

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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March 2023

Dog park survey results released at community-wide meeting

Residents remain divided

By Judy Green Scheible

Nearly 100 people attended a meeting via Zoom Feb. 9 to learn the results of a survey designed to gauge interest in siting a dog park in the Curtis Park community. The results were presented by the City of Sacramento Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment (YPCE).

The survey found that a majority of respondents favored an off-leash dog park over other suggested uses for Sierra 2 Green or Curtis Park, such as sports courts and community gathering areas, and preferred the dog park to be sited at Sierra 2 Green over Curtis Park.

Most of the respondents live near Curtis Park or Sierra 2 Green. The majority (75%) reported owning at least



Photo by Will Carlton

Owners and dogs enjoy Sierra 2 Green on recent Sunday morning.

one dog, and most said they use Sierra 2 with their dogs off leash.

Fifty-four percent of respondents said they would use all of the Sierra 2 park amenities more often if the dog park met city development and safety standards. Nearly 70% of respondents said they currently do not experience barriers

to their activities or use of Sierra 2 Park; more than 30% said they do.

Raymond Costantino, YPCE park planning manager, said during the meeting that after eliminating duplicate survey responses, city staff tallied results from 1,001 survey responses. The survey was available on the YPCE website for

28 days, from Dec. 8 to Jan. 6.

Costantino outlined the city's next steps, including finding a site, developing a master plan and budget, securing funding, conducting any necessary environmental studies and creating a

See Dogs, Page 10

Big discounts now available for commercial-grade electric lawn equipment

By Kathy Les

In the last few years SCNA's Clean & Quiet Lawn Care Committee has worked to educate Curtis Park homeowners about the harmful effects of noise and air pollution from gas-powered lawn equipment. Most landscapers servicing the neighborhood have been reluctant to change from gas

to electric.

Now, however, it's easier to convert to electric lawn equipment with a new voucher program enabling landscapers to purchase equipment at a 70% discount off the retail list price for approved brands. The significant savings should help spur interest in going electric, especially since the State of California has banned the sale

of gas lawn equipment starting in 2024.

The California Air Resources Board's (CARB) new program includes \$30 million approved by the California legislature last year for small business landscapers to acquire new commercial-grade equipment from locally approved

See Discounts, Page 9



Photo by Kathy Les

Nathan Johnson of Second Avenue shows off the new cordless blower he purchased through the CARB voucher program for his commercial landscaping business Roo Landscaping & Garden Care. Johnson was one of the first to take advantage of the program to purchase electric equipment at a deep discount.



Home Tour
Enjoy a variety of styles on tour

Page 11



Trees in Curtis Park
City decides whether you can remove most trees

Page 5

Sacramento Food Bank sells Oak Park site to University of the Pacific

By Anne Da Vigo

Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services has sold the buildings at its Third Avenue location in Oak Park to the University of the Pacific (UOP) for \$12.9 million in a deal that heralds a major expansion of the university's local campus.

UOP plans to use three existing food bank buildings, totaling 60,000 square feet, for an innovative collaboration between its School of Health Sciences and School of Dentistry.

The acquisition adds to the university's footprint in Oak Park, which also includes the UOP McGeorge School of Law on Fifth Avenue.

According to a recent article in The Sacramento Bee, one of the buildings will house a medical clinic blending dentistry, pharmacy and health sciences services. University officials have said dentists are often the first to spot signs of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes in patients who may skip regular primary care visits.

The food bank is consolidating to its headquarters location at 1951 Bell Ave. It will continue to distribute food through its community partners, including the Shiloh Baptist Church at 3565 Ninth Ave.

Demand for the food bank's services more than doubled during the epidemic, while the available volunteers dropped as they stayed home and reduced contact with groups.

Some of the food bank's operations will remain for several months at the Third Avenue location under a lease-back arrangement until the organization makes space to transfer remaining staff to Bell Avenue.

The food bank began in 1976 with a program launched at Oak Park's Immaculate Conception Parish on Broadway. It has been at its current location since 1990.



Photos by Anne Da Vigo

Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services has sold its Third Avenue location in Oak Park.

Nicoleta Bagnariu, dean of UOP's School of Health Sciences, told The Bee that the school reaches out to potential students in underserved communities and underrepresented minority groups.

"That means that we are providing those students with a professional trajectory that truly changes their life because now they have access to this rewarding career and health profession," she said in The Bee article.

The focus of the Oak Park university campus has developed over the years from its origin as a law school. It now offers master and Doctor of Education degrees in education, leadership and



A mural decorates one of the Third Avenue buildings sold recently to the University of the Pacific.

innovation curriculum, a variety of Master of Arts and advanced law programs, and a master's of arts in public

administration. The campus also offers classes as part of the university's health sciences program.

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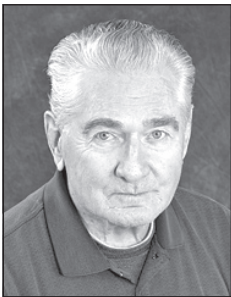
Dog park siting remains a challenging issue for Curtis Park residents

With spring around the corner, SCNA has many items on its plate, not the least of which is the continuing controversy over siting an enclosed dog park in the Curtis Park neighborhood.

The SCNA Board has not yet taken an official position on the dog park siting. However, based on everything that has taken place, I believe the city has not done its due diligence in determining whether Sierra 2 Park (or William Curtis Park) are appropriate locations for a dog park. This belief arises from months of unsuccessful inquiries from the Neighborhood Concerns Committee (NCC) to city staff about the city's methodology. To date, I am only aware of the survey the city recently conducted soliciting input from all users of the two parks.

As board president, I sent a letter to our city representatives and staff to ask questions and obtain information. It was hoped the letter would generate a response that would provide assurances that the city was follow-

**BILL
HOOVER**
**SCNA Board
President**



ing a defined protocol using objective and relevant data. It also would assist SCNA in determining the necessity of further action. Since the letter did not state a position or advocate for a particular outcome, I did not, and do not, believe prior board approval was necessary.

The survey results were revealed at a city-hosted Zoom meeting on Feb. 9, 2023. At the conclusion of the meeting the Department of Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment staff (DYPCE) made a recommendation based solely on survey results. Under these circumstances, I believe more than ever that the letter was and is necessary. Below is an excerpt that ad-

resses several other factors that need to be considered:

1. DIRECT NOTICE BY THE CITY TO ALL CURTIS PARK RESIDENTS. How does the city plan to accomplish this? Although multi-use city parks, Sierra 2 Park and William Curtis Park are also neighborhood parks and used extensively by its residents.

2. ENVIRONMENT IMPACT. A) What environmental reviews are contemplated, required? B) What has been the impact on the areas within the 14 official dog parks? C) Are shade, water and bathrooms an issue?

3. COMPATIBILITY AND SAFETY. A) How does the city plan to address the impact on surrounding residences and activities (e.g. playgrounds, jogging/walking track, sports and businesses near Sierra 2 Center)? B) How many official dog parks are in densely populated residential areas?

4. TRAFFIC. What traffic impact studies are contemplated/required to address expected increased traffic, parking and safety issues?

5. ALTERNATIVE SITES. What efforts have been or will be made to locate alternative sites?

6. PROCESS AND CRITERIA. What specific protocols does the city intend to use to resolve this issue?

SCNA believes that objective assessment and evaluation of these questions is essential to the process. SCNA encourages the city to look at how other cities have addressed this same issue. The common thread in a controversial issue such as this is that you must get the neighborhood on board, and more information is critical to reaching a consensus. As was stated by another city's representative, "buy-in" from immediate neighbors is crucial to the success of any proposed location."

I recognize this is a contentious issue and has become, unfortunately, very divisive. Curtis Park has always been able to come together and make decisions in the best interests of the whole neighborhood. If we can keep that in mind, we will emerge stronger in the end.

SCNA Board Notes

SCNA President **Bill Hoover** congratulated **Dorsey Griffith** and **Bonnie Rodriguez** on the publication of the February Viewpoint. He acknowledged that a major transition had occurred rather seamlessly, particularly given the severe storms. He thanked everyone who assisted in producing a successful edition.

He announced the upcoming city-led meeting to discuss the dog park issue on Feb. 9 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Zoom. He noted the issue has grown beyond the Curtis Park neighborhood to involve city-wide park users. He recommended board members familiarize themselves with the issue because the outcome could have a significant impact on Curtis Park. He framed the question: Is a dog park in the best interest of Curtis Park and the neighborhood considering all pros and cons?

Home Tour and Big Day of Giving

Kathy Les announced that for the first time in five years, the Home & Garden Tour is once again scheduled for April 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At this writing, there will be

five houses on the tour and perhaps gardens as well. With some larger homes, 60 volunteers will be needed as docents. Kathy asked each board member to volunteer and recruit two additional people. More volunteers will be needed for other duties like park setup and handing out programs. April 22 is also Earth Day, so ways to relate the two celebrations will be considered.

The Big Day of Giving (BDOG) solicitation on May 4 will focus on Sierra 2 Center improvements, the Senior Center and Viewpoint. Kathy asked board members to commit to raising \$1,000 each, either by direct contribution or from neighbors. SCNA has raised between \$50,000 and \$80,000 in the last few years. Increased need driven by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in neighbors giving with great generosity to support Sierra 2 Center. With the return to normalcy, SCNA is once again scheduling fundraising events. The BDOG goal this year is \$50,000. The Neighborhood Yard Sale is on May 20; Curtis Fest on June 4 and Music in the Park on June 25, July 30

and August 27. **Lily Harris** suggested neighbors may wish to donate yard sale proceeds to Sierra 2.

Treasurer's Report

John Bailey reported that SCNA has spent \$170,000 to replace building components over the last six months. Two remaining projects will cost \$10,000 and complete the "to do" list for the year.

The December balance sheet reflects an improved negative available fund balance of minus \$102,000. Proceeds from BDOG and the Home & Garden Tour hopefully will produce income to reduce the negative balance. The year-to-date profit and loss covering six months shows a positive budget variance of \$40,000, mainly due to rentals, which are \$22,000 ahead of budget, and personnel expenses, which are \$27,000 under budget.

No significant budget adjustments are expected for the second half of the year. Potential revisions will include a \$6,000 increase in the cost of Viewpoint production because Carol Blackman had previously donated

back about half her monthly costs. It is anticipated that \$7,000 in savings from the delayed implementation of the room rental booking system will offset these additional costs.

As to personnel expenses, despite an increase in the minimum wage, a salary increase for the executive director and the anticipated addition of a part-time staffer, Executive Director **Terri Shettle** expects the existing budget to be more than adequate. Non-resident rental rates have increased by an average of 10%, phased in over the next few months.

Sierra 2 News

Gerre Buehler reported on major shingle losses to the main building roof and over several rooms during the December/January storms. Terri Shettle noted that the city will repair or replace the roofs under their insurance. The sump pump for the main building gave out immediately after the January storm and will need replacement. Gerre suggested the board consider heat pumps to replace

VIEWPOINT

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Market, public safety issues highlight district office business

My first 10 weeks in office have been a whirlwind! Our team has spent every minute getting to know community members, identifying the most pressing issues for our constituents, and working hard to get things done for District 5. Here are a few highlights:

Oak Park Farmers Market: I'm so excited to announce that yes, the Oak Park Farmers Market is coming back! In partnership with Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, the Oak Park Business Association and many of our original market partners, we're relaunching and aiming for an opening day in early summer. We're hoping for it to return to McClatchy Park – and as soon as it's

confirmed, we'll let you know.

Safe Streets: Quite a few of the city's streets with the highest risk to pedestrians are within District 5, and many are concentrated in the northern part of our district. Our team has been leveraging data from the Vision Zero program to track down these problem spots and figure out how we can

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resolve them in the short term. One of these key intersections is Broadway and Martin Luther King Boulevard, where we have been spearheading a program to restripe the roadway to reduce speed and collisions.

Town Hall: We hosted a virtual town hall on Feb. 28 with District 5 constituents about public safety issues and the recent acquisition of the "Rook" armored loader for regional use.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our office if there's anything we can do for you, or if you have any questions, issues or ideas. Contact the team by calling 916-808-7005 or by emailing district5@cityofsacramento.org.

Notes

Continued from page 3

future failed H/VAC equipment, noting that last month's PGE gas bill was \$6,000.

Terri Shettle discussed financial losses at the Senior Center. She noted that even prior to COVID-19, the senior center was just breaking even. Further losses are attributable to COVID-19 lowering attendance and donations, the hiring of a part-time staffer, and creation of a more accurate accounting for costs.

SCNA hopes to get back to as close to break-even as possible but will need help finding resources and grants.

Community Concerns

Erik Fay reported on the presentation to the Neighborhood Concerns Committee by Amy Young about SMUD's Sacramento Shade Tree Program. The program provides free trees, but the customer plants and cares for the tree with instructions. A consultant visit may take up to two months to schedule given recent tree loss during the storms. Amy volunteered to author two articles about the Shade Tree Program for Viewpoint. She will also provide an information table about the program at SCNA events.

Dan Pskowski, former city arborist and board member, discussed the elevated level of storm-related tree loss in Curtis Park and Land Park. He also

described how SCNA is losing appeals made when the city plans to cut down a tree. Each appeal costs nearly \$300. He says the city has created "work-arounds" for tree appeals, so pursuing the formal process appears to be a waste of time and money. Dan noted that the city also has never communicated with SCNA or enforced its prior agreement to protect oak trees at the northern border of Crocker Village.

The board approved a letter to Council Members Jennings and Maple requesting a meeting to discuss these issues and for the city to do more to protect existing trees, especially considering the substantial storm-related tree loss.

John Mathews provided a Sierra 2 Park update. Christian Muller said he and Erik Fay have discussed the dog park issue by phone.

Viewpoint

Bruce Pierini reported that advertisers have been alerted to a 10% increase in cost and thanked them for their support. He reminded the board that Viewpoint plays a key role in successful BDOG fundraising.

Viewpoint post-production meetings are planned with the editors and production staff to review the February edition processes. For now, **Shannon Motley** has volunteered to provide the critical role of ad management, while **Lily Harris** has been instrumental in maintaining a spreadsheet to organize each Viewpoint edition. **Matthew Royal** volunteered to

back up Lily on this task. This volunteer assistance may obviate the need to hire other individuals.

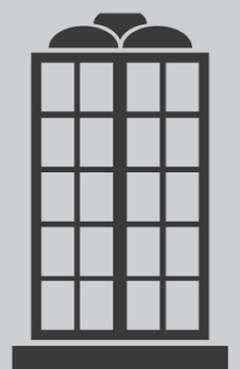
The next SCNA board meeting will be March 1 at 6:30 p.m.

-Submitted by Mimi Budd

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Trees in Curtis Park

City regulates trees on private property

By Daniel Pskowski

Storm clean-up is still occurring after the back-to-back catastrophic storms. Some homeowners are concerned about large trees in their yard falling over in the next storm. Certain trees on your property may be regulated by the city's tree ordinance and may require a permit to either prune or remove. Most licensed tree contractors are aware of the regulations.

Why should the city's Urban Forestry section have jurisdiction over a tree that is on private property? The City of Sacramento tree ordinance originally regulated public trees and native oaks on public and private property. However, during the development of the first Urban Forest Management Plan (1991-1994) it was determined that 80% of Sacramento's tree canopy was on private property. Residents in the established neighborhoods, like Curtis Park, wanted to protect the mature trees. A neighbor's tree removal could adversely affect your property due to the loss of shade, privacy and the cooling effect provided by the canopy.

The ordinance was later revised so that trees on your property must meet certain criteria to qualify as "private protected trees" which were previously referred to as "heritage trees":

- Any native valley oak, blue oak, interior live oak, coast live oak, California buckeye or California sycamore with a diameter of 12-inches or more.
- A tree with a diameter of 32 inches or more on a property that includes any single unit or duplex dwelling.
- A tree with a diameter of 24 inches or more on an undeveloped lot, or a lot with more than a single unit or duplex dwelling.

The key is size and species. Trees are measured at diameter standard height, which is 4½ feet above natural grade. Trees that branch out or below 4½ feet are measured at the narrowest point between the grade and branching point.

As Sacramento's only city arborist when this tree ordinance revision occurred, I was concerned about the additional workload of inspecting trees on private property when there were over 150,000 public trees under my care.

Notice of tree removal appeal hearing

A hearing on the appeal of the city's Urban Forestry Section approval of a permit to remove a 17-inch diameter valley oak tree at 2319 5th Ave. will take place Thursday, March 23 at 10 a.m. in Historic City Hall, 915 I St. in the second-floor hearing room. SCNA filed the appeal with funds raised by members of the SCNA Neighborhood Concerns Committee. SCNA maintains this and other heritage oaks near the site are protected with landscape restrictions.

But homeowners welcomed me knowing that I would give a fair and unbiased assessment of the tree. My inspections and recommendations were very valuable when there was a dispute between neighbors whereby one was trying to bully the other into removal of a tree for various reasons, such as leaf litter clogging their pool filtering system.

I would not approve a tree removal request unless there were serious structural flaws. Since the local tree companies were aware of my criteria for removal, they would explain to the owner that pruning and/or the installation of a support system would address their concerns about limb failure or the tree falling over. However, in 2009 after I was moved out from the city Urban Forestry section, the number of tree removal permits issued climbed significantly.

Now there are risks associated with trees, and no arborist can guarantee that the tree will not experience limb failure or blow over in a storm, even after a thorough inspection. When there are saturated soils and high winds any tree has a potential to blow over. This was evident in the most recent two storms. If the city Urban Forestry section denies a homeowner's tree removal permit request, make an appointment to meet with the city arborist who can explain why your tree does not meet the removal criteria. If you have any questions about private protected trees, please contact the City



Photo by Gary Reed

Cleanup begins on Cutter Way home damaged during the second January storm by a felled cedar tree. Months earlier, the city denied the homeowner's permit application to have it removed.

Call Center at 311 or email 311@cityofsacramento.org.

Daniel Pskowski is a retired Sacra-

mento City arborist and urban forester. He is an ISA-certified Arborist and ISA-qualified in tree risk assessment.

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Intermediate Taiko Drumming
3-week class
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Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Studio 1; \$75
Register: kristyoshiro@gmail.com

MARTIAL ARTS
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Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2
Lohan36@sbcglobal.net

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dancingwithheidi@gmail.com

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pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

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Room 12
March 13 – “Libertie,” by Kaitlyn Greenidge

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB
3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon
Room 12
March 16 – “The Body,” by Bill Bryson

LIFE HISTORY WRITING
Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.
Room 12

OPEN ART STUDIO
Fridays, noon-3 p.m. Room 11

CARDS & GAMES
GAME DAY
Tuesdays, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Room 12

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

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

EDUCATION
MY STORY PROJECT
2nd Monday, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/direct-from-death-row-the-scottsboro-boys-a-black-history-month-play-tickets-500988348637>

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All shows 7 p.m.
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Mar. 18... Bill Kirchen & Redd Volkaert (Dazzling Rock & Roll/Honky Tonk LEGENDS!)
Mar. 24...West 45 Bluegrass (Hard-driving, contemporary bluegrass)
Mar. 25...Barry Finnerty Jazz Trio (Nationally-known jazz-funk-

fusion high-energy guitarist)
Mar. 31...Green Grass Snakes (1950s-1980s cover band)

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Thursdays....."Two Rivers Unplugged" (Acoustic open mic) hosted by Marty Taters 6:30-9 p.m.
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LOCAL MUSIC SCENE



Bill Kirchen & Redd Volkaert at The Side Door

Sundays.....Ukulele class with Gurukulele (Jim Coats), 4-5 p.m.
 — Mindy Giles

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SPANISH FOR TRAVEL
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5:30-7 p.m., Room 7
6-class series: \$150

Classes focus on situations you might encounter while traveling and are structured so you will learn phrases and vocabulary related to travel. Students also will learn to understand basic questions asked of them from a native speaker. Class topics include transportation, banks, accommodations, directions, purchases and dining.

HERBS FOR SPRING
Thursday, March 16
6-8 pm., Room 7
Fee: \$40/pp (includes materials)
 Join Herbalist Toni Riehle to learn about remedies and recipes of the season and make your own Spring Tonics with seasonal plants for energy and support. Spring herbs and plants such as dandelion leaves, ramps,

rhubarb and wild strawberries, stimulate digestion and strengthen the body after a long winter.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING
Saturday, March 18
10 a.m.-noon, Room 7
Fee: \$30/pp

Local artist Marie Taylor is teaching an Introduction to Drawing series of workshops that present the basics of drawing, composition and color. In this first class you'll learn about shape and composition by creating a bouquet of spring flowers. Your drawing can be framed and hung or given as a one-of-a-kind gift. Develop your confidence and drawing skills, and meet others with similar interests in a welcoming environment.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY HIGH TEA
Sunday, March 19
Noon-2:30 p.m., Garden Room
\$55/in-person and \$59/to-go tea
 Join The Novel Tea and The Learnery for our sixth annual celebration of all things Irish. The tea will start with a language lesson from a native Irish speaker who will also share the origins of the Sidhe Faerie Folk Irish Tales. After that you'll enjoy three delectable tiers of Irish high tea foods as you sip premium teas created by The Novel Tea.

COSMIC POTS PAINT & SIP
Friday, March 24
6-8 p.m., Room 7
\$30/class and \$15/optional art kit

Enjoy painting in a casual party atmosphere with your favorite beverage (wine and beer are great, no cocktails please) in one hand, paintbrush in the other and discover the artist within. With no previous experience required, you'll be guided by professional artist Chris Sharpe, who will help you create your own original painted terra cotta pot to spruce up your home or garden for years to come.

ABSTRACT INTUITIVE PAINTING CLASS
Saturday, March 25
10 a.m.-noon, Room 7
Fee: \$25 for the class with \$25 optional art kit (paint and brushes)

Tap into your creative side with this fun and unique art class. Under artist Cara Gregor's guidance, you will experience the ultimate in self-expression as you explore, play and put feelings on paper, creating a beautiful piece of art with layers of paint and colors. No drawing or prior painting experience is required. You'll paint in an abstract style, adding patterns, textures and drips and dabs... whatever feels right to you.

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Highland Avenue residents research their homes for 100-year celebration

By Kathy Les

When you've lived on your street for nearly 40 years, you are its history. But if you're long-term residents like Nancy Shea and Jeanne Baldwin of Highland Avenue, you crave to know more about the history of houses on your street beyond just the years you've lived there.

That's the origin of the Highland Avenue women and their regular get-togethers to piece together the history of their homes. Historically, the one-block road has been a street of close friends, block parties and kids playing outside together. The COVID-19 pandemic gave the group a purposeful project to add to their Highland Avenue activities.

"None of us really knew the original dates of our houses," said Shea.

Having noted the stamped 1923 date on the street's lampposts, the women became curious about the age of their own houses. For the last two years they have been collectively learning the



Annie Cook, Gail Miller, Nancy Shea behind Carol Spurgeon, Kate Williams, Jeanne Baldwin, Amy O'Neill and Charlie.

histories of their houses, many of which are period revival styles of the 1920s.

"We started with the current long-

term residents and what they knew about former residents," said Shea. "In essence, we worked from the end toward the beginning. But we could only go back so far, and we knew our houses were much older."

Next, they turned to the old city directories (like old phone books) to date their individual homes, and they have found the original dates for most of the block's houses.

As it happens, SCNA hopes to have a 100-year celebration in conjunction with the centennial of Sierra School, the home of Sierra 2 and SCNA. The Highland Avenue project can serve as a model for other streets wanting to tie into the celebration by dating their homes.

Shea and Baldwin had the benefit of being active genealogists.

"We want our children to understand the history of their families but also the history of the street where they grew up," said Shea.

In addition to Shea and Baldwin, other women on the Highland Avenue



Photo by Craig Ottersen

Neighbors Jeanne Baldwin and Nancy Shea stand beside a Highland Avenue lamppost marked with the year 1923.

history project are Carol Spurgeon, Kate Williams (a newer member of the block), Annie Cook, Gail Miller and Amy O'Neill (one of the younger members).

Many Curtis Park homes are nearing their 100th birthdays. To be part of the excitement and celebration, consider starting a group on your street to research your home histories.

"We think it's a great idea for a neighborhood as stable as Curtis Park to know its history," said Shea. "I love this neighborhood, and I'm happy to share what we are doing."

You can contact Nancy Shea at nancyshea@gmail.com with information about Highland Avenue or to ask about their research project.

For more information on how to research your house history, Dan Murphy has put together a handy guide at <https://sierra2.org/neighborhood-scna/neighborhood-preservation-history>.

Contact SCNA's Executive Director Terri Shettle at terri@sierra2.org to enlist your street or individual participation in the 100 Year Celebration.

Extra! Extra!

Read all about it!

Leah
Morrissey of
8th Avenue
distributing the
latest issue of
Viewpoint.

Photo by Dorsey Griffith



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Freeport Boulevard gym keeps the fun in fitness with expansion

By Lindsey Sin

A popular gym for residents of both Curtis Park and Land Park is expanding. Power Pack Fitness is nestled between Chocolate Fish Coffee Roasters and Ten Acres Pharmacy on Freeport Boulevard. The gym's current 1,500 square-foot indoor space will double in size this spring.

Co-owners Brandon and Sophia Ferrante have long hoped to expand the gym's square footage. Even though they first opened just seven weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, their high-energy classes and fun atmosphere have fostered steady growth for the last three years. At the end of 2022, the couple got word from the building owners about an opportunity to expand. Now they'll be adding another 1,500 square feet to their footprint, moving into the area that previously served as the storefront for the children's clothing store, Bitte. The storefront's entrance on Vallejo Way, across the street from Marie's Donuts, will serve as

an additional gym entry.

Construction has been under way for a few weeks and includes knocking down walls to connect the current gym with the new space. Even gym clients got involved and wielded a few sledgehammers in the process. Next steps include flooring installation and readying the space for use. The new space should be fully available for use before May.

The owners said the expansion couldn't come at a better time.

"We offer about 50 classes each week and almost 200 personal training sessions per week," said Brandon Ferrante. "Currently we average somewhere around 1,000 visits a month."

The gym's motto "Be the Energy" is on full display during classes, with plenty of loud music and encouragement.

"It is about creating a culture of positivity and motivation where everyone is encouraged to push themselves to their best," he said. The gym also organizes group hikes at local nature spots and the occasional family movie in the park-

ing lot.

Group fitness classes include bootcamp, kickboxing, barre and yoga. The additional space will allow for more classes at peak hours and better define the spaces for specific use. The new area will be dedicated for personal training sessions along with barre and yoga classes; the existing gym space will continue to host kickboxing and bootcamp classes.

Hai Luong of Castro Way considers the expansion a necessary next step for Power Pack Fitness.

"I am so grateful for the quality of classes and trainers who teach there," said Luong, a non-surgical spine specialist at Kaiser Permanente who understands the importance of fitness for overall health.

Power Pack Fitness has added additional classes in recent months, often at the suggestion of its members. Newer classes include strength training, guided stretch and Self-Myofascial Release (SMR), taught by Luong and another gym client.

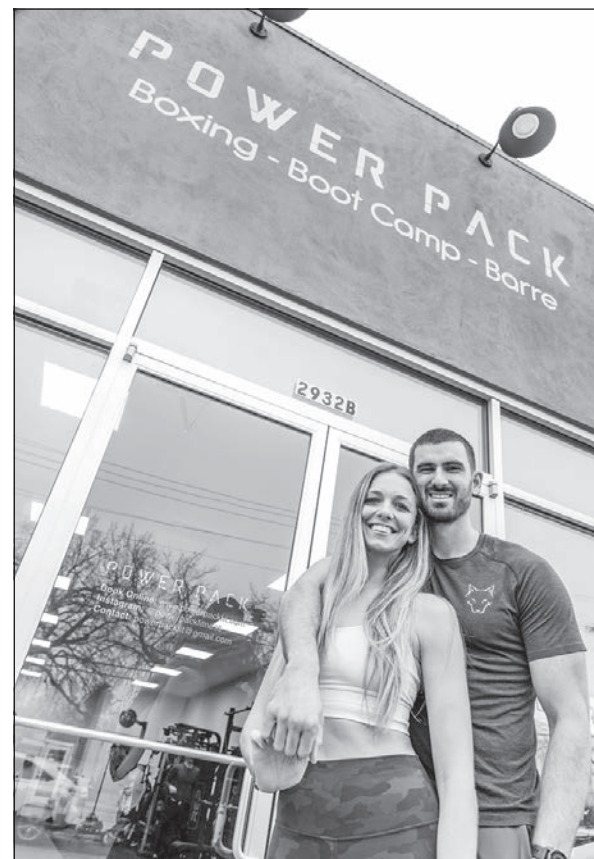


Photo by Christine Alward

Power Pack Fitness owners Sofia and Brandon Ferrante in front of their gym on Freeport Boulevard.

Discounts

Continued from page 1

businesses. To make it easy, vouchers are approved at the point of sale, so landscapers need not front the full cost of equipment when making their purchase.

The voucher program is available to small landscaping businesses offering commercial and residential landscaping services. The CARB program offers financial incentives for an array of electric lawn equipment, including mowers, leaf blowers, edgers, string trimmers, batteries and chargers. All sales must be made in person from an authorized dealer of pre-approved brands listed in the Eligible Equipment Dealer Catalog (<http://californiacore.org/wp-content/>

[uploads/2022/09/Attachment-D_Final_9.21.22_ADA.pdf](http://californiacore.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Attachment-D_Final_9.21.22_ADA.pdf)).

The CARB manual shows 11 authorized stores in Sacramento, of which Horizon Distributors on Broadway is the closest to Curtis Park, followed by Bar-Hein Co. on Fulton Avenue and Bliss Power Lawn Equipment Co., also on Fulton Avenue. Be aware that different dealers offer different brands, so check the dealer list (<https://californiacore.org/dealerlist/>) to see which brands they offer.

Interested landscapers should visit an approved dealer of their choice to inquire about the program. Upon making a purchase they will be asked for their California driver's license and another form of business I.D. The dealer will make a voucher application on behalf of the purchaser and will provide training

on how to use the equipment properly.

Equipment purchased must be commercial grade, zero-emission electric, and as such will emit no harmful noxious pollution either to the landscaper or in the air space where the equipment is being used. Gas leaf blowers used in Curtis Park typically exceed the noise levels allowed by the city noise ordinance. In addition, one hour of a leaf blower operation emits smog-forming pollution comparable to driving a new, light-duty passenger car 1,100 miles – about the distance from Los Angeles to Denver or 15 hours of drive time.

While there are many brands of electric lawn equipment available, purchasing a Stihl cordless backpack leaf blower under the CARB voucher program, for example, would save the landscaper nearly \$800 on a list price of

\$1,140. This example includes purchase of the blower and necessary battery and charger for about \$350 plus tax. Be aware there are various levels of batteries and chargers, so prices vary from this example.

Since gas leaf blowers generate the most noise and air pollution, homeowners should consider encouraging their landscaper to buy even just this one piece of equipment as electric. If the landscaper is not financially able to make the purchase on their own, consider loaning them the money, purchasing the equipment for them, or pooling money from neighbors that use the same landscaper.

A Spanish translation of this article with links can be found on the SCNA website at <https://sierra2.org/neighborhood-scna/advocacy/clean-quiet-yard/>.

West Curtis FOAKS
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Dogs

Continued from page 1

process for community input. He did not provide a proposed timeline for completion of the next steps. He said the next meeting will take place within 45 to 60 days.

The city has published the 639 individual survey respondent comments, as well as additional survey data on its website: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Sierra2ParkInfo>. Video of the meeting is also posted on the city's website.

The comments, which were posted anonymously, expressed views both pro, con and somewhere in between about the establishment of a dog park in the neighborhood, whether at the Sierra 2 Green or elsewhere.

Some expressed interest in a dog park but felt use of Sierra 2 for off-leash dogs is not currently safe.

"My family would greatly appreciate a fully built dog park in the community.

They are such a great way to meet neighbors," wrote one survey participant. "While we appreciate that people use Sierra 2 as a dog park, it is not safe for our dog, and we welcome the opportunity to have one in our neighborhood to use for our dog."

Others felt strongly that the site is inappropriate for a dog park and prefer the space be used for a soccer field. Said one: "Sadly, I do not feel safe bringing my kids to Sierra center. I would like to use the open area for soccer, but the dogs make it impossible. I've had my toddler knocked over by an excited dog while he exited the playground. It's a huge bummer."

Christian Muller of Montgomery Way, a recently elected SCNA board member, has a beagle and visits Sierra 2 Green twice a day. He has been deeply involved in the dog park issue and argues that the dog park fosters strong community connections.

"It's not about the dogs, it's about people gathering to make friends," he said after the meeting. "If someone

doesn't show up for a couple of days, we check on them. I started coming to the park a couple of years ago. I came for the dogs, but I stayed for the community."

People have moved into the neighborhood because of the dog park. It's a gem."

The survey was prompted by multiple reports concerning off-leash dogs in the park at all hours and concerns about the safety of children, according to the YPCE's website.

YPCE states that the park's use by dogs off leash started more than 20 years ago when the area became a quasi training area for dogs. Its hours were limited to morning until 9 a.m. and in the evening. A "Dogxillary" was formed and headed by former Curtis Park resident Maurice Reed. He registered users and their dogs. Owners of misbehaving dogs were asked to leave. For the most part, dog owners and their pets got along well, according to Reed, who has moved to Campus Commons. However, complaints about the current situation have

pushed the city to try to clarify rules for the park, find a solution that works for its users and is in accordance with city ordinances.

The SCNA board has not taken an official position on the dog park. SCNA board president Bill Hoover, citing concerns about how the city has handled the issue, sent a letter to city leaders on Feb. 9. In it he notes that the survey asks respondents where a dog park should be sited, in Curtis Park or Sierra 2 Green, not whether there should be one at all.

Hoover questioned whether the city has written a protocol to site a dog park and calls for the need to apply objective criteria in any dog park-site decision. He also asks the city to address potential environmental and safety concerns and potential compatibility and traffic issues.

"SCNA believes that evaluation of the above areas are essential to this process," he wrote. "There are many other approaches, and SCNA encourages the city to look at how other cities have addressed this same issue."

City continues to seek feedback on dog park issue

Happy March! As many Curtis Park residents are already aware, the city is in the process of determining how to best provide ideal amenities at the park outside the Sierra 2 Community Center. At the beginning of the year we circulated a survey asking what residents would like to see there, whether it be a dog park, playing fields, or anything else, and over 1,000 people responded. On Feb. 9, we held a community Zoom meeting to go over the results of the survey and were hap-

**rick
JENNINGS**
City
Council
Member
District 7



py to see high attendance and engagement. As we move forward, the Curtis Park neighborhood and surrounding

communities will be informed before any major decisions are made that will affect your experience at the Sierra 2 Center. You can find the most recent information at www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Sierra2ParkInfo.

We understand that Curtis Park residents are passionate about their support for the neighborhood and the community center, and that is why it is so important to us to maximize the utility from the center's amenities and activities in a way that best sup-

ports the neighborhood. As I said, we will continue to take resident input and feedback, and absent any specific survey you can always feel free to direct those comments to my office at either rjennings@cityofsacramento.org or 916-808-7007. If you have any questions or concerns about this process or any other topic, please do not hesitate to give us a call. As always, it is an immense privilege to be your councilmember, and have a great rest of your month.

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HOME OF RIVER CITY TAPS

Enjoy a variety of styles during the home tour

By Lori Harder

Five homes spanning 25 years of construction and early 20th century design will be on display during the Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour on Saturday, April 22. The tour includes homes in bungalow, Mediterranean, Tudor cottage and streamline moderne styles. Throughout the day, people from the greater Sacramento area enjoy strolls under leafy canopies, tour charming homes and pretty gardens and enjoy outdoor entertainment spaces with refreshments and music in the park.

The Capitol A's Model A Ford Club will display a variety of pristine vintage cars throughout the neighborhood. The organizing committee is working to secure vendors, musicians and artists to enhance tour-goer experiences. The north end of Curtis Park will feature food trucks, home- and garden-related items for sale, live music by Midtown Jazz, displays, and picnic tables and chairs.

The Home & Garden Tour raises needed funds for the Sierra 2 Center and Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association programs and shares the unique charm and fabric of our neighborhood. Ticket sales begin

Call for docents and sponsors/advertisers

Home & Garden Tour organizers are seeking volunteers to monitor homes for two-hour shifts or to help set up or take down tables and chairs at the north end of Curtis Park. Volunteers may buy their home tour ticket for just \$10. If you can help, please text or call Lori Harder at 916-801-7189 or email at lorikoi@sbcglobal.net. Consider supporting SCNA and this event by placing an advertisement in the tour program, starting at \$250. Contact Terri Shettle, SCNA executive director at 916-452-3005 ext. 204, or by email at terri@sierra2.org.

March 15. You can purchase tickets online at www.Sierra2.org or by dropping into the Sierra 2 Center office.

The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the tour encompassing one and a half miles. Bike racks will be provided. Ticket prices are \$25 in advance (\$20 for SCNA members), and \$30 on tour day (\$25 for SCNA members). Your discount is a great reason to join SCNA! Docents and event volunteers can purchase their ticket for just \$10.

For updates and more information, call the Sierra 2 Center at 916-452-3005 or visit www.Sierra2.org. Updates will also be posted on SCNA's Facebook page and email blasts.



Photos by Rudy Calpo

The steep gables and catslide entry, along with multipane casement and picture windows, characterize the charms of this Tudor cottage, inside and out.



The 1926 Mediterranean with multiple arched and leaded glass windows, envelopes a courtyard overlooking the park.

Casa Garden to become Mimosa House

Casa Garden, the beloved former restaurant at 2760 Sutterville Road whose proceeds benefited the Sacramento Children's Home, will come to life again as The Mimosa House, the Sacramento Business Journal has reported.

The building that housed Casa Garden, which opened in 1974, sits on children's home property and will be leased by the children's home to The Mimosa House. For years, Casa Garden was operated by Casa de Los Niños, an organization of a small paid staff and hundreds of volunteers.

During its long tenure, Casa Garden raised more than \$3 million for the children's home services, including

the crisis nursery intensive residential therapy for boys, according to a story in The Sacramento Bee published after its closure. In its heyday, Casa Garden hosted weddings, business events, and large fundraisers, in addition to restaurant meals.

The Mimosa House, a brunch restaurant chain with six sites in the region and at least two others in the works, could not be reached for comment. The chain is owned by the Dedier Family.

The Business Journal reports that the restaurant should be open by mid-summer and will support children's home fundraisers and events.

— Dorsey Griffith

25th Street couple welcomes Avery

Jason and Mallory Matthews welcomed their firstborn, Avery, on Dec. 29. Mallory said being a new mother is exhausting, but very fun.

"It isn't as hard as I thought it would be," said Mallory, who is on maternity leave from her job as a nurse practitioner at Sacramento State University.

Jason, who works remotely in digital marketing, said there's one aspect of being a new father he hadn't anticipated.

"The biggest surprise has been the amount of laundry we have to wash — there's spit-up on all of it," he joked.

Mallory, who grew up in the Pocket,



Jason, Mallory and Avery Matthews of 25th Street

and Jason moved from San Francisco to their Curtis Park home two and a half years ago.

Viewpoint to launch page to celebrate Curtis Park arts

Curtis Park has creative talent, and we want to put it on display.

The neighborhood has long had a great supply of painters, ceramicists, photographers, cartoonists, poets, playwrights and other creators.

Viewpoint plans to show off your

talent on an occasional page in the monthly paper. Please submit short written pieces or reproducible photos of your creative work of any kind (originals may not be returned) to Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com.

We will curate appropriate submissions and run them in the paper as

space permits.

Works should be accompanied by the creator's name, email address, phone number and a short bio.

We are looking forward to sharing your talents with our readers.

— Carlos Alcalá



Grayson and Rachel Castro of Portola Way welcomed their second baby girl, Soleil Tigerlily Castro, on Nov. 11, 2022. She is the little sister of Delphine who recently turned six years old.

Supporting Bret Harte Elementary Students is a family affair



**LAUREN
GOTHARD
and
LINDSEY
SIN**

Two of the most well-known employees at Bret Harte Elementary are also related. Bret Harte's Office Manager Sonia Carrillo has worked at the school for the last nine years – two years as a noon duty assistant and seven years in the front office. Leticia Charles, Bret Harte's longtime noon duty assistant, who is known as Ms. Letty by families, staff and students, is Carrillo's mother.

Carrillo and Charles live together in the South City Farms neighborhood about two miles south of Curtis Park. They were previously connected with Maple Elementary until the school district voted to close it after the 2012-13 school year. Charles had worked as a noon duty assistant at Maple Elementary for four years before being transferred to Bret Harte Elementary. At the same time, four of her children also matriculated as students. Carrillo currently has a fifth grader at Bret Harte Elementary and another child starting kindergarten in the fall. Having experienced the school as both parents and employees for the last decade, Carrillo and Charles know the school community well.

"Parents participate in school and know the staff. We are like family," said Charles.

She is a regular presence on the campus, offering a warm greeting and big smile to the students during the school day. Carrillo appreciates the tight knit community that makes Bret Harte Elementary unique and the events that bring everyone together. Her favorite event was the monthly family lunch days that were held prior to the pandemic. One Friday a month, parents and family members joined their students at lunchtime and ate with them on the playground. According to Carrillo, it offered a chance for families to connect and experience Bret Harte during regular school hours.

The support from the Charles-Carrillo clan even ex-



Photo by Lauren Gothard

From left to right: Sonia Carrillo and Leticia Charles in front of one of the new murals from Wide Open Walls.

tends to other members of the family. For the school's annual Fall Festival, Charles and her grown children cook tacos, which are considered a tasty perennial highlight. The item was so popular at the 2022 Fall Festival that they ran out before the end of the event.

While Carrillo is technically her mother's boss, they keep it professional at work. Charles takes her responsibilities and duties seriously.

"At school she's not my daughter. I'm Ms. Letty and

she's Ms. Sonia," said Charles. Though their schedules do not allow them to carpool to school, the duo appreciates working near one another and to Carrillo's daughter.

"It makes me feel safe knowing she's okay when I look out the window," said Carrillo.

In total, three generations of their family have been involved in Bret Harte Elementary, and the school community is all the better for it.



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