VIEWPOINT

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February 2023

January storms take dramatic toll but also unite community



View from the Blackman home after Bruce Pierini's heritage oak tree fell, taking out a power pole and transformer in the New Year's storm

Peter Blackman

Power outages, uprooted trees and damaged property give way to gratitude

By Dorsey Griffith

The New Year came in with frightening thuds and crashes, power outages and ensuing insurance claims headaches for Curtis Park residents who suffered the brunt of a series of winter storms in January. Fortunately, there were no reports of injuries, and the calamity also brought together neighbors who rallied to the rescue with offers of food, shelter, ingenuity

and elbow grease.

High winds and rain-saturated soil caused trees to fall throughout Curtis Park, blocking streets, smashing vehicles, tearing down power lines and even plowing through roofs. Lights went out throughout the neighborhood, and many area residents were without power for days.

Dorene Connelly and Rob Funk were watching TV in their 24th Street home at about 8:30 on New Year's

City seeks community

Eve when Funk said, "Did you hear that wind gust?"

"Before I could process what he said, there was this huge sound like an explosion, and the whole house shook," Connelly said. "It was really scary."

Although they didn't know what had happened at first, they quickly learned that their neighbor's 80-foot fir tree had toppled, landing on the roof over their front porch, some of its branches penetrating the roof and damaging walls of the second story. Also struck was Funk's 2010 Dodge Ram 2500, which was parked between their house and their neighbor's tree.

"It probably saved us," said Connelly. "If the truck hadn't been in the driveway, the whole tree would have crashed through the roof and into the living room, which is right where Rob was sitting."

When the couple was unable to leave their house



Trees in
Curtis Park
Many felled trees
suffered from
"windthrow failure"

survey resultsZoom meeting scheduled
Feb. 9, 5-6 p.m

input on parks

Page 14

See STORM, Page 4

New SCNA board of directors members elected

By Dorsey Griffith and Mimi Budd

Ten board members were elected to the ■ SCNA board at the annual membership meeting Dec. 7, with over 170 members in attendance on Zoom. The League of Women Voters helped ensure voter qualification and tabulate the votes cast. Six incumbents were re-elected along with three board-endorsed candidates and two write-in candidates, bringing the total board membership to 20 members. Biographies for all the members can be found on the Sierra2.org website. Here we introduce the five new members.

Miles Thorne

Miles, his wife, Terra, and their young daughters Grace and Lucy have lived on Fifth Avenue since 2015, their home notable for the planter boxes in the front yard. A native of Sacramento, Miles en- Miles Thorne joyed many memories



of spending time at Sierra 2 and Curtis Park and feels lucky to now own a home in a great neighborhood close to restaurants, transit and beautiful parks. A Navy veteran, Miles has worked in several facilities/construction capacities and currently works for UC Davis Health maintaining off-campus real estate. This professional experience, he said, can help him support maintenance of historic buildings like Sierra 2. "I want to give back to the community," he said. "I love meeting new people, learning new things, and I want our community to keep thriving."

Jack Foster

Jack and his wife, Lauren, bought their Eighth Avenue home from family friends in early 2021. The couple, who moved to Sacramento from New York City during the pandemic, are both employed in the tech industry and work



Jack Foster

remotely. Jack said he ran for the SCNA board so that he and his wife, who is expecting their first child, could enjoy a tight-knit, safe community with well-maintained recreational amenities. Having lived in both San Francisco and New York City, Jack has experienced the effects of policies to deal with challenges like homelessness and crime that are both detrimental and those

that are tough, but fair. "This city faces similar challenges," he said. "I am particularly interested in using my seat on the board to interface with the city and make a positive impact on topics such as development policy and public safety."

Matthew Royal

Matthew, his husband John, and two cockapoos Mishka and Pechie, found their "charming, just right" house on 23rd Street seven years ago. A software and systems engineer, Royal currently works on public-facing apps and Matthew Royal websites and consults



with companies on scaling their services. With prior corporate and non-profit board experience, he hopes to bring his project planning and technical skills to SCNA. Among his many goals for his term are reducing barriers to event participation, ensuring that community spaces work for both animals and humans and helping residents resolve issues like faulty water meter installations. "Additionally, many of the houses in our neighborhood are about to celebrate their 100-year birthday," he said. "Our house is still four years away from its centennial, but I'd like to coordinate with others interested in researching and recognizing our homes."

Kirsten Smith

A self-described "refugee from the heat" of Arizona, Kristen moved to her Florence Place home in Curtis Park in 1995 with her then one-year-old daughter. Drawn to the canopy of trees and intimate streets,



Kirsten Smith

she said she soon discovered Curtis Park's secret – its strong community among neighbors. Kristen is a classical pianist and teacher who has taught on the faculty at CSUS for the past 25 years. She performs regularly and is fascinated with the science of learning. She and her husband, John, enjoy their edible gardens, cooking, traveling and hiking, and they plan to bicycle across the country when they retire. She hopes her SCNA service allows her to be a voice for the people of Curtis Park. "I look forward to being instrumental in keeping Curtis Park a beautiful, clean, fun and safe place where people develop meaningful connections

with their neighbors," she said.

Christian Muller

Christian, his dogs Murray and Charley and his cat Cortez live on Montgomery Way. Muller bought his home in 2010 the same home his grandparents owned and occupied from 1935 to 1996. "The sense of community



Christian Muller

and respect for the integrity of the original architecture keeps me in awe of our beautiful neighborhood," he said. Christian runs an e-waste recycling company serving commercial properties and municipalities throughout California. When he's not working and as time allows, he enjoys basketball at the park, playing guitar and traveling the globe. He looks forward to serving on the board and creating more opportunities for in-person interaction within the community.



SAVE THE DATE! PLANS UNDER WAY FOR A HOME AND GARDEN TOUR FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Mark April 22 on your calendar for a fun day of activities. In addition to tours of beautiful homes and gardens, enjoy food trucks, live music and vintage cars in the park. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dozens of volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts to help monitor the homes on tour. Please call or text Lori Harder at 916 801-7189 or email her at lorikoi@sbcglobal.net to sign up.

The home and garden tour is an important fundraiser for SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center, with a goal of netting \$15,000 in sponsorships, advertisements and ticket sales. Sponsorships range from \$250 to \$2,500. Contact Terri Shettle at Sierra 2 Center at 916 452-3005, ext. 204, or by email at terri@sierra2.org for more information.

Updates will be posted on SCNA's website at Sierra2.org, Facebook and email, as well as in the March and April editions of Viewpoint.

President's message

New Year brings new board members and Viewpoint staff

We move into the new year with five new directors on the SCNA board, along with six re-elected directors. All SCNA board members are elected to two-year terms, with half the board up for re-election each year. With the latest election, the board is now at 20 members who will help with what seems to be an ever-expanding workload.

Due to the severe storms the first week of January, the Jan. 4 organizational meeting was postponed until Jan. 11. At that meeting the board elected its 2023 officers and an at-large member. Re-elected for one-year terms were Bill Hoover (president), Kathy Les (vice president), John Bailey (treasurer), Mimi Budd (secretary) and Bruce Pierini (atlarge member)." All board members were asked to submit their committee

BILL HOOVER SCNA Board President



preferences, which will be considered by the president when making committee assignments.

With the year-end departures of Viewpoint stalwarts Executive Editor Dennis Cusick (five years) and Managing Editor Carol Blackman (43 years), the board began work in earnest to find capable replacements. Board members Kathy Les, Bruce Pierini and Lily Harris embraced the challenge.

Carol's position turned out to be more

than handling the Viewpoint's graphics and layout. She also worked with the advertisers and took care of keeping writers on track to meet publishing deadlines. After careful analysis, these functions may be broken into three positions: Production Manager, Advertising Coordinator and News Coordinator.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of these three board members, I can report success at filling the two key positions that will ensure continuation of Viewpoint without interruption. Carol and Dennis also provided valuable assistance and input.

Dorsey Griffith, longtime Curtis Park resident and very experienced former Sacramento Bee journalist, has graciously volunteered to take on the duties and responsibilities of executive editor.

Additionally, Bonnie Rodriguez

of Valley Oak Press will become the production manager. Valley Oak Press also prints Viewpoint. The remaining two activities will be overseen by the Viewpoint Committee while the search continues for a more permanent arrangement.

Last, I am delighted to announce the return of SCNA's Home Tour on April 22, after a three-year hiatus. It is a fun event and one of our biggest fundraisers. Music in the Park and Curtis Fest are also on the schedule. Look for details in upcoming issues of Viewpoint.

We have weathered what COVID-19, lockdowns and the economy have thrown at us the past three years and will emerge stronger than ever. I thank all of you who supported SCNA and Sierra 2 over the past three years, and hope for your continued support.

Notes from Jan. 11 SCNA board meeting

Board elects officers, reviews budget, projects and plans for 2023

CNA President Bill Hoover introduced and welcomed the five new board members elected at the annual membership meeting on Dec. 7, 2022. They are Jack Foster, Christian Muller, Matthew Royal, Kirsten Smith and Miles Thorne.

The election of board officers was held. Bill Hoover (president), Kathy Les (vice president), John Bailey, (treasurer), Mimi Budd, (secretary), and Bruce Pierini, (member at large of the executive committee) were all elected by acclamation of the board. They will serve one-year terms for 2023.

Viewpoint editors announced

SCNA Vice President Kathy
Les introduced Dorsey Griffith,
who has volunteered to serve as the
new executive editor of Viewpoint.
Dorsey thanked the members of the
search team, including Bruce Pierini,
Kathy Les and Lily Harris. She also
acknowledged Dennis Cusick and
Carol Blackman, who retired as

executive editor and managing editor, respectively, for their assistance during the transition.

Dorsey has lived in Curtis Park since 1994 and looks forward to giving back to the neighborhood. After more than 35 years as a journalist and communications professional, she now runs her own freelance writing and editing business. Publication of the February issue is under way, and while Dorsey has some innovative ideas for the paper, she anticipates no major changes right away.

Bruce Pierini announced that Bonnie Rodriguez will take over graphics, layout and production duties previously managed by Carol Blackman. The company she has worked for and now owns has been printing Viewpoint for more than 40 years. She brings to the post 25 years of community journalism experience as a writer, editor and graphic artist. Bruce said Viewpoint also needs an "ad manager" and a content coordinator who will report to the executive editor.

Sierra 2 news

Gerre Buehler presented to the board for approval a letter to the City of Sacramento seeking preliminary approval for SCNA to explore converting the current heating and cooling system at Sierra 2 to a solar-powered system. The motion was passed with 18 board members voting in favor. The letter will be copied to the Department of Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment and to the Climate Action Office.

Sierra 2 Center Executive
Director Terri Shettle reported
some minor storm damage from
the recent series of storms to the
roof on the main building. She
will see if city insurance will cover
the repairs. One tree lost a huge
limb that merits further investigation into the health of the tree.
She noted that power outages and
damage to homes required flexible
staff scheduling. She asked that all
board members submit the Annual
Conflict of Interest Policy Acknowl-

edgment and that new members submit the Whistle-Blower Policy Acknowledgement.

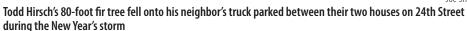
Terri will set up a tour of the facility for new board members. New board member biographies will be posted on the Sierra 2 website and photos will be taken for the Viewpoint.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer John Bailey reviewed the October financial statements, noting that aside from unrealized investment losses, operations are hewing close to budget. Since June, \$130,000 has been spent on replacements of major building components. The available fund balance has declined to a minus \$79,000. This account is a key measure of financial strength (or weakness). John reported that when we entered the COVID-19 pandemic our available fund balance was about negative \$120,000. SNCA was weak

See NOTES, Page 6







Gary Reed

Hunter Parnell's home after a cedar blew over on Jan. 8

Storm

Continued from Page 1

through their front door the next morning, friends, neighbors and family members descended on their home with chainsaws, gloves and energy, pulling branches and debris out of the way and into the street. Another friend tarped the roof to keep their home watertight.

Todd Hirsch and his wife Marya Endriga moved into their 24th Street home with the big fir a year ago.

"I called it my big Christmas tree," Hirsch said. "It was probably planted around the time I was born, in 1960. Those trees are supposed to last 500 years. It gave us one Christmas."

More importantly, he said, "out of this tragedy, no one got hurt. And the neighborhood response the following day – I get goosebumps talking about it."

SMUD spokesperson Gamaliel Ortiz said nearly 600,000 SMUD customers lost power at some point during

what the utility district called "the most damaging string of storms" in its history. About 300 power poles fell, along with 1,800 wires and more than 650 trees and large limbs. SMUD reported in mid-January that power had been restored to nearly everyone affected.

Bruce Pierini of 25th Street was enjoying his third week of a six-week Italian holiday in Palermo when he received a text early New Year's Day from a neighbor informing him the heritage oak in his backyard had fallen and damaged his house.

"Within the next 48 hours it became clear that our 150- to 200-year-old massive valley oak uprooted and was all over our yard and partly on our roof and on the roof of our neighbor's house," he said. Their house was damaged, with gutters torn off and windows broken.

But it got worse. When the tree came down it brought with it electrical wires, a power pole and a transformer, causing a small explosion and taking out power in the neighborhood.

Carol Blackman had a bird's eye view of the calamity from the second story of her now darkened home on 26th Street. While she and her husband, Peter, and dog, Percy, were offered other places to stay, they decided to ride out the outage at home, packing food from the fridge and freezer into coolers in their backyard and hunkering by the gas fireplace for warmth.

"We did everything in the living room – the one warm room in our house," she said. "We had all of our meals by candlelight on a card table, read, played cards and Scrabble. A couple of friends brought us soups and other goodies. We went for drives to charge our iPhones and iPads. The power didn't come back on until late Tuesday afternoon, three days after the lights went out."

Blackman said the oak had shaded several backyards for over 45 years. "It was its own ecosystem with all of life running through it," she said. "It's such a loss to our neighborhood."

Pierini and his husband, Wayne

Anderson, returned home early to assess the damage, contact their insurance companies and mourn their beloved tree.

"We would sit there innumerable hours during good weather and watch the hummingbirds, squirrels, possums and racoons come through," he said.

High winds toppled more trees exactly one week later. Hunter Parnell and Molly O'Keefe were in bed around midnight in their Cutter Way home when a cedar over 100 feet tall crashed through their roof and broke through into their living room. Fortunately, the couple and their young niece and nephew they were babysitting that evening were safe in bedrooms on the opposite corner of the house when the tree came down.

"We woke up the kids out of our minds and told them we had to get out of the house," he said. "We crawled out of the window because the tree was blocking the front door, and we evacuated to my wife's family's home."

See STORM, Page 10

Trees in Curtis Park

A blow to Curtis Park's urban forest

'Windthrow' failure causes dramatic storm-related tree loss

By Daniel Pskowski

Sacramento's urban forest was dealt a one-two punch with two horrific storms in early January beginning on New Year's Eve, which brought wind gusts of up to 60 mph and caused whole trees and limbs to come crashing down.

The wind blew from the north, which is unusual for Sacramento since the prevailing winds are from the south and southeast. Exactly one week later, another windstorm with gusts up to 70 mph from the south blew over more trees and caused more limb failures in the neighborhood. Sacramento has not experienced winds of this velocity since Jan. 4, 2008. I have lived in Sacramento for the past 32 years and never experienced back-to-back windstorms of this magnitude.

Our neighborhood parks were fortunate. Unlike William Land Park, which suffered catastrophic damage when more than 50 large trees blew over, no whole trees fell in Sierra 2 Green or William Curtis Park. Still, plenty of homeowners were affected, with trees and large limbs that fell on homes, lawns and vehicles.

Why did so many trees blow over? There are many contributing factors. They include wind speed and direction, species of tree, type of tree (evergreen or deciduous), tree health, tree structure and root development, girdling roots, root decay, prior root pruning, prior trenching, soil type and moisture level.

After inspecting many of the fallen trees from these past two windstorms, I found a significant number that arborists would classify as a "windthrow failure." This type of failure is associated with the uplift of the root system that arborists define as the root plate. This is caused by a soil failure that occurs when the soil does not have sufficient strength to keep the root system firmly anchored in the ground. Soil failure is characterized by the large amounts of soil that adhere to the root plate. If a fallen tree has very little soil in its root plate, or if the tree snapped off at ground level, the cause of the failure is likely to be root decay and/or roots that circle the base of the tree and prevent natural root develop-

Successive winter storms



Will Carlton

SMUD crews work to clear debris, restore power and replace a power pole and transformer on 25th Street.

cause soil to become saturated, and when wind speeds exceed 20 mph, whole trees can blow over. A notable number of evergreen trees also suffered windthrow failure,

due to the resistance caused by the foliage.

In the wake of these storms, residents should inspect the trees around their homes, looking up for any broken or split limbs and at the branch unions for cracks. They should check to see if the tree had been vertical and

See TREES, Page 11





A REPUTATION FOR UNDERSTANDING FINE OLDER HOMES FROM THE INSIDE OUT





On a beautiful tree-lined street, this 2-bedroom, 2-bath home was renovated in 2012. Large kitchen with island, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Updated bathrooms/travertine tile. Dual pane windows.



Notes

Continued from Page 3

but surviving, due to the generous support of donors, and having obtained COVID-19-related government grants.

John said that the Finance Committee will be preparing a mid-year revision to the budget. He also offered to host a financial orientation session for new board members.

Capital projects

Gerre Buehler reported that most capital projects driven by the 5-year plan for FY 22-23 have been completed. This includes: the ADA stair lift (final permit to be issued Dec. 7); roofing and gutters (some outstanding issues remain, and contractor has been contacted); Studio 2 floor replacement; parking lot repairs; exterior paint; and HVAC repair and replacement. New booking software was purchased, but activation of the new system was delayed to March 2023. Concrete and sidewalk repair has not yet begun.

2023 events planned

Shannon Motley reported that a year of exciting events is planned for 2023, including the Home Tour in April, Big Day of Giving, the Garage Sale, Curtis Fest, Music in the Park, Gather at the Long Table and celebration of the 100year anniversary of Sierra School (Sierra 2 Center).

Community concerns

Erik Fay reported on the presentation to the Neighborhood Concerns Committee (NCC) by the Broadway Complete Streets and Central Mobility Project. Broadway Complete Streets is planned to include, among other changes, buffered bike lanes, lane reduction, pedestrian crossing improvements, pavement rehabilitation and repair, and traffic improvements. One major goal is to reroute more traffic off Broadway onto X Street.

Phases 1 and 2 have been combined

Then ek S CNA Boardm eetingw ill beF eb.at byZ oom.

and were set to start in January. Draft designs are beginning for Phase 3 to address 24th to 29th Streets. Plantings, landscaping, greenery and aesthetic details are said to be included.

The X Street Navigation Center passed its first anniversary at the end of October. There has been over 100% shelter growth in the last year with 530 guests served and 129 remaining to be housed as of that date. Challenges with getting people into housing include lack of housing units (2759 affordable housing units are planned to be constructed, many on Stockton Boulevard in Oak Park), and landlords wary of accepting vouchers for tenants with questionable histories. Management continues to seek landlords who will accept vouchers. Outreach to encampments adjacent to and around the center continues, but people in the encampments are a challenging and non-trusting population. Illegal substances may not be used in the shelter, which is a disincentive for many.

Erik updated the board about the controversy surrounding the use of Sierra 2 Green by dogs and owners. The issue was discussed at a meeting in November with representatives of the city, Councilman Jay Schenirer and DogX members.

The city solicited community feedback in an online survey conducted through Jan. 6. City staff will host a community meeting to review the survey results and discuss future park use. For an update on the city's perspective, Erik referred members to www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Sierra-2ParkInfo. He also referred members to Sierra2.org to review a letter summarizing the board's position on the matter.

Erik noted that NCC had reached out to DogX members on numerous occasions, without success, to identify a primary contact with whom to meet and discuss the situation. Following an exchange among Erik, Christian and Kirsten, it was determined that Christian Muller and Talene Ghazarian are co-leaders of DogX. Kirsten had offered to reach out, and Christian stated that he wanted to be a unifier to bridge the divide between DogX and SCNA.

Bill Hoover commented that the dynamic regarding the dog group's makeup has changed dramatically. He said when the group started it only involved Curtis Park residents, but now includes residents from throughout the city. Bill added that for that reason SCNA should feel free to take a much

closer look at its level of involvement. SCNA will wait for the release of the survey results and the city's community forum to follow.

Upcoming meetings

At the next NCC meeting on Jan. 18, a SMUD representative will speak about the climate and tree plans.

Kathy Les and Mimi Budd reported that the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Racial Justice Committee will be held on Zoom at 10 a.m. Feb. 8 to discuss the 2023 agenda. Kathy also suggested that anyone interested in meeting on the Ad Hoc Committee for Clean and Quiet Yard Care should contact her.

The next SCNA Board meeting will be Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom.

- Submitted by Mimi Budd

Councilwoman Caity Maple greets Curtis Park

Tt's my pleasure to introduce myself Las your new Sacramento City Council member. My name is Caity Maple, and it is a privilege to serve you, the residents and businesses of District 5, for the next four years.

This district covers a new area since lines were redrawn during redistricting, and now includes a wide section of central and south Sacramento from Golf Course Terrace and Valley Hi in the south, to Hollywood Park and City Farms in the center, to Oak Park, Med Center, and a sliver of Curtis Park in the north. It's beautiful and diverse, and home to some of our longest-standing landmarks and small businesses. I'm proud to call District 5 home.

I ran for office on the idea that we need a "New Deal" for Sacramento. We must address the root causes of homelessness, build more affordable housing and public transit, invest in our parks

CAITY MAPLE City **Council Member District 5**



and green spaces, attract quality jobs, and support small businesses. My team and I are already hard at work, listening and learning every day to deliver on these priorities and make District 5 a better place to live, work and play.

Please remember that our office is here to serve you! Reach out to our team anytime with questions, issues, recommendations or ideas by emailing the team at district5@cityofsacramento. org or calling us at 916-808-7005.

Thank you,

Council Member Caity Maple





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New Viewpoint staff members say 'hello'

By Dorsey Griffith

Pear Viewpoint readers, I am happy to announce that you have two new Viewpoint editors. I have replaced Dennis Cusick as executive editor, and Bonnie Rodriguez will take over graphics, layout and production duties previously managed by Carol Blackman.

These are very big shoes to fill, but with the support of our generous predecessors and a very capable volunteer crew, including my assistant editors Susan MacCulloch and Lily Harris, we are off and running with energy and ideas.

Rodriguez, originally from Granite Bay, is no stranger to the Viewpoint. Herburger Publications, the company she worked for and now owns and has renamed Valley Oak Press, Inc., has been printing Viewpoint for more than 40 years. She began her work for Herburger in 2006 and most recently served as the company's *Galt Herald* editor. She brings to the post 25 years of community journalism experience, as a writer, editor and graphic artist.

"I am looking forward to working with this amazing Viewpoint staff," she said. "I have worked with numerous publications, and I am impressed with the passion and dedication exhibited by the Viewpoint crew. It amazes me that an all-volunteer organization can produce such a professional product."

She added that among all the newspaper roles she has assumed over the years she especially enjoys laying out print publications.

"I'm excited to put away my



Dorsey Griffith

accounting calculator once a month and return to the creative side of publishing," she said.

My late husband and I raised two children (Molly and Max Pease) in my Eighth Avenue home; their tiny hand and footprints are glazed onto a tile still displayed in the park's play area. I've spent countless hours loving our neighborhood and park, jogging, walking, playing tennis and pickleball – and yes dancing at Music in the Park concerts.

I've been an enthusiastic reader of Viewpoint since 1994, but until now I did not contribute to the publication. After more than 35 years as a journalist and communications professional, I now run my own freelance writing and editing business, In a Word Communications, and have more time to devote to the community as Viewpoint's volunteer executive editor.

To the job I bring 22 years in newspaper reporting, including 14 at *The Sacramento Bee*, as well as 11 years with UC Davis Health, where I managed communications and publications for the comprehensive cancer center, MIND Institute and Alzheimer's Disease Center.

As we move forward together,



Bonnie Rodriguez

I welcome your story ideas, input and talent. Please contact me if you are interested in joining our volunteer roster of writers and photographers.

I'll close with a hearty thank you to Carol Blackman and Dennis Cusick for their many years guiding this enterprise. I hope Bonnie and I can keep our community gem shining brightly for years to come.

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:

dorsey.griffith@gmail.com with Viewpoint in the subject field.

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

CURTIS PARK NEWS SINCE 1979

ADVERTISE in the Viewpoint Call Fran Coletti: 916 452-3005 x210

Homeowner and city settle lawsuits

By Viewpoint Staff

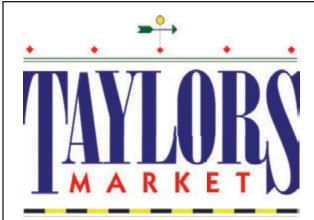
After almost four years of litigation, a Curtis Park homeowner and the City of Sacramento have settled their lawsuits over a code enforcement action.

The property at the corner of Montgomery Way and East Curtis Park Drive was cited for code violations after a hot tub and fence were installed in the side yard without permits, according to a story in *The Sacramento Bee*.

After three separate lawsuits filed by

the city and the homeowner, the parties reached a settlement in December, which requires the homeowner to obtain a construction encroachment permit by Jan. 9. The partially constructed wall surrounding the hot tub, which is within the city's right-of-way on Montgomery Way, must be completed by March 15. If the homeowner decides to remove the partially constructed wall from the city's right-of-way on Montgomery Way, the deadline to do so is also March 15.





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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

New class:

Tai Chi Fundamentals Sundays, 11-noon Studio 1 Mindfulbeat.com

ADULT DANCE

Dancing with Heidi Adult and teen ballet Monday/Wednesday/Thursday Schedule: dancingwithheidi@gmail.com



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

FITNESS

Zumba with Pakko Sundays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 3 pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

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 PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED mad@madyoga.org 916 290-2693

WW Studio Workshop Th/Fri/Sat, 8:30-10 a.m. Room 10 800 374-9191, weightwatchers.

OTHER

Puppy kindergarten and social class Puppies ages 8-12 weeks Mondays, 5:15-6:45 p.m. Room 10 www.midtownmutts.com 916 600-3259

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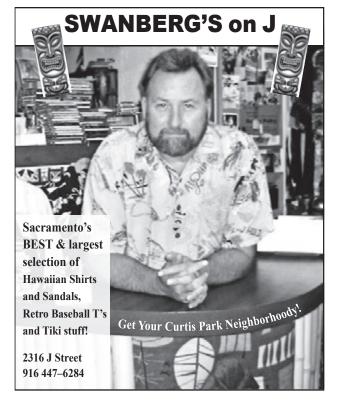


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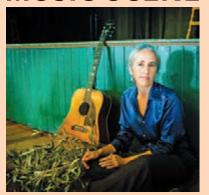
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The play features a cast of local actors telling the Bishop Alphonse Gallegos story. Bishop Gallegos was born in New Mexico, ordained in 1958 and served as the first director of the Division of Hispanic Affairs of the California Catholic Conference for the Diocese of Sacramento. He dedicated his life to parish ministry, with special attention to Hispanics until his death in a traffic accident in 1991. In 2005 the process of his canonization began and, in 2016, Pope Francis approved the decree recognizing his heroic virtues and proclaiming him as Venerable Bishop Alphonse Gallegos. His cause of canonization to move forward needs one miracle attributed to his intercession, for the Church to proclaim him Blessed and another miracle to be declared a Saint.

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Scan this QR code to see how you can become an Electric Star, too. Or visit smud.org/PowerPartners

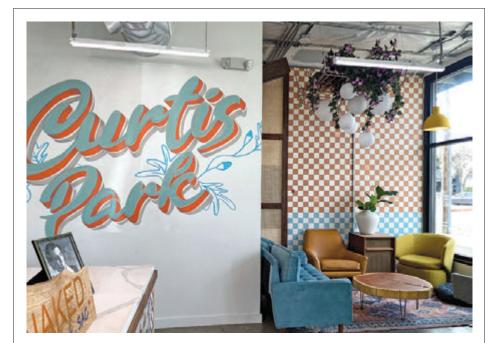


To learn more, email the Electric Stars by scanning this QR code or at

CP.ElectricStars@gmail.com









Baristas Hayden Stanbury and Aiden Allen

Naked Coffee opens on Franklin Boulevard

opening at its new location in Curtis Park at 2901 30th St. on Jan. 6. The business pays homage to the previous occupants of the property, Bud & Sons Furniture &

neighborhood with vibrant paint-Hayden Stanbury and Aiden Allen serving up drinks as they launched the business.



Downed elm tree crushes two vehicles and blocks 24th Street in second of major January storms

Storm

Continued from Page 4

Adding to the terrifying experience was frustration that the city had refused to give them a permit to remove the tree just months earlier when they took out a similarly concerning redwood. "We were nervous about it crashing on the roof," he said.

Parnell estimates it will be at least five months before damage to their home can be repaired so they can move back in. But he's heartened by the outpouring of love and support from neighbors, who offered everything from breakfast to places to stay.

The same night on 24th Street near the roundabout, a large elm fell, crushing two trucks and blocking the road for several hours Sunday morning. Miraculously it did not damage any

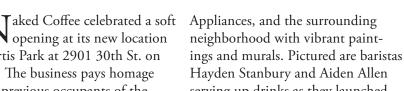
homes.

"All things being equal, it was not the worst thing," said Jeff Moore, owner of both the tree and one of the trucks that was destroyed. "We lost our contribution to our City of Trees, but we got to meet our neighbors. We are better than OK."

In the end, and even given the breadth of damage and inconvenience caused by Mother Nature's pounding, everyone affected was grateful no one was hurt and that they had one another for support.

Hirsch said the whole incident brought him closer to his neighbors, with whom he plans to celebrate once the damages are repaired.

"I took some wood from the tree," he said. "I am keeping it and seasoning it, and at some point, we will have a little fire and burn it and have a cocktail. It will be a happy moment, and then we can plant another tree."





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RICK JENNINGS

City Council Member District 7



Hard work by many helped minimize urban flooding during January's storms

Happy February! As we continue to clean up and recover from last month's storms, I hope that everyone is staying warm, dry, and most importantly, safe with their families at home. January was a very chaotic and cold start to the new year, but I have faith that we as a community have what it takes to come out stronger on the other side.

I wanted to take the time this month to recognize the hard work that the

people at the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, State of California and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have put into minimizing flood damage in the urbanized Sacramento area. The levees, bolstered by investments in their integrity over the last few years, have done their job by keeping the rivers from overflowing and flooding in the Arden-Arcade and the Northern Sacramento areas, as well as communities in Down-

town, Land Park, Pocket/Greenhaven, Meadowview and South Sacramento. Thanks in part to recent investments, Sacramento has stayed strong against the storms.

Speaking of the storm, I want to address the fallen trees throughout the city caused by strong winds. The city is working to get these issues resolved as quickly as possible so that the streets are safe and clear. I am very grateful for

the public's patience while we clear the mess left behind. The community has been extremely cooperative and kind throughout these hard times, and I have nothing but gratitude for belonging to a community such as ours. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at rjennings@cityofsacramento.org. It is an immense privilege to be your councilmember.

Have a great rest of your month!



Fallen incese cedar at the corner of Marshall Way and 22nd Street



Carla Meyer

New Year's Day aftermath of tree down on Coleman Way

Trees

Continued from Page 5

now has a significant lean, and look to see if the soil around the base of the tree is raised or if there are copious amounts of soil on the hardscape surface close to the tree. Any of these signs should trigger

a call to a professional arborist certified with the International Society of Arboriculture or registered as a consulting arborist with the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA). ASCA arborists are more highly trained and worth the additional expense if you find yourself in a tree-related legal matter.

The city's urban forestry staff will inspect city

trees, those located in the park strip between the curb and sidewalk, and trees on the front lawn within the street right-of-way. Call 311 or email 311@cityofsacramento.org.

Be aware that no arborist can guarantee a tree's structural integrity or that it won't fall. There can be hidden defects in any tree, and all trees are subjected to environmental stresses beyond their control.

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HOME OF RIVER CITY TAPS





Jack and Lauren Foster

Ryan Marenger, Katrina Leupp, Elliot and baby Emerson

New neighbors enjoying Eighth Avenue

Eighth Avenue has welcomed two new families to the street

By Dorsey Griffith

Jack and Lauren Foster, who bought their Eight Avenue home from friends who had outgrown the four-bedroom house, moved in last May and have easily settled into their new community. Jack Foster already has been elected to the SCNA Board, where he hopes to be active on various committees, including the group dealing with neighborhood concerns.

The couple, who work remotely for Bay Area technology firms, had been living in a smaller home in East

Sacramento, which they purchased in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"At the time, we didn't think we'd stay in Sacramento, but we loved it," said Jack. "We thought, let's buy something more permanent where we can raise a family and put down roots."

Lauren, who is expecting their first child in June, said she's been struck by the neighborhood vibe, which she describes as far more friendly than a nearby neighborhood where she grew

"There, I didn't feel that kind of comradery," she said. "Here, people came by and baked us treats to welcome us to the neighborhood. You see people out and about. Being part of a community is something Jack and I value."

Before moving to Sacramento, the couple, both 2014 graduates of UC Santa Barbara, lived in San Francisco and New York City. Jack grew up in Menlo Park.

Katrina Leupp and Ryan Marenger had long wanted to move from Portland, Ore. back to the Sacramento area to raise their two young children when the pandemic struck, and they

got a lucky break.

While visiting friends on the east side of Curtis Park they heard that the long-time owners of what is known as the "castle house" on the corner of West Curtis Drive and Eighth Avenue were moving to the coast, so they

jumped on the opportunity. They bought the house without an agent, but for various reasons didn't move in until October of last year.

Katrina, a former professor of Sociology at Washington State University, now works remotely as a user experience researcher. Ryan is self-employed as a financial consultant for non-profit organizations. Their children are Emerson, almost 10 months, and Elliot, who attends Great Beginnings Child Development Center at Sierra 2.

Although they are still getting organized, the couple is enamored of their home and their new community.

"This house is amazing," said Ryan. "It has a turret and crenellations!"

"People really seem to know and look out for each other," Katrina added. "Everyone says hi!"

ADVERTISE in Viewpoint

Curtis Park news since 1979

Contact Fran Coletti 916 452-3005 x210

Light Up Curtis Park 2022 winners



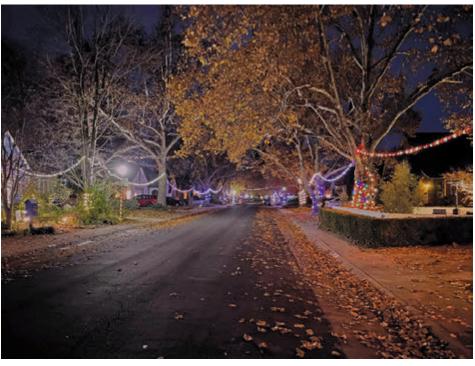
By Heather Hogan

Vinners have been announced in the third annual Light Up Curtis Park, which took place from Thanksgiving through New Year's. Neighbors decorated their spaces with festive lights and creative displays to delight nighttime passersby and

neighbors. We received 126 online votes for the best holiday lights decorations this year, with a much smaller pool of self-registered contestants. As always, a huge thank you to Gunther's Ice Cream and The Hop Gardens Neighborhood Taproom for donating gift cards for our winners.

The winners:

First prize: Third Avenue between 27th Street and Franklin Boulevard Second prize: 2533 Ninth Avenue Third prize: 2172 Third Avenue Fourth prize: 2929 25th Street. Thanks to everyone who lit up the neighborhood and made the season merry and bright!



Steve Sphar First Prize: 3rd Ave.



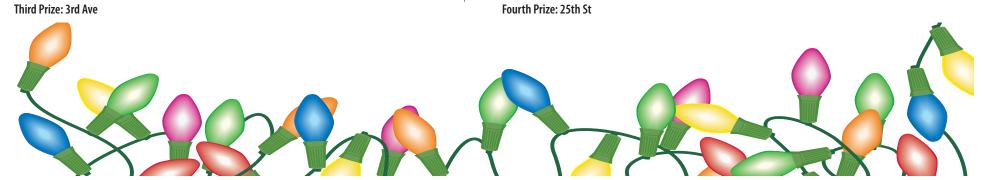
Robert Espinosa



Jacopo Di Lucente Second Prize: 9th Ave



Brian Woodworth



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ADVERTISE in Viewpoint. Call Fran Coletti: 916 452-3005 x210 or fran@sierra2.org

City completes parks survey

Community meeting to discuss results Feb. 9

By John Mathews

The City of Sacramento's Department of Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment has completed its online survey of park uses and potential renovations and amenities and scheduled a community meeting to talk about the findings and next

steps. No immediate decisions about future plans for the parks are anticipated.

The survey, which included questions about establishment of an official city dog park at Sierra 2 Green or William Curtis Park, is undergoing analysis by City of Sacramento staff.

The community meeting will be held via Zoom on Feb. 9 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. To join, go to https://cityofsacramento-org.zoom. us/j/9/99610988834.

Survey respondents also were asked to voice their opinion on options for

sports fields, sports courts, playgrounds and similar amenities.

The survey noted that added amenities such as a dog park would require significant funding that does not currently exist. Survey participants were asked whether they would personally donate funds or help raise funds to add their preferred amenity to improve Sierra 2 or William Curtis Park facilities.

The department may release an executive summary of the results before the community meeting.

For more information, please visit https://sierra2.org/dogparkmeeting.

Cedar waxwings love sugary fruit

By Dan Murphy

edar waxwings can be seen in any habitat where fruit, flowers or insects are found. They are true frugivores, and feed mainly on fruit pulp, passing seeds intact through their digestive system. This means they play a significant role in dispensing seed for many fruiting plants in North America.

These birds are very social, and their flocks move frequently to find new sources of sugary fruits. Their food sources are not always in predictable locations, so the birds are not regularly found at any particular place.

The name cedar waxwing comes from the cedar berries they feed on during the winter across their range and from the red, wax like tips on their secondary flight feathers. Locally, they often feed on privet. The males can be distinguished by a bigger, blacker chin patch, but it is hard to make out the slight difference.

Cedar waxwings forage in fruiting trees and shrubs for fruits, flowers or insects. They also fly out to eat insects, particularly along the edge of waterways. In spring, they consume a lot of flowers, which tide them over when there's no fruit. Flowers also provide protein through their pollen and petal pigments, which may be important seasonal nutritional supplements. Cedar waxwings are in our area most of the year but migrate north in May and are absent in June and July, returning gradually in August. They breed late in the year when there are lots of summer-ripening



Photo by Dan Murphy

Cedar waxwing

fruits. They often pass fruit to one another in courtship.

Cedar waxwings are monogamous during the annual breeding season. The female does all the incubation of the eggs, generally four in a clutch. The male delivers food to her during this period. The delivery rate doubles after the eggs hatch; at first, he mainly provides insects for protein needed by the growing nestlings.

These birds have no song; their calls are trilled high-pitched, rapidly repeated notes and high-pitched tonal whistles. Cedar waxwings have an annual mortality rate of 55 percent, and the maximum reported natural life span is seven years. Their conservation status is in the category of "Least Concern." Most of the information in this article is derived from the website Birds of the World.

January 2023 COMMUNITY CORNER Page 15

Curtis Park homeowners becoming Electric Stars

By Kathy Les

Blue signs proclaiming "I'm a Curtis Park Electric Star" are popping up throughout the neighborhood. Many are wondering what it takes to become an Electric Star and earn a lawn sign.

To be an Electric Star home, you must have converted a gas HVAC (heating and cooling) system or gas water heater to a high-efficiency electric heat pump, or have installed an induction range or cooktop. To date, more than 75 Curtis Park homes have installed one or more of these, and the number is growing.

Converting home appliances from fossil-fuel-dependent to electric reduces a home's carbon footprint by cutting the greenhouse gasses that cause climate change. Heat pump HVAC, water heaters and induction cooking appliances are many times more energy efficient, healthier for people and the environment, and less expensive to operate than gas-powered units.

It's a good time to convert to electric appliances. SMUD is currently offering rebates of up to \$3,500 for customers who convert to an electric HVAC system. In addition, the U.S. government is offering tax credits of up to \$2,000 for the conversion.

SMUD requires a certified SMUD contractor to complete the work.

Last year, Gerre Buehler of Fourth Avenue converted her HVAC system to an electric heat pump, which provides both heating and air conditioning.

"I feel better about significantly reducing my usage of fossil fuels, which I now use only for my water heating," she said. "The electric heat seems more even, and the system is much quieter."

Buehler is also happy with lower monthly utility payments. Her January gas bill dropped from \$125 last year to \$7 this year. And while her electric bill increased, she estimates her winter heating costs have been cut by half, factoring in the standard electric usage for lights, laundry and cooking.

The Curtis Park Electric Stars are a small group of current and former energy professionals working in partnership with SMUD to encourage home electrification. SMUD has agreed to provide the lawn signs to help promote the program. Electric Star members are available to talk with other homeowners interested in joining the program. Their lawn signs also include QR codes which, when scanned, take mobile phone users to the SMUD website for more information.



Dorsey Griffith

Another Curtis Park Electric Star

The Electric Stars mission is to protect the climate one Curtis Park home at a time by sharing electrification ideas, knowledge and resources neighbor-to-neighbor. It is their hope that Curtis Park becomes an all-electric, climate-resilient community.

Information on rebates can be found at https://www.smud.org/go-electric and at www.cleanenergy.gov.

For those interested in the program

or to learn how electric equipment works, Heat Pump House parties hosted by Electric Stars will be held Feb. 18 and March 4 from 10 a.m. to noon. Please RSVP at CPelectric-stars@gmail.com or to Kathy.les@gmail.com.

The info sessions are free. Participants will see an electric heat pump up close and enjoy an induction cooking demonstration with food tasting.

Volunteers sought to plan celebration

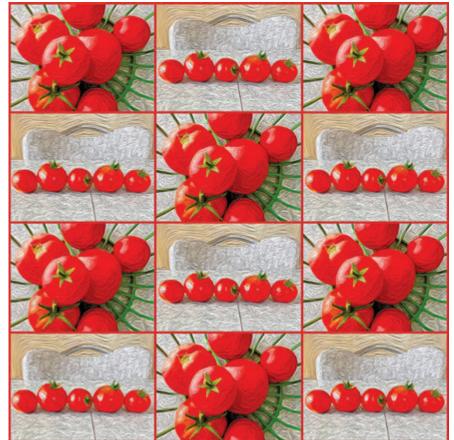
SCNA is looking for leaders in the community to help organize a celebration of the 100th birthday of Sierra School, home of the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community and Curtis Park neighborhood social center.

Volunteers will form a committee to plan a celebration that captures the history of the building and all that it has meant to the community since being built in 1923, as well as SCNA's vision for its future. The celebration might be a single event or series of events.

Please direct inquiries and interest to terri@sierra2.org or call 916 452-3005, ext. 204.

– Terri Shettle

iPhone art show at Archival Gallery



Longtime Curtis Park resident Carol Mott-Binkley of Seventh Avenue will be exhibiting her iPhone art in a show entitled "Wallpapers and Vinyl Dreams" at Archival Gallery, 3223 Folsom Blvd. Feb. 1-25. Curtis Park neighbors are invited to join her at a Second Saturday reception on Feb. 11 from 5-8 p.m.



Carol Mott-Binkley

Bret Harte principal reflects on her first year leading school



LAUREN GOTHARD and LINDSEY SIN

ne year ago, Bret Harte Elementary welcomed longtime educator Roxanne Wolfe into the role of school principal. Her arrival in the middle of the school year presented additional unique challenges including ongoing COVID-19 protocols and the effects of pandemic-related learning loss among students. Despite the circumstances, she was not deterred and began meeting with teachers and staff right away. Even after experiencing a district-wide teachers' strike last spring, the 2021-22 school year ended on a high note with a school-wide field day and promotion ceremonies for the kindergarten and 6th grade classes.

Wolfe has spent the last year working with teachers, staff and families to set goals and create a vision for the school's future. "We have achievement goals for all of our students to be performing at grade level, climate goals that support a welcoming environment, and community goals that welcome families to be a part of the decision-making process," said Wolfe. "Our goals are long term. I believe our plan is several years in the making." She continues to work with teachers and staff, focusing on learning standards and staff trainings, and

hopes to align school standards with high-quality instruction practices over the next year.

Wolfe said that Bret Harte teachers are becoming masters at interpreting and deconstructing learning standards to meet the needs of all their students. Teachers also have received training with math specialists and English Language Arts (ELA) specialists to improve instructional practices. The goal is to create an environment where students love to learn, and teachers feel supported, which will bring the added benefit of improving assessment scores along the way.

Wolfe has also spent the last year building relationships with the Bret Harte community. She often talks with students on the playground and greets families during pick-up at the end of the school day. Of the many highlights of the new job, she said she mostly enjoys the "great community of people." Compared to the last two years, enrollment is up, and school-wide activities have increased. An estimated 150 people attended the annual fall festival in October, and the new murals, which were added to the campus in November, are a point of pride for the school community. The winter music program in December showcased what students had been learning in music class.

For the spring, Wolfe is preparing to open the library to students a few days a week, host family fun nights



Lauren Gothard

Dr. Roxanne Wolfe on the Bret Harte campus

and plan for the school's 100-year anniversary celebration in late May. The student garden and native plant garden on Ninth Avenue and Franklin also will be included in the Curtis Park Home and Garden Tour. With

all the upcoming events, the rest of this school year should be fun and exciting for the Bret Harte community.

For more information about upcoming school events or school tours, contact the office at 916 395-5190.





Become an SCNA member: sierra2.org



