research over the years to identify and help deter implicit bias by calling out personal prejudices.

Of particular interest to her has been the disproportionately high percentage of Black children taken from their parents and put into foster care, where outcomes are not always favorable. The reasons Black children are removed from their homes are typically not just based on evidence, she said, but on a perception of risk. The behavior often cited, she suggested, is just as likely to be present in white families.

Homeownership creates an assumption of low risk when it comes to parenting and children, she said. Homeownership is substantially lower for Blacks than whites. However, research has shown that even though Black and white children have almost identical risk factors, Black children are 25% more likely to end up in child welfare.

Beginning in 1995, Cameron Wedding started teaching Critical Race Theory (CRT) to her college students. This approach aims to look at inherent racism and its impact over the course of history. Historically, students have been taught about slavery but not about the enslavers. “CRT is simply about how racism works and how to get people to think more fairly,” she said.

When she talks abroad, she said, she always starts with this statement: “I love my country, but we can do better.”

The Zoom session with the Racial Justice Committee wasn’t recorded. However, Cameron Wedding has prepared an expanded explanation of issues she discussed, as well as an extensive list of resources on the subject of racial bias, found at <https://sierra2.org/racial-justice/>.

## VIEWPOINT

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Broc Krause, Bev Krikorian & Joe Shea, Jordon  
Lange, Catherine Lentz, The Leonhart Family,  
Kathy Les, Linda McAtee, Makenna & Savannah  
Manning, John Mathews, The Menz Family, Paul  
& Shanan Mewton, Patricia Moses, Carol Mott,  
Sally Moyce, Eileen Murray, Kathy & Ken Myers,  
Steve Nikkel, Kris Olesen, Bob & Shirley Olson,  
Jennifer & Nadine Ozeir, Bill Patterson, Josie  
Peavy, Lynn Pichinino, Colleen Pierce, Sally  
Powell, Vicky Powers, Jennifer Realmuto, Marcus  
& Annette Romani, Judith Ryan, Shu Sebesta,  
Debby Senna, Tom & Jan Sheedy, Sherry Sherry,  
The Sherry Family, The Soluri Family, The Steiner  
Family, Mr. Szito, Linda Tennyson, Frances  
Varela, Rafael Vergos, Marianne Waindle,  
Nancy Wallace, Linda White, Sherry Williams

## Corrections

In the May *Viewpoint* the Farmer’s Market  
job title for Joany Titherington should have been  
manager.

The owner of Humani Pilates Studio, Maria  
Bardet, was incorrectly identified in a photo  
caption on page 11 of the June issue of *Viewpoint*.  
Bardet is the person at right in the photo.



# Jazz and rock classics complete Music in the Park summer series

By Mindy Giles

Elegant singer **Vivian Lee** and **her Quartet** will perform their repertoire of jazz standards – Ellington, Gershwin, Brubeck, Mercer, Jobim and Monk – in the Music in the Park concert on Sunday, July 31.

**On Air**, a 12-piece band with five vocalists and a six-piece cracking horn section, will complete the summer series Aug. 28.

Music in the Park concerts are the last Sunday of the summer months from 6 to 8 p.m. north of the tennis courts in William Curtis Park. Bring a blanket, chairs and a picnic (but no alcohol, please).

Lee has lived out her musical vision in many ways throughout a 24-year singing career. As a recording artist, she has released five CDs – “Scarlett,” her debut (2000); “Where is Love?” (2002); “Have You Met Miss Lee?” (2004); “From Miss Lee To You” (2013); and “Let’s Talk About Love” (2018). All have received sparkling reviews, noting especially her exquisite phrasing and emotional warmth. “Let’s Talk About Love” spent nine weeks in the Top 60 national jazz charts.

“The folks in Vivian’s home of Sacramento and others in neighboring areas of California are fortunate to have an artist of quality like Vivian Lee in their midst,” wrote Joe Lang in “Jersey Jazz,” the magazine of the New Jersey Jazz Society. “Discovering her for the first time has been a true pleasure.”

From 2003 to 2014, Lee nearly single-handedly led the area’s regional



Photo/Tory Scroggins

## Vivian Lee to perform July 31

jazz scene, tirelessly promoting and hosting a live Sunday jazz concert series at JB’s Lounge in the Red Lion/Clarion Inn. Many fans first learned about her as a mainstay star at the annual Sacramento Jazz Jubilee/Sacramento Music Festival.

Lee has always found top-notch players and her current quartet is stellar, with Buca Necak on bass, Grammy-winner Jeff Minnieweather on drums and Dave Udolf on piano.

• • •

Ending the summer concert series, **On Air** takes on the classics of rock. An area fan favorite since 1985. In 2017 and 2018, On Air placed first in the “best local band” category of the “Sacramento A List,” topping more than 200 regional groups.

“On Air is one of the most fun, energetic bands you will ever encounter,” said Sierra 2 Executive Director Terri Shettle. “SCNA generally books On Air as the final



Bringing it home in grand fashion with their six-piece horn section on Aug. 28, On Air is the last concert of the summer series.

show in our Music in the Park concert series because they bring it home in grand fashion.”

The band has a new lineup, including Garry Klein on lead guitar, plus former member John Chermesino, who has returned as vocalist and bass guitarist. They join guitarist and founding member Bob Lang, who also shares vocal chores with Suzanne Weissenberg and Janese Powell, another recent addition. Jimmy Malone is on keyboard and Geno Guerere on drums.

The distinctive sound of On Air is from the six-piece horn section: Craig Yamamoto on alto sax, Raul Sandoval on tenor sax, Brad Tom on baritone sax, Brian Nakagawa on trombone and trumpeters John Williams and Greg Evans.

When they roll out rock chestnuts like Chicago’s “Saturday in the Park,” Steely Dan’s “Josie,” Tower of Power’s “You’re Still a Young Man” and Stevie Wonder’s “Higher Ground,” their crisp,

**Music in the Park concerts are the last Sunday of the summer months from 6 to 8 p.m. north of the tennis courts in William Curtis Park. Bring a blanket, chairs and a picnic (but no alcohol, please).**

full-bodied expertise is on full display.

For more than a decade, On Air has been a part of the annual Thanksgiving Day Run to Feed the Hungry, sponsored by the Sacramento Food Bank.

Presenting sponsors of Music in the Park are Steffan Brown Real Estate, SMUD, Councilmember Rick Jennings and Larry Easterling at Cook Realty.

## Curtis Fest joyful for vendors, shoppers



Photos/Joan Cusick

Alice Welborn, left, enjoys a moment with a potential customer at her Classy Glass Garden Art by Aly V booth at Curtis Fest on June 26. Shopper Grace Yip, right, of Granite Bay says she was a Curtis Fest vendor before the pandemic. “I come here because Curtis Fest is amazing,” she said.





SIERRA 2 CENTER  
SIERRA CURTIS  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## JULY ACTIVITIES

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

### NEW!

Puppy kindergarten and social class  
Puppies ages 8-12 weeks  
Mondays, 5:15-6 p.m., Room 10  
www.midtownmutts.com  
916 600-3259

### FITNESS

**Gentle, Breath-Centered Yoga**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
4:30-5:40 p.m., Room 9  
Saturdays, 9-10:15 a.m.  
(no class 2nd Sat), Room 9  
mad@madyoga.org, 916 290-2693

### WW Studio Workshop

Th/Fri/Sat, 8:30-10 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

### 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

### 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

### 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  
eagleclawsacramento.com

SIERRA 2 CENTER  
FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY

## Senior Center

### EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Activities are free, except where noted.

(Donations appreciated)

Room 12 • 916 455-6339. For more information: Sierra2.org.

### LEISURE

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

**July 11** – “House of Mirth,”  
by Edith Wharton

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

**July 21** – “Nuclear Folly: A  
History of the Cuban Missile  
Crisis,” by Serhii Plokhy

**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

**PINOCHLE**  
Fridays, 12-3 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

### EDUCATION

**MY STORY PROJECT**  
2nd Monday, 1-3 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  
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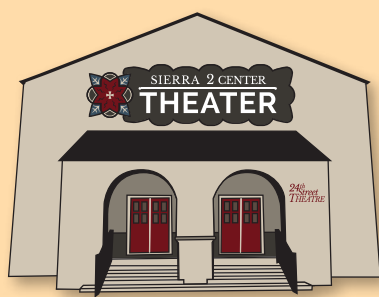


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### Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe"

Banished for 25 years for marrying a mortal, the fairy Iolanthe is back in town. Strephon, her half-mortal, half-fairy son is in love with Phyllis, as is her guardian, the lord chancellor, and all the other members of the House of Peers. When she sees Strephon with his very young-looking mother, whom Phyllis has never met, the worst is assumed and chaos ensues.

#### Show times:

Friday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 13, 2 and 7 p.m.  
Sunday, Aug. 14, 2 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 19, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 20, 2 and 7 p.m.  
Sunday, Aug. 21, 2 p.m.

#### Open seating:

\$25 general  
\$20 seniors and students  
\$15 children 4-12  
Group rates are available for 10 or more at \$15 per person.

#### Email:

lightoperasacramento@gmail.com  
lightoperasacramento.com

### Paint & Sip classes

**Ocean Landscape, Friday, July 8**  
**Jellyfish, Friday, Aug. 12**  
**Kitty & Wine, Friday, Sept. 2**  
**6-8 p.m., Room 7**

**Fee: \$25 for the class, with \$25 optional art kit**  
**Registration: [sierra2.org/thelearnery](http://sierra2.org/thelearnery)**

Unleash your creativity with your favorite beverage in one hand, paintbrush in the other



and discover the artist within. Enjoy painting in a casual party atmosphere. No previous experience required. Artist Cara Gregor will help you create your own original painting. Join with your friends or take part solo. Bring your favorite drink (wine and beer are great, no cocktails please), a glass and a snack. An 8x10" canvas will be supplied. Buy one of our paint kits or bring your own acrylic paints and brushes.

### Abstract Intuitive Painting classes

**Saturday, July 23**  
**Saturday, Aug. 27**  
**10 a.m.-noon, Room 7**

**Fee: \$25 for the class with \$25 optional art kit (paint and brushes)**  
**Registration: [sierra2.org/thelearnery](http://sierra2.org/thelearnery)**

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### Photo organizing & preservation

**Tuesday, July 26**  
**10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 7**  
**Fee: \$35**

**Registration: [sierra2.org/thelearnery](http://sierra2.org/thelearnery)**

Do you have boxes, bags and albums full of precious family photos and memorabilia just sitting in the closet? Are your photos fading or stuck in photo album plastic? Here is your opportunity to learn the ABC's and the Do's and Don'ts of Photo Organizing with Judy Bujold, photo manager at Captured Moments. Class time will be spent providing ideas and solutions for sorting,



organizing and sharing your photos and memories. Scanning options and cloud storage as a backup will be discussed. Bring 25 loose standard-size photos for scanning during class and get a kick-start on your photo preservation.

### Tea in Paris

**Sunday, Aug. 28, 12:30-2 p.m.**  
**Garden Room**  
**\$50/each in-person**  
**\$54/each to-go tea kit**  
**Tickets: [sierra2.org/thelearnery](http://sierra2.org/thelearnery)**

Join the Novel Tea and The Learnery for a wonderful high tea event featuring French-inspired tea food, a presentation on the history of tea in France, and several unique teas. A relaxing meal, a good cup of tea, and you have the makings of a perfect summer day in Paris. Spend the day eating, sipping tea and chatting. It makes for a wonderful way to lift the spirits and say au revoir to summer. You may choose to join us for the in-person tea or purchase to-go tea kits to share at home.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**[www.sierra2.org/thelearnery](http://www.sierra2.org/thelearnery)**



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# SCNA committee meets with parks commissioners

By Kathy Les

Because of redistricting, this is the Year of Two in Curtis Park – two City Council members and two parks commissioners.

In District 5, Jay Schenirer remains the councilmember for the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood until December, and Joe Flores is his appointed parks commissioner. District 7 Councilmember Rick Jennings, who was re-elected without opposition in June, will become the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood's councilmember in December. Devin Lavelle is his appointed parks commissioner.

SCNA's Ad Hoc Clean & Quiet Yard Care Committee sought at its June meeting to get to know both of its representatives on the Sacramento Parks and Community Enrichment Commission.

Flores lives in South Land Park, Lavelle in the Pocket-Greenhaven neighborhood. Both are former board members of their neighborhood associations, so they know the ins and outs of managing neighborhood assets and projects. This, they believe, makes them well-suited to their role as parks commissioners. Flores was appointed in 2017, Lavelle in 2018.

Both are also fathers of young sons, which propelled them to take a greater interest in Sacramento's more than 200 parks.

"Once I had children," said Lavelle, "I looked at my neighborhood park in a new way." That was then he decided he wanted to be a parks advocate.

Both have worked for the state for more than 20 years. Flores said his job helping formerly incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter society and the labor force has always inclined him toward public service. Lavelle currently works as a policy analyst at the State Library.

The parks commission is responsible for recommending policies, programs and projects for Sacramento's neighborhood parks. It meets the first Thursday of each month.

Flores has been working with Curtis Park in recent years, helping to explore possible names for the two parklets in William Curtis Park, arranging for parks department workers to fill gaping holes left by dogs in the Sierra Green behind the Sierra 2 Center, and helping find and secure a new home for the Black Lives Matter sign that was placed in William Curtis Park in 2020.

As commission chairman, Flores



Parks commissioners Joe Flores, left, and Devin Lavelle both represent portions of the Curtis Park neighborhood as the result of City Council redistricting.

led the commission's review of proposed names for a new park in Crocker Village. The commission recommended that it be called Ray Eames Park, after the famous furniture designer who grew up in Curtis Park. City Council approved the recommendation unanimously in September 2019. At the time, city officials anticipated that the park might start to take shape the following spring.

Flores assured the committee that installation of the new Ray Eames Park could happen soon. Once all the housing is constructed, the developer will turn over the designated park space to the city so planning and

design can begin.

Committee members told the commissioners they would like to see a green designation for William Curtis Park and the Sierra 2 Green. Lavelle said he has already communicated with the parks director about this issue and has been told that the parks department intends to begin replacing gas-powered equipment with zero-emission equipment over the next year or two as old equipment needs replacing.

Those with questions or comments about neighborhood parks should contact SCNA's Neighborhood Concerns Committee Co-chair Erik Fay at beatzom@yahoo.com.

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# Initiative would ensure funding for youth programs

Despite the fact that I have less than six months remaining in office, I'm excited about the possibilities in the near term and for the future.

For 20 years as an elected leader in Sacramento, I have fought, argued for, and even begged for additional resources for our city's young people. I have long recognized and argued for the city to invest in human infrastructure – our city's young people – as much as it invests in physical infrastructure, as both are critical for the city's future success.

Thankfully, the city has moved forward on a number of items that not only increase a young person's chances for success, but also point to better overall outcomes for the city. These changes include reorganizing the parks department to include a division focused solely on youth; developing citywide policies that

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



define the assets young people require to thrive; and redefining public safety to include prevention services for young people.

We also have started impactful programs such as Summer at City Hall, 1,000 Strong, RydeFreeRT and others that provide critical supports and services to young people and their families.

The city has recognized that we must include young people in the discussion, hear their voices and give them a true seat at the table. Actions already taken on this front include

making the Youth Commission a chartered commission like other adult-led commissions; creating youth-designated seats on many of our city's boards and commissions; and holding joint meetings between the City Council and the Youth Commission.

All of the above are exciting steps forward, but they require adequate and ongoing resources to ensure success. That is why I have been working with Mayor Darrell Steinberg, District 8 Councilmember Mai Vang and SacKidsFirst on an initiative that will appear on the ballot this November.

The initiative would require that a general fund amount equivalent to 40 percent of the city's cannabis revenues be deposited into a children's fund to be used for positive youth development and youth violence prevention programs such as services

for homeless youth and foster children, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, prevention and early intervention, and after-school activities for children and youths under 25 years old.

This initiative would not result in a tax increase. Rather, it would be a statement of the City Council's priorities in dedicating approximately \$10 million annually to youth programming above what the city is already spending on its young people.

It would be worth every penny, paying off for the city, its youth and all our communities for years to come.

• • •

Note about Music in the Park concerts: In keeping with a sweet tradition but altering it to fit with COVID times, I will hand out ice cream bars, cones and popsicles instead of scooping for cones at the monthly summer concerts.

# An honor to be Curtis Park's incoming councilmember

Happy July! With the June primary elections in the books, I am honored to say that I will officially be your councilmember this December when I am sworn in for my third term.

Thank you to everyone who supported my campaign, and please know that I will represent the interests of all my constituents, whether we always see eye-to-eye or not. I realize that the position I hold is an immense privilege and responsibility, and I look forward to working to serve your

**RICK  
JENNINGS**  
**City  
Council  
Member  
District 7**



interests and needs as best I can.

As I have become more familiar with the Curtis Park neighborhood in the last six months, I have been

consistently impressed with the amazing amenities and businesses in your area. From the incredible services offered by the Sierra 2 Center (and dog park!) to the always-long lines at Gunther's Ice Cream and the delicious food offered by restaurants like Pangaea Bier Cafe, Cafe Dantorels, and many more, the Curtis Park neighborhood is full of wonderful places to eat, play, receive services and give back to your community, not to mention the park itself, which is among the best in the city.

I'm so excited to get to be a part of this neighborhood and be on your T.E.A.M. because "Together Everyone Achieves More!"

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about your city government or need any support or service from me or my staff, please do not hesitate to contact my office at [rjennings@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:rjennings@cityofsacramento.org).

As always, it is my immense privilege to be your incoming councilmember.

## POINT OF VIEW

# Dog owners should not abuse privilege of using Sierra 2 Green

By Kate Van Buren

The Sierra 2 Green is a neighborhood park we all enjoy. It is a community asset, providing a place for families, neighbors and friends. Since 2002, the city has permitted the use of the park as a dog training location during limited hours and under specific rules. It is not an official dog park, and in fact, it is the only city park where dogs are allowed off-leash.

While Sierra 2 Green has co-existed as a park and dog training location, this coexistence has become strained over the last couple of years. Use of the location for dogs has increased significantly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have many people coming from both inside and outside

our neighborhood since their regular areas like Cal Middle School and McClatchy High School have been closed.

The city has authorized off-leash dogs for training purposes only at the park under specific guidelines, including between the limited hours of 6 to 9 a.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.; all dog owners must be registered with the city (registration link: <https://sierra2.org/dog-park/>); all dogs must be licensed; aggressive dogs are not permitted; dog waste must be cleaned up and dog digging damage repaired; and, when the soccer field is in use, dogs must be on leash. These rules, among others, are posted on the fences as you enter the park.

We must remember that the Sierra 2 Green is, first and foremost, a park for families, children and

others. Off-leash dog access is a privilege, and this privilege can be revoked by the city at any time.

SCNA has been in discussions with the city about problems with dog use at the park and is working with the city on measures to enforce the rules. The Dogxilliary and community members are talking about building additional fencing to keep our park safe.

If you bring your dog to Sierra 2 Green, please follow the rules. If you notice dog owners violating the rules, remind them that being able to bring dogs to the park is a privilege that should not be abused. Be kind, be respectful and be a responsible dog owner.

*Kate Van Buren is a Dogxilliary member and former SCNA board member.*



# Primary: Residents' votes were consistent in four precincts within SCNA boundaries

*Continued from Page 1*

65% and 54% countywide.

In state Senate District 8, Dave Jones received 65% of the neighborhood vote, compared with 28% for City Councilmember Angelique Ashby. Citywide, Jones led 46% to 41%. They will face off in November.

In Assembly District 8, incumbent Kevin McCarty received 74% of the neighborhood vote, compared with 15% for Josh Pane and 7% for Cathy Cook. Districtwide, McCarty received 55% of the vote, Pane 15% and Cook 20%. McCarty will face Cook in November.

In the race for county sheriff, Jim Cooper received 78% of the neighborhood vote, compared with 22% for Jim Barnes. Countywide, Cooper received 55% and was elected.

In the race for county district attorney, Alana Mathews received 60% of the neighborhood vote, compared with 40% for Thien Ho. Countywide, Ho received 57% and was elected.

For Sacramento County Board of Education, incumbent Bina Lefkovitz received 63% of the neighborhood vote, compared with 56% districtwide. She defeated challenger Mo Kashmiri and will retain her seat.

Because of redistricting, only the small part of Curtis Park east of Franklin Boulevard remains in City Council District 5. With Councilmember Jay Schenirer's

retirement, four contenders sought to replace him. Caity Maple received 63% of the neighborhood vote and 41% districtwide. Tamiko Heim received 27% of the neighborhood vote and 35% districtwide. Maple and Heim will face off in November.

County Supervisor Phil Serna, a former Curtis Park resident, was unopposed, as was District 7 Councilmember Rick Jennings.

Four voting precincts are completely or largely within SCNA's boundaries. While turnout varied in the four areas, residents in all four areas were consistent in how they voted.

The northern precinct, 44255, has 1,610 voters. It lies south of Broadway, east of Freeport Boulevard, north of Marshall Way or Castro Way, and west of 26th Street or Franklin Boulevard.

The central precinct, 44283, has 1,205 voters. It is east of 25th Street or 26th Street, south of Castro Way, west of Franklin Boulevard and north of Donner Way.

The southern precinct, 44191, has 1,576 voters. It is east of Freeport Boulevard, south of Marshall Way or Donner Way, north of Sutterville Road and west of 25th Street or Franklin Boulevard.

The eastern precinct, 44384, has 477 voters. It is the narrow strip between Franklin Boulevard and Highway 99, and between Broadway and Sutterville Road.



Precincts within SCNA's boundaries: Up-to-date results can be found at the Sacramento County election website – <https://results.saccounty.net>. Precinct tallies may be found by clicking on the "results by voting precinct" tab.

## Trees in Curtis Park Wood chips best mulch for trees and shrubs

By Dan Pskowski

The first four months of 2022 were the driest on record in California. Sacramento has now entered its dry season. If you have not already done so now is a suitable time to apply an organic type of mulch around trees, shrubs and other plant material in your yard.

Mulch is any substance that covers the soil surface. Mulching is a beneficial treatment, reducing surface evaporation and keeping the soil moist longer, which reduces water use. Mulch also helps to control weeds.

Mulch can be inorganic, such as rock, plastic sheeting or landscape fabric. However, decomposed granite is a building material and should never be used as mulch. Organic mulches include straw, leaves, grass clippings, wood chips or compost.

Soil is a living organism made up of earthworms, soil microorganisms, bacteria and fungi. Organic mulches are a benefit to these organisms, especially earthworms, which feed on both live and dead organic matter. Organic mulches also benefit soil fungi that colonize the tree's roots and help the tree with mineral absorption.

The best mulch for trees and other woody plant material is fresh wood chips, according to Dr. Jim Downer, a horticulture and plant pathology adviser with UC Cooperative Extension in Ventura County. Downer's research has shown that fresh wood chips are full of labile carbon. When chips are laid on the soil surface, spores of fungi invade and use this carbon for their own growth as an energy source, thus feeding the soil microbiology. Pathogens are destroyed by enzymes that leach from the fungi infested wood chips.

But what about compost? Downer says compost supplies minerals but cannot supply the labile carbon as a source for the microbes. Compost also has a fine texture and allows water to evaporate faster through the compost/soil interface.

When applying wood chip mulch, it should be three

to six inches deep. But do not pile it against the trunk; keep it six inches away to prevent root collar diseases.

Laying down a weed barrier or landscape fabric before you mulch is not recommended because it is a barrier for earthworms and soil microorganisms.

If you have a slope, shredded cedar is recommended because it knits together, doesn't slough off or wash away.

Leaf blowers are the main cause for mulched areas to gradually revert to bare soil. Inform your gardener not to blow because fresh wood chips are the best mulch for trees and shrubs.

### Free wood chips

SMUD offers free wood chips, which can be picked up at the SMUD yard at 6100 Folsom Blvd. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, except holidays. Telephone: 866 473-9582. Be sure to bring your own tools to load chips and bags to carry them or tarp to cover a pickup load.

Free wood chips are also available through [getchipdrop.com](http://getchipdrop.com). However, when checking out this site, watch the video, "Why Chip Drop is Not For You."

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## POINT OF VIEW

# Challenging 62-mile bike trek rewarding for rider and trees

By Dan Pskowski

In May, I spoke at the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture annual conference in Oakland. A few weeks in advance, I made the decision to participate in the Britton Fund Ride, which occurred prior to the three-day conference. This annual fund-raising event supports research and educational opportunities in the field of arboriculture.

I have previously completed four Britton Fund Rides, which are a metric century (62 miles) bicycle ride. Registering for this ride meant raising a minimum of \$775, this year, and riding my bike to Oakland in time to attend the Arboriculture conference. It has been my tradition to bicycle to where the Britton Fund Ride is held. I do this in appreciation of all the people who supported me with a donation. Prior rides were in San Jose, Santa Rosa, Yosemite National Park and Reno, Nevada.

Google Maps is an excellent resource to plan your bicycle route; it showed Oakland was exactly 100 miles. The route was not the most direct one, but it utilized bicycle trails and

roads with the least amount of traffic. Preparation for my conference talk and fundraising left me unable to review the route to Oakland. You can save time by finding a more direct route on main roads instead of zigzagging on the neighborhood streets.

Once the panniers were loaded with food, water and clothes for the next five days, off I went. The projected high temperature of 60 degrees was going to make it a comfortable day for cycling. I enjoyed riding on country roads experiencing a new adventure.

North of Fairfield I encountered the winds, unaware that for the next 50 miles I would be riding into a 25-mph headwind. As I crossed the Carquinez Bridge, there were whitecaps on the water. Due to the winds and a few wrong turns, it took me 12.5 hours to get to my daughter's apartment in Oakland. But I had the next day to rest in preparation for the Britton Fund Ride.

It was 50 degrees and overcast on Monday morning as the 17 participants in the Britton Fund Ride started from downtown Oakland with a lap around Lake Merritt. Cyclists doing the 28-mile flat route broke off



Courtesy/WCISA Britton Fund Ride

Dan Pskowski takes a break near Lake Merritt in Oakland.

and the rest of us began the long climb up the Oakland Hills.

This 62-mile ride would entail 6,415 feet of elevation gain. The shifting ecology of oak savanna and redwood groves also included striking views of Lake Chabot and the San Francisco Bay.

After the lunch break, most of the riders turned off at the gravel route option. I was fortunate to have Gordon Matassa, the City of Oakland's urban forester, accompanying me on the road route. It was challenging keeping up with Gordon because he regularly rides

in the Oakland Hills.

The best climbs were at the end, going up Berkeley's Grizzly Peak and Tilden Park. After that, it was all downhill back to downtown Oakland to conclude with the planting of two trees in a park.

I felt exhilarated that I completed the ride and that my 67-year-old body had held up to the challenge. Best of all, I raised \$2,000 for tree research.

Dan Pskowski is a retired city arborist, former SCNA board member and author of the *Trees in Curtis Park* column in Viewpoint.

## Customer appreciation day at Hop Gardens to donate proceeds to SCNA July 9

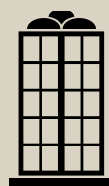


Hop Gardens at 2904 Franklin Blvd. is going to donate a portion of its sales to SCNA on July 9 from noon to 10 p.m. At a previous Hop Gardens customer appreciation day, SCNA received \$800 from its proceeds. Neighbors can grab a bite at Hop Gardens July 9 and know that SCNA will benefit from its sales.

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## Tesla Solar Roof helps couple approach energy self-sufficiency

By Mike Scheible

Is your roof in need of replacement? Do you want a zero-carbon home? Would you like to maintain power during an outage?

Cheri Davis and Ted Frink on 25th Street answered yes to all three questions. They have just installed a 6-kilowatt Tesla Solar Roof and 13.5 kilowatt-hour Tesla Powerwall battery.

The Solar Roof project was the last step in making their 1910 home all-electric and nearly energy self-sufficient. Previous projects included heat pump heating and cooling, a heat pump water heater and an induction stove. They now meet nearly 100% of their household electricity demand with self-generated zero-carbon renewable electricity.

The new roof is a combination of solar shingles (on the south side) and steel tiles, both warrantied for 25 years

and manufactured to look like slate. The system is sized to generate 96% of their annual electric use, which includes charging a Tesla EV.

During the early afternoon, the solar cells will produce more electricity than needed to power the home. The extra juice will be stored in the battery or sent back to SMUD. During SMUD's peak from 5 to 8 p.m., when SMUD rates and greenhouse gas emissions are highest, energy from the battery will augment solar production to cover 100% of their use. This saves both SMUD and the homeowner money and lowers SMUD's peak demand. During a power outage, the battery will provide power for essential uses for many hours.

At \$29,000, the solar roof was a big investment. The battery portion of the installation added another \$10,000. Federal tax credits offset 26% of the

cost of the Powerwall and the active-solar share of the roofing cost.

Frink viewed the installation as a bargain. "This is the only roof we could buy that helps pay for itself over time," he said. Their annual electricity bill is expected to be minimal, and they have a high-quality, long-lasting new roof.

Davis and Frink also get satisfaction from generating enough zero-carbon electricity to minimize their family's "carbon footprint" and from saying goodbye to PG&E bills.

Because they initiated the project prior to March 2022, they receive SMUD's former, more generous average net energy solar rate – 13.2 cents per kilowatt-hour for power delivered to the grid. (New solar projects receive 7.4 cents per kilowatt-hour, plus incentives for battery storage.) The extra power



Installing Tesla roof tiles

produced during the day and sent back to SMUD is expected to be sufficient to offset the grid power used to charge their EV at night when rates are about 10 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Frink is pleased with the system and willing to share his experiences with neighbors considering installing solar and backup power. He can be reached at 916-799-0184 or via email at trited1@gmail.com.

## Video outlines city's plans for increased housing density

By Bruce Pierini

SCNA and the Land Park Community Association have collaborated on a 34-minute video to educate the neighborhoods about the prospect of increased housing density throughout the city.

The video is a preliminary summary of the General Plan 2040 Update,

which will provide a roadmap for how the city will grow over the next 20 years.

SCNA was one of the signatories of a letter sent to City Council in April. It requested, among other things, that the plan's rollout be slowed down and the public review period be increased.

The city has agreed in writing with the requests for a slow-down. Lead

planner Remi Mendoza recently wrote in an email: "At the start of the 45-day public comment period there will be presentation webinars to provide an overview of the draft documents and to explain how to provide input most effectively." Mendoza said the draft documents will be released for public review by early fall.

The plan is expected to address

mixed-use commercial/housing developments proposed for Broadway, Freeport Boulevard, Franklin Boulevard and Sutterville Road. Several large-scale developments are already in the works on Broadway.

The video, titled "Reviewing Your Community Plan (Land Use Section)," will be posted soon on the [www.sierra2.org](http://www.sierra2.org) and [www.landpark.org](http://www.landpark.org) websites.

## New variants increase 95818 COVID infections

By Mike Scheible

The arrival of new COVID variants has caused the number of recorded infections in the 95818 ZIP code to triple from those reported in the May issue of Viewpoint. Countywide cases are up almost tenfold.

The 60 local cases in the 30 days

prior to April 4 jumped to 194 reported on June 2. However, actual cases are almost certainly at least several times higher. Many cases are symptom-free and never diagnosed. Many others have mild symptoms, are diagnosed with home tests and never require treatment, and therefore, go unreported.

It's clear that the virus is still active

and remains dangerous to the 20% of the 95818 population that have yet to get fully vaccinated or have weak immune systems.

Additionally, there is no guarantee that a more severe variant will not emerge. Continued caution along with full vaccinations plus booster shots are still prudent to reduce personal risk

and protect others.

Curtis Park has about 5,000 residents. It shares the 95818 ZIP code with 17,000 residents of the Land Park, Newton Booth and Poverty Ridge neighborhoods. Statistics on COVID infections and vaccinations are not available publicly at less than the ZIP code area.

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## Single block of 25th Street welcomes 2 new households

By Craig McCulloch

One block of 25th Street recently gained two new households in just a month's time. About 30 neighbors celebrated with a potluck dinner to welcome them.

Rachel Carpenter moved to the block in April from East Sacramento. She grew up in McKinley Park area and has also lived in San Francisco and Oakland. She is a licensed civil engineer and is the chief safety officer at CalTrans. She also serves on the Sacramento Active Transportation Commission. She received her bachelor's degree from Cal Poly and her master's degree from UC Davis.

As a sign of the active real estate market in our area, this was her 11th offer to purchase a house. She is planning some renovations to the home and yard. Carpenter shares her home with a 6-year-old cat, Winston. She enjoys walking and jogging in the neighborhood with large trees providing ample shade. An active tennis player, she looks forward to playing in Curtis Park.

The second household of new neighbors, Katie Nied and Marisa Tsikounas, moved onto the block in May. Nied is an economic research analyst with Moody's Analytics. The firm focuses on non-ratings services including global economic research. Tsikounas is the owner of Revel Floral Weddings and Events, specializing in floral design in San Francisco, the Napa wine country and abroad.

They both enjoy gardening, cooking and travel. They have traveled extensively to Europe, the United Kingdom and Greece. Nied has visited 35 countries.

Also sharing their home is Cleo, a former rescue dog.



New neighbors Marisa Tsikounas and Katie Nied were traveling with their dog, Cleo, when the group photo was taken but attended the welcome potluck also.



Photo/Judy Green Scheible

Seven 25th Street neighbors gathered around the street's newcomer, Rachel Carpenter, center, to welcome her to their corner of Curtis Park. The longtime neighbors are, standing from left, Wayne Anderson, Craig McCulloch, Will Sohal (behind Carpenter), Joan Muttera and Bruce Pierini. Seated, from left, are Alan Wade and Lynda White.



## Another little sister for Sebastian

Baby Beatrice, in the arms of proud papa Jason Schwerin, is the latest addition to the Portola Way family. "Big brother" Sebastian, a 7-year-old St. Bernard, has gotten used to his other sister, 3-year-old Frances. The girls have April birthdays three days apart. Mom, Jessica Cuckovich, is at left.

Photo/Joan Cusick

## Congratulations to more CURTIS PARK GRADUATES

### COLLEGE

**Olivia Enos**, daughter of David and Sheila Enos of 25th Street, graduates Occidental College with a bachelor's degree in politics and double minor. For summer, she will continue her internship with the Center for Intersectional Media and Entertainment.



[Correction: In last month's issue of Viewpoint, Olivia Enos was incorrectly identified as Sheila Enos.]

**Reyna Alessia Vallejo**, daughter of Arturo and Marisa Vallejo of Fourth Avenue, graduated from Saint Francis High School. She plans to attend Sacramento State and to major in architecture.



### HIGH SCHOOL

**Valerie Mullan**, daughter of Su-Lin and Randall Mullan of Montgomery Way, is graduating from West Campus. She will attend the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia.





# Alumni: Former students talk about the positive impacts they experienced

*Continued from Page 1*

The old school building was dedicated on May 23, 1923. In the early 1970s, the campus and buildings were rebuilt into the version that exists today. The plaque at the front of the school, which lists the names of the architects, contractor and board of education, is dated 1976.

Aubri Dark, who grew up on 26th Street, attended Bret Harte from 1979 to 1986. She remembers the fun events she participated in, including some that continue today, such as the annual pancake breakfast. She remembers her teachers by name, and building relationships with her peers. “I made lifelong friends at Bret Harte,” Dark said.

Maggie Thomas, who is currently chief of staff of the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy, attended Bret Harte from 1993 to 2000. Although she left the school more than 20 years ago, she is happy that some things haven’t changed, like the redwood tree in the schoolyard. “I spent a lot of time playing with my friends at the old redwood tree behind the portable near Seventh Avenue,” she said. “It always makes me so happy to see the tree still standing – watching over students past, present and future.”

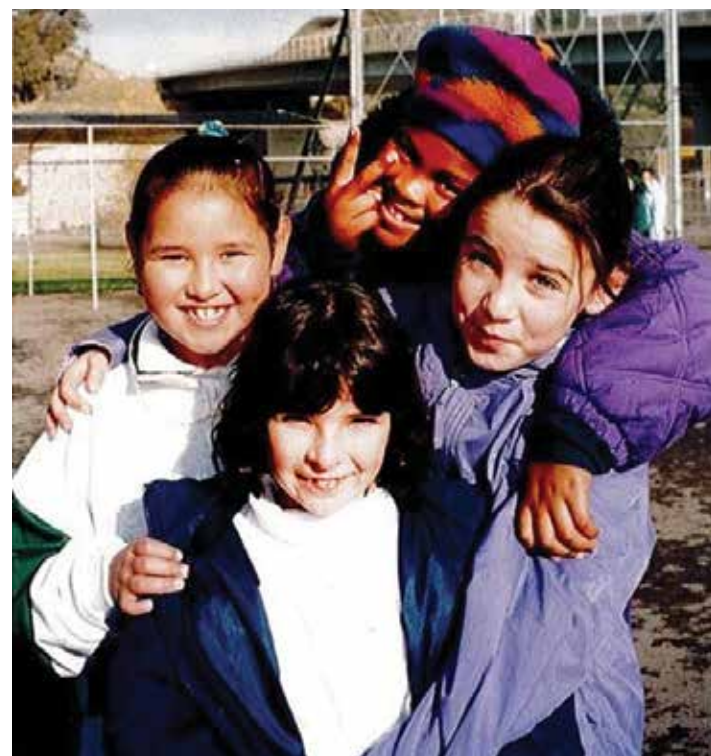
The influence Bret Harte had on former students like Thomas shaped their perspectives on life as well. “I often think about how my time at [Bret Harte] shaped my worldview and is the foundation for my understanding of the role that public institutions should play in a community,” she said.

Like Thomas, Hill recognizes the valuable role that Bret Harte has played in the community over the years. She remembers playing in the schoolyard evenings and weekends and that the school felt like an “anchor for the neighborhood.”

Megan McCulloch, who now practices law in



In fifth grade, Aubri Dark, formerly of 26th Street, sports her Bret Harte sweatshirt.



Fifth-grade friends, from left clockwise, Miriam Gomez-Sandoval, Margaret West, Megan McCulloch and Hilary Rounds on a field trip to the Nimbus Fish Hatchery.

Georgia, attended Bret Harte from 1997 to 2003. She said that teachers made lasting, positive impressions on her as a child. When the World Trade Center was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, “teachers were able to keep the students calm, while explaining something very scary,” she recalled. McCulloch is still in contact with teacher Patti Kolb, who she had for fifth and sixth grades. “Mrs. Kolb was absolutely amazing. She was able to fundraise a trip for our whole class to go to Washington, D.C.,” McCulloch said. “For some of my classmates, it was the first time they’d ever been outside of Sacramento County. I don’t even think I can truly articulate how impactful it was to have teachers who truly care about their students, not only academically, but personally as well.”

Dark remembers how teachers played an important role in her success later in life. “I was a very shy, self-effacing kid,” she said. “My teachers were very encouraging and helped me with my confidence.”

Hill’s fifth- and sixth-grade teachers taught her

invaluable life skills that she still uses today. Her fifth-grade teacher stressed the importance of memorization as a life skill and her sixth-grade teacher taught her how to make and use an outline. “Learning how to easily make an outline was invaluable going forward. What stands out is learning how to learn, not the information itself. That is what stayed with me,” she said.

Thomas, Dark and McCulloch all said the diversity of the Bret Harte community was beneficial to them during their childhood and into adulthood. Diversity was celebrated on campus with multicultural fairs, so students could share information about their various cultures. “These events were super cool, especially when people brought food for sale,” McCulloch said. “It was a great way for people to learn about and appreciate the beauty in other cultures,” she said.

Perhaps Thomas stated it best: “Bret Harte is a window into the world. Its diversity is its strength.”

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## No Viewpoint

The *Viewpoint* staff is taking a holiday break. The next edition will be in September. The deadline for that issue is Aug. 15.

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