

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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May 2023

City releases – then launches – dog park action plan

By Jim Miller

The city opened a re-configured temporary dog park in the Sierra 2 Green in recent weeks, part of a draft action plan that could result in the creation of a permanent dog park in the Curtis Park community.

The temporary dog park, located on about two-thirds of an acre in the southwest portion of the green, replaces a previous temporary dog park along Castro Way in the northern section of the green.

People and their dogs now enter and exit the park through a shipping container-type enclosure with dual doors on Fourth Avenue. It also includes a water source for dogs.

The temporary park topped the city's draft action plan for "Sierra 2/ Curtis Park dog park solutions." But whether a permanent park ultimately emerges will depend on upcoming work, including an environmental review, identifying funding sources,



Fencing was moved to the southwest corner of Sierra 2 green to create a temporary dog park while the other area is reconditioned for soccer and other activities.

Photo by Will Carlton

resident feedback and more.

The first open house on the city's alternative site plans is scheduled for

June, according to the action plan's timeline.

On a recent warm evening, some

20 dogs were at the temporary park, running with each other, fetching balls and rolling in the grass.

"It's a big change, obviously," said Kate Gonzales, a Midtown resident visiting the park with her dog, a Catahoula mix, of the re-configured park. "I'm glad we have something."

Gonzales said she also brings her dog to Truitt Bark Park at 19th and Q streets but prefers the Sierra 2 site. It's grassier, shadier and larger, she said, with more room for dogs to spread out.

Water supply was another amenity cited by dog park visitors.

When the temporary dog park was at the park's north end, people had to walk to the faucet at the southern end to get water for their pets. The dogs were supposed to be leashed at that point, but some were not, with the Sierra 2 playground close by.

A blue fence now separates the play-

See Dog Park, Page 3

Baker's sweet British adventure revealed

By Patti Roberts

Dyana O'Brien and her husband Loehl moved to Sixth Avenue in 2006 and immediately felt at home.

"We love it here – it's so neighborly," said O'Brien. She is an accomplished baker, and shares many of her sweet treats with her Curtis Park neighbors. There's a bit of baking bartering going on – they drop off bags of home-grown passion fruit, lemons, oranges and

eggs, and in return get O'Brien's homemade goodies.

Although she shares her treats, O'Brien has managed to keep a secret she's held for two years. And while she's ready to break her silence, there's one detail she can't reveal.

O'Brien was one of nine contestants on "The Great American Baking Show," filmed outside London last summer with "The

See Baker, Page 12



Introducing Park Arts

Viewpoint celebrates neighbors' creativity

Page 11



Curtis Park welcomes new neighbors

Meet the Wraithwalls and Greiner/Frietas families

Page 15

Why Sacramento needs a tree commission

City canopies deserve protection

Page 2

Yard Sale returns May 20

By Heather Hogan

This year's Curtis Park Yard Sale is on Saturday, May 20, welcoming bargain-hunting shoppers to stroll, bike, skate, scoot and cruise our shady streets to scoop up good deals and help keep treasures out of the landfill.

Yard sale times will vary by the homeowner but typically start around 8 or 9 a.m. and end around noon or 1 p.m. Sale locations will be promoted on SCNA website the day before the big sale. Remember to bring small bills and a friendly smile. Please be kind to neighbors and watch out for small children and dogs.

Host a Sale

Any resident within the Curtis Park SCNA boundaries (between Franklin and Freepoint

See Yard Sale, Page 7

2023 Curtis Fest Artisan Fair bigger and better than ever

By Heather Hogan

Join us on Sunday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the 15th Annual Curtis Fest Artisan Fair under the trees in Curtis Park. Over 100 vendors will be selling unique and wonderful handmade wares.

This year Curtis Fest welcomes back many long-time artisans like Spacepig Press, Nudge Eco Store, Sandy Fong Whetstone Art, Heathered Wallets, Arizmendi Ceramics, Dania Lukey and Driftwoods Clothing, as well as new vendors like Vicandarts' Garden Pots, Gifts From Eternity, Elevate Adornment, Coldwater Arts, Lotus Eco Arts and Repurposed Curtis Park. The roughly 10-foot booths will be set up back-to-back in pods with plenty of room to wander between.

Food trucks on-site will include Chando's Tacos, Drewskis, Hefty Gyros, Cowtown Creamery, Good Roots Café and Smokin Ewe BBQ. KC Kombucha, Twisted Dough, Kettle Corn Masters and Carnival Concessions Shave Ice will provide additional snacks.

Guests can enjoy live music throughout the day and visit the music instrument petting zoo with the Library of MusicLandria. Enjoy hands-on art activities with Crocker Art Museum and help create a ceramic tile mural with Matthew Flores inspired by the Del Rio Trail. The tiles are part of the city's art activation project for the new trail.

Be sure to bring the little ones for a full day of magic and whimsy by Pixie Tribe fairy troop including Kid in a Bubble, a Puppet Petting Zoo and a Wild Lawn Party. Entertainment for kids includes live music by Jillian Van Ness as part of her artwork around the new Del Rio Trail.

The Del Rio trail is an abandoned railway corridor that

traverses south from the Sacramento River near the zoo all the way to the water tower in Meadowview, crossing through Land Park, South Land Park, Freeport Manor, Z'Berg, Pocket and Meadowview neighborhoods. When it's completed, residents will be able to walk, ride, skate and gather on all five car-free miles. The City of Sacramento has hired 20 local artists in Phase 1 to create artwork on and about the trail. Learn more about the artists and projects at delriotrailart.org and more about the construction at delriotrailconstruction.org.

Stop by and chat with our generous sponsors: SMUD and Grateful Dog Daycare. A Sierra 2/SCNA booth at the north end of the park near the food trucks will have vendor maps and additional information. Thank you for supporting local businesses and being respectful of our neighbors around the park.

For more information about our vendors and activities keep an eye on our social media or check our website at Sierra2.org/curtis-fest.



Trees in Curtis Park Sacramento's urban forest needs a tree commission

By Daniel Pskowski

January's two catastrophic storms made front-page headlines, with Sacramento losing more than a thousand trees. William Land Park suffered the heaviest damage with close to 100 trees blowing over. Once the months-long clean-up is over it will be time to rebuild our urban forest. Part of the rebuilding process should include the formation of a tree commission. Why?

As Councilmember Caity Maple mentioned in her April *Viewpoint* column, commissions ensure that the voices of everyday Sacramento residents are reflected in the city's decision-making. They also provides a method for residents with a passion for the subject to take concrete action.

A tree commission would review and aid in setting policy, provide program feedback and protect Sacramento's urban forest. For example, the commission would address issues such as climate impacts on the urban forest, including those from recent storms and past droughts. The commission would respond to residents' concerns about downtown development and the required infrastructure that eliminates street trees. It could assist the Urban Forestry section in recouping the loss of \$3 million in general fund money to be used to aid in tree reforestation. The commission also could hear appeals of proposals to remove trees. Currently, tree appeals go before a hearing officer who is not a degreed arborist. The public would have more confidence in this process if a commission – and not one person determined whether Sacramento's iconic trees are saved or removed.

As Sacramento City Arborist from 1990 until 2020, I was fortunate to have strong public support that allowed me to work on their behalf protecting both public and private trees. A tree commission would assist the Urban Forestry staff in protecting and enhancing Sacramento's urban forest.

There were attempts in the past to form a tree commission. The 2003 Sacramento Tree Services Best Management Practices Review and Report prepared by Robert L. Tate and Associates recommended a Citizen Advisory Group, but there was no follow-up to this recommendation. The Parks and Recreation Commission formed a trees subcommittee, but it was dissolved around 2006 by the Urban Forestry section. Many municipal urban forestry programs across the country have a tree commission. The City of Davis has had one for well over 30 years. Sacramento is the City of Trees. If Sacramento values them, it needs to form a tree commission.

Daniel Pskowski is a retired Sacramento City arborist and urban forester. He is an ISA-certified arborist and ISA-qualified in tree risk assessment.

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Dog Park

Continued from page 1

ground and temporary dog park.

"I hear some people who said the park got smaller, but we're glad that we have this at all," said John Christensen of Tahoe Park, who was at the Sierra 2 dog park with his wife, Stephanie, baby daughter, Maisie and Franklin, a mini-Bernedoodle. "He loves this spot."

The draft action plan and temporary dog park are the latest developments related to Sierra 2's years-long status as a popular – but not city-sanctioned – dog park.

Dog owners say the park helps meet a large need in a city with too few dog parks and minimal impact on other Sierra 2 users. Critics, though, say unleashed dogs hurt others' park experi-

ence and damage the turf.

In a statement from his office, Councilman Rick Jennings called the action plan "a starting point."

"As the process moves forward it will be continually evaluated and amended if necessary to make sure that all options are evaluated, that there is transparency, that there is public input and that all members of the public have the opportunity to participate," he said.

As called for in another part of the draft action plan, city crews closed the sports field adjacent to the temporary dog park and started work to repair the turf and prepare the area for soccer and other sports beginning in June. The city expects that city programs and sports leagues will use the park from June through November.

City parks staff, meanwhile, have increased their presence at Sierra 2 since the temporary park opened,

educating people about city leash rules. People with unleashed dogs are readily seen outside the designated area, however.

The current "education period" will continue through May, city spokeswoman Gabby Miller said. After that, there will be "enforcement measures, including warning citations and administrative citations."

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association board has not taken a formal position on the Sierra 2 dog park issue.

Erik Fay, who led an ad hoc committee identifying the pros and cons of a city dog park, said the city gave little notice of the temporary park's creation.

"It would be such a big help if the city would issue its communications and communicate regular updates jointly and simultaneously to all park users and their respective organizations," Fay said.

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SCNA Board Notes

Home Tour and Big Day of Giving

This year's Big Day of Giving goal is \$50,000. **Kathy Les** noted that donations will be accepted online beginning April 20. Cash and checks delivered to the Sierra 2 office on or after April 20 will be entered on May 4, the day of the fundraiser. The Home & Garden Tour is in the final planning stages and is well-staffed with enthusiastic volunteers. Tickets are for sale online. A committee meeting is scheduled for April 25 to discuss a fall fundraiser to celebrate Sierra 2's 100-year anniversary.

Treasurer's Report

John Bailey reported that Sierra 2 Executive Director **Terri Shettle** obtained a \$4,000 city grant and that, with contributions from **Councilmember Rick Jennings**, Music in the Park is fully funded for the first time in its history. SCNA bylaws require that the board adopt a budget at the June 7 board meeting. Bailey presented a timeline that describes the process.

On Jan. 31, the financial statement reflected an unrestricted cash balance of \$11,000, which has since rebounded. The available fund balance fell to minus \$118,000, but should also rebound, with increased rentals. Net earnings in January, a typically poor month operationally, came to a \$5,000 loss.

But operations for the month, excluding investment returns, were \$5,000 over budget. For the first seven months of the fiscal year, excluding investment returns, we are \$43,000 better than budget. Bailey said the annual budget yields a \$43,000 loss, so if we remain on track for the rest of the year, we should end the year about even.

Sierra 2 News

Gerre Buehler said the committee had reviewed a checklist provided by **Miles Thorne** to identify responsibilities that may be transferred from Sierra 2 to the Department of Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment (YPCE) when Sierra 2 renews its lease with the city. An issue previously reported as a broken sump pump is a more complicated and expensive clog in the water main caused by a pipe that collapsed due to Sierra 2 maintenance work. The water to Sierra 2 will need to be shut off during repairs.

Community Concerns

SCNA President **Bill Hoover** noted that the "Sierra 2-Curtis Park Action Plan updated 3/27/23" was released to Sierra 2 on March 30 in advance of release to the public from the Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment. The city began implementing the plan immediately, blocking Fourth Avenue access. Neither Sierra 2 nor SCNA had advance notice.

Hoover cautioned board members

against unauthorized communication with outside agencies as per board rules, which designate the president and executive director as official representatives. Board members may speak on behalf of SCNA if authorized. He told committee members that unauthorized communications weaken trust among committee members and advised them to speak with the committee about any issues.

Erik Fay, Neighborhood Concerns Committee chair, reported that **Adrian Rehn**, Oak Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) president, discussed Oak Park concerns including air-quality monitoring, McClatchy Park maintenance and projects at the University of the Pacific and Aggie Square. The most critical issue is the neighborhood impact of homelessness. He invited SCNA members to attend OPNA meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m.

SCNA lost its appeal against the removal of a heritage tree on Fifth Avenue in Crocker Village. The tree is protected by a prior agreement between SCNA and the developer but was removed because of a crack in a limb.

Bruce Pierini reported that the Sierra 2 Park Ad Hoc Committee has completed its work. **Pierini, Fay, Matthew Royal** and **Kirsten Smith** met several times between March 3 and 18. They gathered information and documented the pros and cons of converting Sierra 2 Park into an off-leash dog park

and submitted an article to *Viewpoint* published in April.

Mimi Budd reported that **Carson Anderson**, co-Director of the African American Experience (AAE), addressed the Racial Justice Committee on March 9. AAE seeks to document and honor the unrecognized contributions of Sacramento's African American residents. **Basim Elkarra**, executive director of CAIR (Council on American-Islam Relations) will join the committee on April 12.

Les asked all board members to complete and submit the Clean and Quiet Lawn Care survey. An information table will be set up at the Home & Garden Tour.

Viewpoint

Pierini asked board members to reach out to potential advertisers to increase ad revenues.

New Business

Trish Davey, a guest and SCNA member, said she and other neighbors support an off-leash dog park, and that many do not feel represented by SCNA or the city. She asked the board to consider holding in-person meetings again to hear directly from more neighbors. She also volunteered to serve on the NCC committee.

The next meeting will be May 3 at 6:30 p.m.

– Submitted by Mimi Budd

VIEWPOINT

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Introducing Joe Flores

Councilmember Rick Jennings invited Joe Flores, a District 7 commission appointee, to submit a guest column for May.

Hello neighbors, my name is Joe Flores, and I am the District 7 Parks and Community Enrichment Commissioner. I have served as a parks commissioner since March 2017, first in District 5 as an appointee of former Councilmember Jay Schenirer. As my District 5 term was ending, Councilmember Rick Jennings reached out and, based on my previous advocacy and body of work, asked me to continue my service for the new District 7. (My South Land Park home was also moved into the newly drawn district). I began the new term in January.

JOE FLORES
District 7 Commission Apointee



I was first featured in *Viewpoint* in the September 2019 issue as chair of the commission, where I helped lead the effort to name Ray Eames Park in Crocker Village. Construction of the park should begin imminently. *Viewpoint* also interviewed me for the July 2022 issue during the redistricting process when this neighborhood had two city council representation teams.

In my day job, I work for the California Workforce Development Board, where I lead the suite of reentry initiatives and programs that help formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted individuals across California into quality, life-changing jobs. With my state reentry work and service to the City of Sacramento parks, I was named a Latino Change Maker by the Sacramento Bee in January.

I look forward to continuing to help the D7 Council Office, the City of Sacramento and the Department of Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment on all things parks. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns at ACATL2000@gmail.com and let's have a coffee chat.

¡Lucha!

Sierra Boone appointed to parks commission

Cyera “Sierra” Boone (she/her), Appointed in March 2023, is the “Seat K – At Large” Parks and Community Enrichment Commissioner. In her professional capacity, she works for the ACLU of Northern California as a data associate managing databases, analytics and digital outreach tools to deepen community engagement.

The Parks and Community Enrichment Commission focuses on providing excellent recreation opportunities to every Sacramento resident, regardless of their financial resources or ability status. In addition to this responsibility, the commission also focuses on improving and expanding programming at

CAITY MAPLE
City Council Member District 5



Sacramento’s many community centers, including the two in District 5: Evelyn Moore and Oak Park.

Previously, Boone was a personal and professional development advisor to military members and their families in Okinawa, Japan. She has a strong commitment to resource advocacy and

public and private sector collaboration to bridge gaps for marginalized communities. Her dedication to public service jump-started when she served as a California State Legislature staffer.

Boone is most proud of her ability to adapt to unfamiliar circumstances. For the last ten years, she has experienced many changes, most prompted by her partner’s service in the United States Marine Corps. Through it all, Boone remains grateful for the communities she has connected with and their lessons.

As a commissioner, she is most excited to collaborate with her neighbors in Oak Park, communities across Sacramento, the city’s dedicated staff, and her commission peers. Their work supports volunteerism, assuring that our parks remain clean, safe and fun for everyone. It’s her hope that by helping facilitate more volunteer opportunities, we’ll collectively build stronger communities and ensure future generations have access to all of the city’s natural beauty.

In her spare time, the commission member enjoys gardening, thrifting for treasures, and spending time at parks with her partner and their dog, Kota Jack.



Honey anyone?

It’s bee swarm season, and several hives have found homes on Tenth Avenue. Eleven-year-old Briony Adsetts suited up to serve as assistant to beekeeper Kelvin Nall. Together they shook a hive that had settled on a neighbor’s front-yard shrub, captured the queen and drew the colony into the swarm box.

Photo by Kit Adsetts



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Shoki Ramen House reopens

Shoki Ramen House had a soft reopening at 2530 21st St. in late April, almost five years after the restaurant was forced to close after a fire caused extensive damage to the building.

“The moment has finally come. WE ARE OPENING!!!,” the restaurant posted on its Facebook page April 20. “Each week we will release dates and times we will be open on our Instagram & Facebook. During our soft opening, we will have reserved time slots where you can come in between your time slot, order at the register, find an open table and enjoy your meal.”

All available reservations were quickly taken for opening night, April 21, The Business Journal reported. Walk-in and takeout orders were not available.

The original site of Shoki Ramen House on 24th Street, just north of Second Avenue, opened in 2007. It closed in 2014 during renovation of the 21st Street location, which had been the longtime home of Trails Restaurant.

After the fire in July 2018, the owners were optimistic that they could reopen in the spring of 2022, and then in the fall. In a Facebook post in early April, the owners apologized for the delays, which they said were “due to high demand of construction supplies and other unstoppable delays.”

— Dennis Cusick

Graduates to appear in June Viewpoint

It's time to send *Viewpoint* portraits and information about this year's high school and college graduates.

For each graduate, please include student's name, parents' names, Curtis Park street name, the graduate's school, post-high school or college plans and phone number.

Please send information and photos in high-resolution jpeg format to susan56ayr@sbcglobal.net.

The deadline is May 10.



“Fanny: The Right To Rock” comes to PBS and The Crest Theatre May 22

The band is back together and performing live

For once, I'm glad a rival music promoter got the gig. If you are a *Viewpoint* reader, I hope you read my October 2022 feature on the Curtis Park Filipina American and queer teen girl rockers from Portola Avenue who made music history in 1970 when they evolved into “Fanny,” the first all-woman rock band to sign to a major label, release five records, tour the world and count David Bowie as one of their champions. Find the story archived at sierra2.org/viewpoint.

Despite all this, Fanny's groundbreaking impact in music was pretty much written out of history until a new, award-winning 2021 documentary by Bobbi Jo Hart, “Fanny: The Right to Rock,” appeared on the indie film festival circuit. It was my plan to bring the film to the 24th Street Theatre at Sierra 2 Center, the very place sisters June and Jean Millington attended elementary school.

But bigger national plans were already underway. On Monday, May 22, the film is premiering across the country on PBS. It will air on KVIE at 9 p.m.

“Leading up to the May 22 premiere, a series of special events with Fanny will take place across California,” the station announced. “One highlight event will feature the reunion of Fanny bandmates at the famed Whisky a Go-Go nightclub on Sunset Strip in Los Angeles for a 50th Anniversary concert on May

17. Special guests will join bandmates June Millington, Jean Millington, Brie Darling, Alice de Buhr and Patti Quatro on stage on this special night.”

Here, in Fanny's hometown, KVIE is rolling out the rainbow carpet. The lead-up festivities will culminate in a Homecoming Screening Party and live performance at the Crest Theatre on Monday, May 22. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the screening at 6:30 p.m. Following the screening, Fanny bandmates will take the stage for a live performance. Free tickets are required and available at kvie.org/fanny. It will be quite the homecoming!

Dennis Harvey of *Variety* hailed the film in his review, writing: “Fanny: The Right to Rock” remains thoroughly engaging thanks to the demonstrable talent and brassy forthrightness of its central personalities. There's no whiff of “nostalgia act” to their current music – these women are born rock lifers who clearly never stopped evolving creatively, even if the hoped-for commercial rewards never quite arrived.

“I am honored to celebrate the untold story of Fanny's vital – yet buried – contributions to rock 'n' roll with the public. Just like Sister Rosetta Tharpe inspired Elvis, Fanny shattered the glass ceiling of the genre to lay crucial groundwork for future bands of women to succeed, from The Runaways to The Go Go's, and continue to do so today! Fanny deserves to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2024.”

— Mindy Giles

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POINT OF VIEW

Behavior change for a healthy climate

By Muriel Strand

In the March issue of *Viewpoint*, Kathy Les of the SCNA's Clean & Quiet Lawn Care Committee explained the discounts available for getting electrically powered landscaping equipment. Unfortunately, the story did not explain how electrifying everything is neither practical nor

realistic.

Initially, the idea that we can graft our fossil fuel lifestyles onto PVs (photovoltaic solar collectors), windmills and batteries seemed like the solution to climate chaos. But the reality of resource scarcity and the ecological devastation produced by mining and refining are beginning to seep into public awareness. As an engineer, I became aware of these problems starting 25 years ago, when I calculated that it would take a healthy adult about 100 hours to generate, such as on a bicycle, the amount of energy available from a gallon of gasoline. There's a reason we're addicted.

Now in engineering we learn about boundary conditions in systems. And here we have two radically different energy and price conditions and systems, with fossil power vs. human power. My approach has been to go back to the drawing board and take as my design goals our basic physical needs, since fossil energy is strictly physical. Namely, clean air and water, healthy food, cooking, comfy shelter, and plenty of sleep and exercise.

These basic needs can only come from the planet, and all mining and refining processes reduce the earth's carrying capacity in ways that are at least as permanent as increased CO₂ in the atmosphere. Pavement is another factor that reduces carrying capacity, in addition to attracting the nuisance of leaf blowers. So, in the face of climate chaos and ongoing ecological degradation, using external power of any kind for tasks that are well within human muscular capacity is totally irrational. So, the California

Air Resources Board (CARB) should offer discounts on human-powered gardening tools.

Almost everyone, not just CARB, has great difficulty imagining life and survival without fossil fuel or electrical power. However, I reassure myself, knowing that the giant fusion reactor in the sky has been the planet's only source of power for several billion years up until the last half-millennia. Not surprisingly, mow-and-blow workers also have difficulty imagining how they can put food on their table and a roof over their family's heads without power equipment. We all have to think different, and here's an approach for homeowners and landscapers: <http://motherearthhome.blogspot.com/>.

Switching to electric saved us money

By Mike and Judy Scheible

Kudos to our Energy Stars for helping us make the switch from gas to electric.

Last spring, we replaced our aging gas furnace with a heat pump AC/Heating unit. Our 110-year-old Curtis Park home had AC for the first time. As expected, we saw our SMUD bill increase by about \$25/month for our judicious use of A/C only on the hottest days last summer. I knew that our winter PG&E bill would nearly disappear but was worried about how much we would pay for electric heat.

Well, the cold winter of 2022-23 is over, and we now know the answer. From November to March our heating costs dropped by 67 percent, from about \$200/month for gas to \$65/month. We also have more and better-quality heat. We've raised the temperature settings a couple of degrees to 70 and increased the area we heat by about 25%.

What makes these savings possible? The heat-pump system is three to four times more efficient at using electricity to provide heated or cooled air than a gas furnace or a traditional A/C system. We also avoided this winter's hefty natural gas rate hikes.

The installed cost of the HVAC unit sized for a 2,000 square-foot house was a little under \$14,000 after SMUD rebates. (We did not have adequate basement ductwork, which added \$4,000 to the cost).

SMUD rebates of up to \$3,500 are still available in 2023. The federal tax credit is now 30% of the system cost capped at \$2,000, so savings of up to \$5,500 are possible.

Again, many thanks to the Curtis Park Energy Stars, especially Cheri Davis, Kathy Les and Nancy Mckeever, for their help and advice.

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You're invited: Go Green Happy Hour May 24

Have you installed – or thinking about installing – an electric hot water heater or heating and cooling system? How about modern induction cooking? New, affordable high-efficiency options are available and being installed in homes throughout Curtis Park. The rebate timing is excellent!

Join the Go Green Happy Hour on May 24 to learn about making the switch and celebrate with your neighbors who have first-hand stories to share and tips about contractors and rebates. SMUD's technical expert will join, too. It's a Go Green mixer!

The event, from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Sierra 2 Garden Room, is sponsored by SMUD Director Rosanna Herber and the Curtis Park Electric Stars. Food and drinks will be served, and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to rjherber@comcast.net.

Yard Sale

Continued from page 1

Boulevards north of Sutterville Road and south of Broadway) can join in for free. We encourage neighbors to team up to host a sale or enlist their whole block. SCNA will advertise the event on social media and other news outlets.

Details for participants:

- Register your sale location for free at sierra2.org/event/yard-sale/ by May 18 at 5 p.m.
- Enter your address and a description of the items to be sold.
- Grab a free printable copy of directional Yard Sale signs.
- We'll include this on our printable and mobile-friendly map, available on the day of the sale.
- Plan to have your sale from around 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- We welcome donations of Yard Sale earnings to Sierra 2 Center (though it's not required).
- People often leave items out for free through the afternoon.
- We recommend donating your leftover items to a local free clothing closet:
 - Highlands Community Charter School at <https://hccs.hccts.org/apps/pages/CC>
 - Weave: <https://www.weaveinc.org/shop-weave> or find a clothing closet at <https://www.findhelp.org/goods/clothing--sacramento-ca>



Elkarra delivers important talk about Islamic community challenges

By Lily Harris

On April 12, the Racial Justice Committee of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association hosted Basim Elkarra, executive director of the Sacramento Valley office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, for a discussion about the challenges faced by the Islamic community in the Sacramento Valley, and the creative ways CAIR and the community are meeting those challenges.

Elkarra, a San Francisco native, has spent his career advocating for the civil liberties and rights of Muslim Americans while increasing awareness and understanding of this ever-growing population in the communities encountering them. Elkarra graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. in Political Science and an emphasis on Middle Eastern Studies. He became the first Muslim and Arab American to be elected to political office in the Sacramento region when he was elected to the Twin Rivers Unified School District Board of Trustees in 2016. He founded and continues to run CAIR's California youth leadership program at the Capitol, which has graduated over 650 students since 2006.

Anyone old enough to remember the September 11 attacks can recall the backlash against Muslim Americans that



Basim Elkarra

followed the terrorist attack. Muslim Americans were targeted by law enforcement at every level. Individual Muslim Americans were victims of hate crimes. The wars in Afghanistan and, eventually, Iraq did nothing to alleviate an anti-Muslim mindset throughout the country.

According to Elkarra, this anti-Muslim mindset, or Islamophobia, persists. In 2021, CAIR released a report entitled "Islamophobia in the Mainstream," which tracks the evolution of Islamophobia's effects in 2019 and 2020. Since the September 11 attacks, Elkarra explained, non-profits have spent years and hundreds of millions of dollars fomenting Islamophobia. That has led to rocketing employment and housing discrimination against Muslim

Americans. Elkarra recounted a story of a friend of his named Mohammed who, using his given name, was denied housing multiple times. After he decided to use the name Mike instead of Mohammed, he was able to secure housing almost immediately.

Islamophobia persists today. For example, because of the war in Afghanistan, the Afghan refugee population in the Sacramento Valley has grown rapidly in the past few years. This has led to conflict between Afghanis and other populations in their neighborhoods. Elkarra recently encountered a situation occurring in a local school, where tensions were growing between Afghanis and Black students. After being alerted to the issue, CAIR hosted a lunch on campus and invited Black and Afghanis students to attend and discuss what was going on. What CAIR found was that the issue actually came down to housing, not necessarily racism or Islamophobia. Managers of apartment complexes in the area were replacing Black tenants with Afghanis, creating resentment and, ultimately, tension between the groups. Once CAIR identified the underlying issue, they engaged the Black community – specifically through religious leaders – to increase communication between the communities. Elkarra was happy to report that tensions have decreased.

Elkarra provided some history on the basic philosophies of Islam, which are grounded in the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism and Christianity. He explained that theologically these three religions are close. They are so similar that the current caretakers of one of the holiest churches in Christianity – the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem – have been members of the same Muslim family for at least 500 years. Elkarra also recognized, however, that within Islam, as with other religions, there are diverse opinions. He acknowledged that it can be challenging to balance the beliefs of more conservative Muslims with the progressive ideals of more liberal Muslims, noting that some people find CAIR to be too progressive. For Elkarra, however, the mission of CAIR is to stand for justice, and justice is grounded in the Muslim faith, which means that it can be supported by all Muslims no matter how liberal or conservative.

On May 10, the Racial Justice Committee will host Graciela Cabrillo-Krings and Keyan Bliss, chair and co-chair of the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission, for an update on the status of the commission's 2023 work plan. Neighbors interested in attending should contact kathy.les321@gmail.com to be added to the Zoom invitation list.



Questions? Please contact groups directly.

ART

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MUSIC

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Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 1; \$45

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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
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Ballet I - ages 6-9 (no experience
required)
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Teen Basic Ballet (some experi-
ence required)
Wednesdays 7:15-8:30 p.m. Adult/
Teen Ballet from the Beginning (no
experience required)
dancingwithheidi@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

OTHER
City Life Church
Sunday worship service: 10 a.m.
Room 10
916-538-9292



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Activities are free, except where noted. (Donations appreciated)
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LEISURE
BOOK CLUB
2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 12
May 8 – “America's First Daughter,”
by Stephanie Dray and Laura
Kamoie

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB
3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon
Room 12
May 18 – “21 Lessons for the 21st
Century,” by Yuval Harari

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, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

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

FUN BRIDGE (Contract)
Thursdays
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 11

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

FITNESS
GENTLE YOGA
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-noon
Studio 3
Pat Shaw, 916 856-0136

WELLNESS PROGRAM
Punch cards \$80/10 classes;
\$45/5 classes or \$10 drop-in
(purchase in the Sierra 2 office)

TAI CHI CHUAN
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m., Studio 1

STRENGTH AND BALANCE
Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon Studio 1
Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon, Studio 1

LINE DANCE CLASS
Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 2

FIND THE INNER CALM
Relaxation and meditation
Every other Thursday
Call for schedule
1:30-3 p.m., Room 11

New class:
ZUMBA POP-UP CLASSES
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5:30-6:30 p.m., Studio 2



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LOCAL
MUSIC SCENE



Painted Mandolin at the Side Door
Photo Courtesy of the band

THE SIDE DOOR • 2900 Franklin Blvd.
<https://www.thesidedoor.net> • All shows 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$20-\$30. Advance tickets available.
May 5 & 6 Hot Roux- Ventura, CA-based band straight blues/rockabilly/swampy Ca-jun flavor rock 'n roll
May 11 ... Richard Smith Trio - British now Nashville roots music guitar man
May 12 ...CrosspulseNOW - neo-trad African/Appalachian kinetic roots music/dance
May 20 ...Painted Mandolin - Jerry Garcia's repertoire & beyond quartet led by Joe Craven (Mandolin, fiddle, vocals and percussion)

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1st Thursday: “Acoustic Circus” (starts May 4) eclectic music with Harley White Jr. & friends 7-9 p.m.
Jazz with Kent Lacin & Two Rivers Trio- 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.
“Open Mic” Hosted by Bobbie Sol 3rd Thursdays, 7:15-9:30 p.m.
Fridays..... “Local Sounds” acoustic show-case. Hosted by Four-Eyed Whale, 6-9 p.m.
Sundays.....Ukulele class with Gurukulele (Jim Coats), 4-5 p.m.
May 6 40 Acres “StreetFest” Celebrating 20-year anniversary of the 40 Acres Art and Cultural Center. FREE! Esther’s Park, 3408 Third Ave. in Oak Park. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40-acres-street-fest-tickets-616110532187>
11 a.m-4 p.m.

— Mindy Giles

AT SIERRA 2 CENTER

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THE FAMILY FILMMAKER
Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17
6-7 p.m., Room 7
Fee: \$180

Capture and preserve your family's intimate stories and cherished memories. Learn to create beautiful, cinematic home videos using the simple tools on your smartphone. Students will receive individual instruction, feedback and coaching as they plan, film, edit and showcase their first family film by the end of course. No fancy camera or equipment is required. All you will need is a smartphone.

MOTHER'S DAY TEA
Sunday, May 11
12:30-2 p.m., Garden Room
Fee: \$60 for in-person; \$65 for to-go

Join The Novel Tea for their annual event honoring mothers past and present. Bring your mother, grandmother, favorite person (or a photo of them) to tea. Dress and hats are encouraged.

INTRO TO DRAWING: BUTTERFLY
Saturday, May 13
10-Noon, Room 7
Fee: \$30

The butterflies are free! We're celebrating the beauty of the butterfly and its message of growth and change. The focus will be on composition and attention to details. Designed for those ages 16 and up, the workshop offers step-by-step instruction and is ideal for beginners or those wishing to practice their drawing skills. When completed, your butterfly can be framed and hung.

HERBAL ADAPTOGENS
Thursday, May 18
6-8 p.m., Room 7
Fee: \$40 (includes materials)

Have you ever wondered how to naturally increase your body's resilience to stress, immune support and promote overall well-being? Look no further than the world of adaptogenic herbs. In this workshop, you'll learn how to select herbs suited for your individual needs. With the guidance of our expert herbalist, you'll create a customized herbal blend to incorporate into your daily routine.

ABSTRACT INTUITIVE PAINTING CLASS
Saturday, May 20
10 a.m.-noon, Room 7
Fee: \$30 for the class with \$25 optional art kit

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 be painting in an abstract style, adding patterns, textures and drips and dabs... whatever feels right to you.



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COMPASS

Looking for a contractor to help you go electric?

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Join the Curtis Park Electric Stars on May 24 at the Sierra2 Go Green Happy Hour to learn about their experiences with contractors. Email them by scanning this QR code or at CP.ElectricStars@gmail.com





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Sacramento working toward becoming a "National Park City"

By Kelsey Wehls

Known as the City of Trees and the Farm-to-Fork capital, Sacramento is striving to become the first National Park City and one of 25 National Park cities in North America by 2025 as part of an international campaign that started in London in 2019.

Sacramento National Park City is a local collaborative project leading the effort to make Sacramento a National Park City.

"When you look at your city as a National Park City, it changes your perspective and you look for the amazing nature, art and changes happening all the time," said Steve Schweigerdt, a founder of Sacramento National Park City. "It's exciting to think what we can all do together with a shared vision for Sacramento as a greener, healthier, wilder more wonderful city."

By making Sacramento a National Park City, the region could secure funding to enhance the region,

like the Clean CA grants used for clean-up and art-work along Highway 99. Such grants could support wildlife preservation, tree planting along city streets, and jobs creation for underserved youth in their neighborhoods.

While there aren't specific criteria for the park city designation, there is a 10-step process laid out by the National Park City Foundation. Sacramento is currently on steps 3 and 4, exploring potential and creating Sacramento's story.

Curtis Park is engaged with this initiative through the Gateway Garden, located at the corner of Second Avenue and 26th Street.

"The Gateway Garden is a great story that will be part of our application to National Park City when we have it assembled," said Schweigerdt. "It is an example of engaging residents to do urban greening projects – taking a vacant lot and creating a garden that reduces waste, produces food, and creates beauty."

While Gateway Garden is temporary until the owner develops the lot, the space produces tomatoes, peppers and squash. The space also is used as the meeting spot for the Bike Party Community Garden tours, which meet Tuesday evenings. Curtis Park and Sierra 2 haven't signed on as partners yet, though Sacramento National Park City is working on a wider scale with the Park Planning and the Parks Commission city-wide.

To celebrate and promote awareness about the project, Sacramento National Park City is hosting The Sacramento National Park City Festival taking place from April 15-May 15.

The festival is a full month of events encouraging residents and visitors to explore the region with activities that connect to natural areas, gardens, farms, history, and murals.

For more information and a full list of festival events, visit www.sacparkcity.com.



Big Day of Giving
MAY 4

Sierra 2 Center THEATER

DISNEY'S THE ARISTOCATS KIDS

May 4 and 5, 7-8 p.m.

May 6, 10-11 a.m., 1-2 p.m., 4-5 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

General admission: \$10

Advance tickets: <https://www.mmpkids.com/>

Tickets available at door one hour before showtime

Based on the beloved Disney animated film, The Aristocats KIDS is a thrill ride of feline fun, complete with twists and turns and a jazzy, upbeat score. In the heart of Paris, a kind and eccentric millionairess wills her entire estate to her cat, Duchess, and her three little kittens. Adventure ensues as the greedy, bumbling butler pulls off the ultimate catnap caper. Now it's up to the rough-and-tumble alley cat, Thomas O'Malley, and his band of swingin' jazz cats to save the day. Performed by Musical Mayhem students in grades K-6.

THE MUSICAL ADVENTURES OF FLAT STANLEY JR

May 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

May 13, 2-3:30 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m.

General admission: \$12

Advance tickets: <https://www.mmpkids.com/>

Tickets available at door one hour before showtime

Stanley Lambchop is your ordinary, everyday 10-year-old until the bulletin board on the wall above his bed comes loose and falls right on top of him. The next morning, Stanley wakes up flat. In a whirlwind musical travelogue, Stanley—the ultimate exchange student—scours the globe for a solution to his unusual problem. He's stamped, posted and canceled from Hollywood and France to Honolulu and beyond, all in an effort to become a three-dimensional boy once more. Performed by Musical Mayhem students in grades 7-12.

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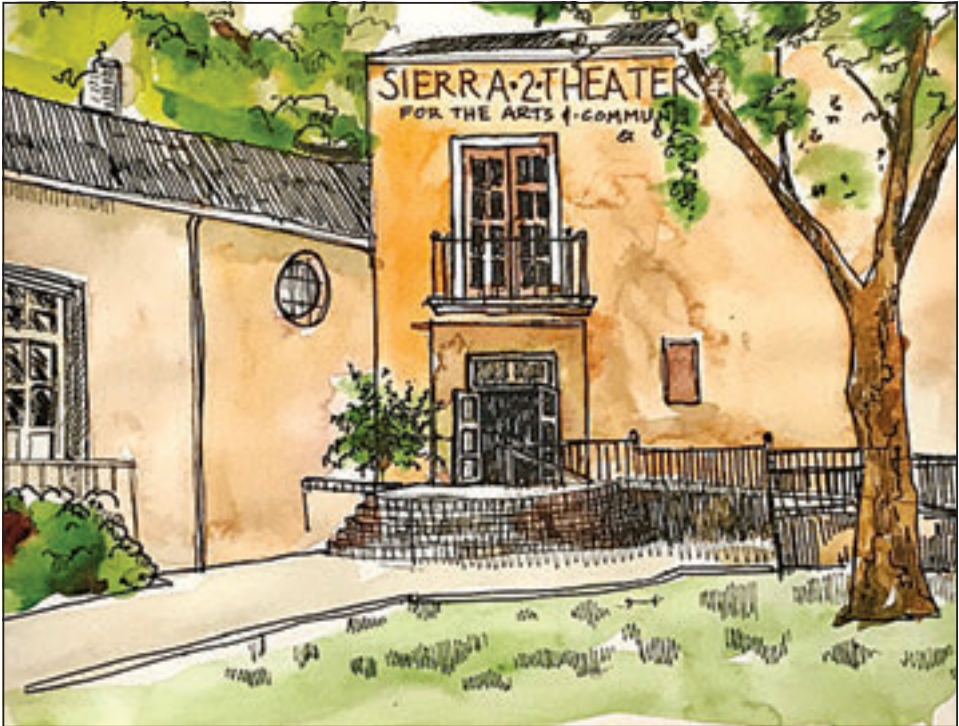
Park Arts is *Viewpoint's* page showcasing creative talent in the community. This month, we have wonderful visual art by Curtis Park residents Jeff Cook, Linda Fall, Sandy Whetstone and Antonia Price. Park Arts will also take submissions of short written

work. We also welcome submissions from graphic artists who have ideas for a Curtis Park Arts logo. If you would like your creative work featured in a future issue of *Viewpoint*, send one to three options from which to choose to carlos.alcala57@gmail.com.

Please include titles and a brief (50-80 words) personal statement, including how readers may contact you directly, if possible. We will let you know about our plans for including your work. We hope you enjoy your neighbors' talents!



Bicycle Business



Sierra 2

Jeff Cook
Jeff has enjoyed drawing and painting since he was a kid. He received a Junior Art Champion award from the San Francisco Chron-

icle in 1956 for drawing earthmoving equipment – his most cherished honor. He calls himself an “amateur with aspirations.” His works include landscape, figure and residential drawings, and

he finds Curtis Park full of wonderful subjects. He’d be pleased to show neighbors his works and “studio” or even do a drawing for them. Contact him at jparkcook@gmail.com.



“go around again”

Antonia Price
Antonia Price makes hanging sculptures using fiber that she knits, crochets or coils into shape. She considers fiber work a slow, contemplative process that she witnesses grow as much as she creates it. She calls pieces “daydreamy, like the process; things to gaze at and let your mind wander.” The sculptures are calming “during a time when calm has been difficult to come by.” Having a baby daughter, time is short, but she still finds time to make things, stitch by stitch. She can be reached at anniepri@gmail.com, antonia-price.com or on Instagram [@antoniapricefriedman](https://www.instagram.com/antoniapricefriedman).



Sandy Fong
Sandy Fong Whetstone is a ceramic sculptor, painter, printmaker, illustrator and mixed media artist. Her work reflects the beauty and humor found in nature and explores our oft-fraught relationship with it. It is through art that she processes the world around her. Most of the time it is a celebration of life, but occasionally it is a cry against injustice. Her work can be found at the Crocker Art Museum store, the Pence Gallery in Davis and the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art store. Contact her at sandywhetstone68@gmail.com, sandyfong-whetstone.com or on Instagram, [@whetstone_art](https://www.instagram.com/whetstone_art).



Totems

Linda Fall
Linda Fall loved ceramics, but had no idea she could be a sculptor until she took a totem class with a friend at Panama Pottery in 2015. They bought a kiln together and Linda created a studio in the laundry room behind her house. Her totems are inspired by cairns – the piled stones seen along hiking trails. After starting in greys, blacks and browns, she added vibrant colors. She has sold her totems for indoor and outdoor display for the past seven years. Contact her at lindaall1949@gmail.com.

Baker

Continued from page 1

Great British Baking Show” judges – Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith. O’Brien was sworn to secrecy about her participation until the show airs starting May 5. She still can’t reveal who won.

After a lengthy application process, O’Brien was scheduled to be a contestant on the show in April 2020, but COVID-19 postponed filming until last August. She admits that the secrecy was almost as stressful as the competition.

“It was so hard to keep a secret,” she said.

The contestants are amateur bakers chosen based on their responses to questions about their baking experience, photos of their baked goods and a two-minute personal video. After passing round one she was invited to Los Angeles for an in-person interview and baking demonstration, presenting an orange vanilla cake she decorated in her hotel room, a loaf of bread baked in her hotel room toaster oven, and a sample of sfogliatelle – an Italian pastry.

O’Brien was accepted, along with eight other competitors from around the U.S., but COVID-19 delayed the show indefinitely. Still, she kept the secret. In April 2022, the show was back on, and she prepared for the August trip to London. O’Brien took an eight-week leave of absence from her PG&E job and packed a wardrobe with a rockabilly theme in honor of her band – “Dyana and the Cherry Kings.”

Contestants left their London hotel at 6 a.m. by bus for the tent area at the Welford Park Estate in Berkshire, the same site where “The Great British Baking Show” is taped, with the same judges. And yes, O’Brien confirms that Hollywood’s eyes “are even bluer than they are on TV. Very dreamy.”

“Once there, we were each presented with a basket of ingredients and a vague recipe where we could take artistic liberties,” explained O’Brien. “Day one was prep, day two was the ‘show stopper,’ which included the baking and judging.



Photo by Dyana O'Brien

“Waiting to be judged was the most stressful – wondering if we would be ripped or get remarks on how delicious it was. And then they would announce the ‘star baker’ of the segment, and the one who was eliminated.”

The entire group of contestants gathered for the finale for the crowning of the top baker.

O’Brien’s fellow baking contestants became like family.

“We are such cheerleaders for each other,” she

said. “There were such highs and lows, with major stress levels. And we were separated from family and friends. But we became our own family – it was an amazing experience with new lifelong relationships.”

“The Great American Baking Show” airs on the ROKU Channel starting May 5, with six segments including weekly challenges, baker eliminations and finale. O’Brien posts daily on her Instagram page: @therockabillybaker.

West Curtis F'OAKS
(aka 23rd St. Gang)
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Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour returns with great success

The Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour returned Saturday, April 22, and did not disappoint the more than 700 people who came out to enjoy the beautiful day while strolling from house to house. It was the first time in five years for the tour, which didn't occur in 2019 for a lack of volunteer homeowners and could not safely take place during

the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to five stunning homes on tour, neighbors in Curtis Park could get snacks, view art, enjoy window-maintenance and beekeeping demonstrations and talk with Curtis Park resident and arborist, Dan Pskowski. "This being a comeback year and with only five houses on the tour, we are very pleased," said Janice

Calpo, who has served on the tour committee since 2006. "Everybody was happy. That was the best part of all, seeing everyone out and about having a nice time. It really feels like we have re-emerged. Thanks to everyone involved – especially our volunteer homeowners who shared their homes." **Photos by Rudy Calpo**



The courtyard deck at the Jackson house. Floral arrangements were created by Bloem Florist.



Capitol A's Model A Club vintage cars roll up as park festivities and ticket sales get started.



Riders travel from home to home by tandem bike.



Carole and Dennis Garrett of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association demonstrate live bees at work.



Pianist Steven Coolidge entertains visitors at the Moncrief house.



Plein Air Artist Patris creates another masterpiece outside the Holmsen house.



Photos by Dorsey Griffith

Home goods shop opens at Deeda salon

Leo Leo has opened at Deeda+Coterie at 3247 Franklin Blvd. across from Bret Harte Elementary School. The gift shop, owned by Emily Vierra, occupies the salon’s storefront and features collectible, vintage and new items for the home. Vierra, of

East Sacramento, has selected items she likes, from French mid-century glassware and vintage crystal plates to candles from London and coffee table books on art and design. Check out Leo Leo on Instagram @shopleleo.

Soccer returns to Sierra 2

Land Park Soccer Club returns to the field at Sierra 2 Park in June. The club supports over 1,100 children from Curtis Park, Land Park and surrounding Sacramento neighborhoods. Land Park Soccer Club provides a fun and safe environment for players ages 3 to 18.

For more information visit www.landpark-soccer.com or contact Sam at Sam@landparksoccer.com or 916-820-5044.

Big Day of Giving is May 4

There’s still time to make a donation

By Kathy Les

Chances are you’ve already made your Big Day of Giving donation to Sierra 2, but if not, you have until 11:59 p.m. May 4 at www.bigdayofgiving.org/sierra2center. Alternatively, donate directly at www.sierra2.org or swing by the Sierra 2 office to donate with cash, check or credit card. Late donations through midnight May 5 will still be counted toward SCNA’s BDOG fundraising.

In addition, donations made online with a Golden 1 credit card will generate additional funds for Sierra 2.


Sierra 2 Executive Director Terri Shettle and staff

will be in front of Sierra 2 Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 4 to say hello, answer questions and accept donations. SCNA board members will also be on-site to meet neighbors.

This year’s fundraising comes on the heels of three years of COVID-19, when SCNA saw major revenue losses from building closures and a reduction in room rentals. While center use is on the upswing, it still faces a financial deficit.

This year’s BDOG proceeds will help pay for needed Sierra 2 building repairs (\$25,000-50,000 expected), the revival of the Senior Center (\$15,000 needed) and *Viewpoint* production costs (\$15,000-25,000 annually).

Contributions in any amount are welcome. If you prefer an in-kind donation, check out the Sierra 2 website for ways you can help volunteer at SCNA events.

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Meet the New Neighbors



Joey, Kristen and August Wraithwall

Photo by Joan Cusick

Family moves into 100-year-old bungalow after major update

By Dennis Cusick

Joey and Kristen Wraithwall found the perfect house to raise a family in Curtis Park – perfect for them, that is.

The 100-year-old bungalow on Portola Way had no heat, its wiring was outdated and several of its windows were broken. Flippers who viewed it during an open house in November wanted to knock down walls to create an “open concept,” and gut the kitchen with its original break-fast nook.

Not the Wraithwalls. Both have a professional commitment to the environment. Joey’s first job out of college was in climate policy for the California Natural Resources Agency. He’s now a stay-at-home dad for their 22-month-old son August. Kristen, who has a master’s degree from Yale in environmental management, is the sustainability manager for Yolo County, in charge of reducing the county government’s emissions and making it easier for residents and businesses to be sustainable in their energy use.

They wanted to put their environmental philosophy to work in creating a permanent home. “We’d lived in 10 apartments in 10 years, so we were ready not to have that turnover, especially with August,” Kristen said.

She grew up in Long Island, N.Y., Joey in Sutter Creek in Amador County. They met as undergraduates at Harvard. Their name is a merger of her family name, Wraith, and his, Wall.

“Joey’s grandma had lived here in the ‘90s,” Kristen said. “As soon as I spent time with Joey’s family, I started hearing about Curtis Park.”

They wanted a neighborhood that was walkable, where they could safely ride their

bikes and get to know their neighbors. They found that on Portola Way.

“There’s a really clear and awesome community that we’ve felt since we bought the house,” Kristen said.

The two-bedroom, one-bath house had not been updated in decades. The previous owner, Chris Brenner, had lived there for the last four decades of his life. His grandparents had lived there the four decades before that, purchasing the house in 1941.

The house’s rundown condition actually worked to the young couple’s benefit.

“There was very little that was on the market in Curtis Park and even less that was within our budget,” Kristen said. “This checked every box. We toured it the day it came on the market, and 30 days later we had the keys.”

It helped that Kristen’s father, Ian Wraith, is a retired contractor. Soon after the Wraithwalls took possession in December, Ian camped out in what would become the master bedroom. He stayed for three months to oversee the renovation.

They started by insulating the attic, updating the wiring and gutting and restoring the bathroom. They added an electric heat pump heating and air conditioning system and disconnected the gas line. They repaired and restored original windows, but replaced newer aluminum-framed windows that were no longer functional.

“As soon as we saw the house, we wanted to keep as much as we could,” Kristen said. “I think this tied into a lot of our values.”

Joey added: “It’s a really well-built house and it’s been here 100 years. Anything we could salvage we did.”

By late March, Ian had moved out and the Wraithwalls had moved in. They had a home at last.



Wendy Frados and Peter Greiner

Photo by Will Carlton

Greiner-Frados family joins Curtis Park community

By Fran Coletti

Moving west from Cleveland, Ohio in the fall of 2022 to be closer to family, Peter Greiner and Wendy Frados now call Ninth Avenue home. The couple has a son, daughter-in-law and grandson in Hollywood Park, as well as family in the Bay Area.

When they first came to California, the couple stayed in an Airbnb in Land Park and were attracted to the lovely Sacramento neighborhoods and the proximity to downtown. After deciding against condominium living, they began their search at the height of the “seller’s market.” They bought their Ninth Avenue bungalow, which they found online, sight unseen. They trusted Wendy’s son and their realtor’s recommendations about the house and needed to act quickly. It worked out.

Peter lived in Cleveland for most of his life, except during college, and worked in residential real estate for 25 years. In his free time, he was an active member of a hiking club, something

he hopes to find in Sacramento. For now, he is content to walk throughout the neighborhood and enjoys seeing the different housing styles. He also is amazed by how much use neighbors make of Curtis Park.

Wendy, who has a master’s degree in library science, was employed at a career transition and relocation company. She was active in helping middle managers, who might have been losing a job because of relocation, build resumes, learn to use LinkedIn and search the internet – skills that most executives typically leave to other staff. Wendy is an avid tennis player and hopes to find a group to play with in Sacramento. A fledgling Mahjong player, she was asked during a recent visit to join a local Mahjong group at Sierra 2 Center.

Both Wendy and Peter also enjoy pickleball and have played at the Curtis Park courts. They still miss their many friends in Cleveland, but sense that living in Curtis Park they’ll have many new friends in no time.

Bret Harte Elementary Turns 100



**LAUREN
GOTHARD
and
LINDSEY
SIN**

Celebration set for May 12

Bret Harte will host a 100-year anniversary celebration picnic on Friday, May 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The celebration will include kid-friendly activities including a bounce house, photo booth, food, music and face painting. Attendees can also take self-guided tours of the school's new murals and annual student art show. The celebration is open to the public.

Sacramento City Unified School District has made many important decisions since its establishment in 1854, all of which have had an impact on the education of the students that it serves. With school closures in the district over the last 40 years, it is no small feat that Bret Harte has made it to its centennial.

Bret Harte Elementary has been at its current Ninth Avenue location for a century, but its existence pre-dates 1923. According to Kim Hayden, senior archivist at the Center for Sacramento History, the school was previously named Oak Park Primary School, located at 36th Street and Sacramento Avenue (now Broadway), and served students from 1899 to 1923.

In 1916, Principal Louise Gavilan suggested a new namesake for the school: Francis Bret Harte (1836-1902). The American-born author wrote about life during the Gold Rush in California and was initially more successful than his one-time friend turned rival, Mark Twain. Because Harte had relocated to Europe before he died, the school board delayed approval of



Black and white miniature postcard photo of Bret Harte School.

Center for Sacramento History [Schmidt, Paul], [1983/052/002]

the name change until they could verify Harte's American loyalty and citizenship.

In May 1921, a \$2.3 million bond measure was approved to build 11 new schools and make improvements to existing schools in the Sacramento area. Choosing a new location for Bret Harte was a lengthy and difficult process. After a lot of back and forth between the school board and Oak Park residents, 17 locations were proposed for the new school site.

Local developer J.C. Carly suggested the current site on Ninth Avenue for relocating Bret Harte Elementary and offered to sell the land for \$7,000 an acre. In spring of 1921 the school board purchased five acres from Carly at \$5,500 an acre, totaling \$27,500. In the fall of 1921, the school board began accepting bids for the construction of the new school building.

The school's dedication took place on May 26,

1923, with about 600 guests. The original two-story building reflected the popular Spanish-revival architecture of the time. The schoolhouse initially consisted of 17 classrooms to serve 625 students. However, four more classrooms were added using city bond funds approved by voters in 1922.

The original school building served students from Curtis Park, Oak Park and surrounding neighborhoods for more than 50 years. In 1970, the building was deemed seismically unsafe, along with 19 other schools in the district. Several state laws from the 1930s to the 1960s mandated new earthquake building standards and required repairs or replacements by 1975. In 1970, voters approved a \$24.8 million bond to build new Sacramento-area school buildings that met earthquake standards, and Bret Harte's new building was dedicated on April 28, 1977.

Over the last century, Bret Harte Elementary has maintained a distinct presence in the Curtis Park neighborhood; it's a fixture as old as the homes that surround it on the corner of Ninth Avenue and Franklin Boulevard. Over the decades, the school has reflected the changing demographics of Sacramento-area children – from the area's high demand for new schools and classrooms to the post-World War II baby boom, then enrollment declines due to suburban development and gentrification.

The racial and ethnic diversity of Bret Harte's student body goes back several decades. In the early 1980s, the Bret Harte student body was 70% non-white; today it is 80% non-white. Enrollment has fluctuated over the years as well. In the mid-1980s, parents and neighbors complained that the school was overcrowded; enrollment peaked at about 800 students. There were four second-grade classes in the late 1990s, and just one and a half second-grade classes today. Programs in reading, music, theater, gardening and sports have also existed in various forms over the years.

This celebration is bigger than a building in the neighborhood. It is a celebration of diversity, perseverance and dedication to educating the children who have walked through its doors.



Front Entrance of Bret Harte School, around 1929.

Center for Sacramento History [McCabe, Bob], [2001/057/107]