

VIEWPOINT

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July 2023

Dog park open house planned for July 19

By Jim Miller

Residents can weigh in on options for a possible dog park in the Curtis Park community during a city open house July 19.

City officials will showcase various dog park “concept plans” and gather input during the three-hour session, which is open to anyone in the city. People can drop by the open house anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street.

For those unable to attend the open house, concept plan previews will be available at <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Sierra2ParkInfo>. People also can send comments to Sierra2greenpark@cityofsacramento.org.

“It will be a really great opportunity for the entire community to come together and share that feedback, share information with us on what you would like to see,” Jackie Beecham, director of the city’s Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment

See Open House, Page 8

Crocker Village lures Curtis Park neighbors

By Matthew Royal

Crocker Village, the new Curtis Park community built on 72 acres that once belonged to Union Pacific Railroad, is growing quickly, drawing young families, young professionals and retirees.

Among its many new residents are people who’d long called Curtis Park home but were drawn to the more modern, spacious homes – many without lawns to maintain – in the new development.

Among the transplants to Crocker Village are Sabrina Collins, Rob Archie and Melanie Jordana, who spoke with *Viewpoint* about their decisions to buy in Crocker Village.

“I thought any house built after 1950 had no soul and I’d never live in a new house,” said Collins, formerly a Curtis Park renter. “I wanted to live in Curtis Park, but nothing was available, and prices were so high.”

On a whim, she strolled into Crocker Village with her daughter, walked through a model home and was sold.

“It was so easy. There’s something won-



Sabrina Collins

Photos by Will Carlton

derful about being part of the creation of your home,” she said. “As much as I love old homes, I’m glad I didn’t buy the Tudor I had been renting because I have more space now.”

Rob Archie, owner of the Pangaea Bier Cafe on Franklin Boulevard, also left his older home in Curtis Park for a larger place in Crocker Village.

“With two boys and dogs, we needed more space,” he said. “It happened to be a large lot and a perfect layout. It’s the same



Jordana family

neighborhood, just doesn’t have trees. The homeowner’s association takes care of all the front yard and maintenance.”

Jordana felt the same way when she chose to move to Crocker Village from her long-time home on Third Avenue. “We wanted to stay in the neighborhood but were looking for something else new,” she said. “It’s ironic that we ended up moving closer to Curtis Park even though we’re in

See Crocker Village, Page 5

Curtis Park population skews older but neighborhood still draws young families

By Jim Miller

Seniors represent a growing share of Curtis Park’s population, according to recently released 2020 census data.

Residents ages 65 and older accounted for about 19 percent of the park’s population at the time of the U.S. Census. That is nearly double the age group’s share of the population in 2010, based on a *Viewpoint*

review of Curtis Park census block data.

The percentage of children in Curtis Park, meanwhile, has dropped from 20 percent of the population in 2000, to 18 percent in 2010, and to 15 percent in 2020, census data show.

The Curtis Park population changes mirror trends across the country. The aging of the large Baby Boom and Millennial generations and decline in the number of births have

led to an older population and fewer young children.

Lifelong Sacramento resident Bev Krikorian moved to her Eighth Avenue home in December 1970 at the age of 24. Krikorian said she and her husband, Joe Shea, love living in the neighborhood.

“Those of us who bought here back when it was affordable, we’ve stayed a long time,” Krikorian said. “There’s a really strong sense of community, especially with the older, more established homeowners.”

Brooks Kuhn and Uppinder Mattu represent the younger end of Curtis Park’s adult population. The couple, who moved to Donner Way in 2013, have three children under 10, Jai, Laila and Suhani.

See Population, Page 8



Pickleball anyone?
Neighbor designs state-of-the-art paddles

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Would you support electric lawn equipment?
Neighbors weigh in

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Park Arts returns
Painters, printers and writers featured

Page 11

Don't miss Green Grass Snakes and UnSupervised Curtis Park concerts

By Mindy Giles

With the Beatles suddenly back in the news, the July 30 concert in the park is wonderfully prescient and will remind us how the Beatles' music was a massive cultural earthquake. It's been 54 years since the release of "Abbey Road" and the Green Grass Snakes will perform several songs from that record.

Led by Larry Tagg (bass/vocals), an internationally acclaimed bassist from Sacramento's Bourgeois Tagg, (Todd Rundgren, Hall and Oates, Stealin' Dan), the all-star neighborhood group (four of the five live in Curtis Park) are longtime music friends. They are:

Larry Shiavone (drums/vocals) (Hipster Than Hip, Tattoo Love Dogs, Richard March).

Matt Lancara (guitar/vocals) (Campaign For Quiet, Southern Graffiti, The Royal Jelly).

Marc Del Chairó (guitar/vocals) (Leisure, Random, 7th Standard, Campaign For Quiet, Hot Tar Roofers, The Royal Jelly).

David Van Dusen (keyboards/vocals) (MindX, Seventy, Hipster Than Hip, Tattoo Love Dogs).

"This music continues to give me goosebumps when I play," said Shiavone. "We all grew up with the music of the 1960s and '70s – The Beatles, The Hollies, The Kinks, The Buckingham, The Monkees – and the "Summer of Love" stuff, so the three of us were the perfect old guys to play with Matt and Marc, who are younger than us and were school kids in bands together." (If you can find one of Matt's kids running about, ask him why he named the band Green Grass Snakes).

The final summer concert on Sunday, Aug. 27 is UnSupervised, the nine-piece band founded by former Curtis Park residents Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna (bass) and then-Yolo County Supervisor



Green Grass Snakes plays July 30.

Photo courtesy of the band

Mike McGowan (percussion). They will bring the funk, R&B and soul favorites to the outdoor neighborhood party.

The Curtis Park neighborhood holds a special place in Phil's heart as he and his family, including his late father, Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna, lived in three different Curtis Park homes over the years, all within Phil's supervisorial district. "Sacramento's most politically correct band" also includes West Sacramento City Council Member Chris Ledesma (guitar), Curtis Park residents Jose Hermocillo (trumpet) and Bill Abbott (guitar), as well as Nick Avdis (lead guitar), Jeff Townsend (drums) and Danny Sandoval (tenor sax).

UnSupervised powerhouse lead vocalist Brandi Jauregui will be showing off her vocal chops on cultural touchstone classics by Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, The Commodores, The Rolling Stones, Santana, Chaka Khan and LaBelle.

These musicians have all played in many other bands over the decades. From 2010 to 2013, Phil, Jeff,



UnSupervised plays Aug. 27.

Photo courtesy of the band

Jose, Bill and Mike played in a band called Rhythm Method. Phil also played drums and bass guitar with The Peabody Incident and Bad Clams.

From 2002 to 2017, Jauregui fronted some of Sacramento's most popular local bands, including The Midnight Players and Solsa. Sandoval is the most prolific performer in UnSupervised. He toured internationally with the Sista Monica Blues Band and leads his own band (Danny Sandoval & His Amigos). He is also the featured saxman in the Mick Martin Blues Big Band, Two Tone Steiny and the Cadillacs, and The Delta Wires. Abbott plays mandolin in a bluegrass group called the Ryman Brothers.

Music in the Park is the last Sunday of every month beginning at 6 p.m. at the north end of Curtis Park. Bring a blanket and chairs, and maybe a picnic (no alcohol please). Presenting sponsors this year are SMUD, Cook Realty and Councilmember Rick Jennings, who will be scooping Gunther's freezes.

Curtis Fest draws thousands

By Heather Hogan

Thousands of enthusiastic community members helped make Curtis Fest 2023 a resounding success on Sunday, June 4. The 15th annual fair captivated attendees with its vibrant array of vendors, artists, musicians, food trucks and stands, children's entertainment and an undeniable sense of community spirit. "I was impressed with the number of vendors," said one attendee. "I wish I had had more time to shop."

The event drew strong support for local artisans and businesspeople; feedback from vendors also was positive.

"A truly wonderful event – so many amazing artists and creators," said Alyssa Meislinger from Arcane Moon Jewelry. "Lots of fun for kids and adults alike – delicious food, amazing vendors, wonderful live music and all sorts of great things to see, do, buy, and experience! Loved being a vendor

and am looking forward to attending next year!"

Music enhanced the overall ambiance. Jillian Van Ness captivated the crowd with her songs of resilience that got the youngest attendees to groove and move. Later, Doug Pauley and the Covergirls serenaded picnickers and shoppers. The Library of Musiclandria generously shared their instruments with attendees, filling the air with spontaneous melodies.

For guests who chose to arrive on two wheels, Sacramento Area Bike Advocates (SABA) provided a convenient bike valet service. The Pixie Tribe Fairy troop offered face painting and fun-filled activities. Adding to the creative spirit, Del Rio Trail artist Matthew Flores guided more than 100 attendees in crafting their own ceramic tiles.

Mark your calendars for Curtis Fest 2024, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 2. Interested vendors should add



Nudge Eco Store booth at Curtis Fest 2023

Photos by Heather Hogan

the March 2024 vendor application window to their calendar. Find the link to the application at: sierra2.org/event/vendor-applications-for-curtis-fest-2024.

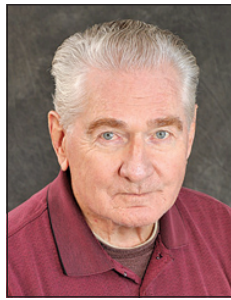


Sew Darn Cute booth at Curtis Fest 2023

SCNA works to enhance life for all Curtis Park residents

Now that things have pretty much returned to normal, many of you have had the opportunity to take advantage of and enjoy some of the benefits of living in Curtis Park. The neighborhood-wide yard sales, Home & Garden Tour and Curtis Fest were all quite successful with large turn-outs. And more awaits everyone with our Music in the Park series, the first of which will have occurred on June 25 just before this *Viewpoint* issue is delivered to your doorstep. All of these activities are put on by the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA), which helps make Curtis Park such a

BILL HOOVER SCNA Board President



desirable place to live and raise a family.

Note that the “SC” in SCNA refers to Sierra Curtis. When the movement to save Sierra School began, Sierra and Curtis Park were somewhat separate neighborhoods. The work to save the school changed all that, and we became

SCNA. We are one neighborhood.

To this day, what keeps the SCNA engine running is the dedication and commitment of volunteer board members and neighbors who give generously of their time, energy and, when called on, money. SCNA’s success is built on the premise that it works for the betterment and benefit of all Sierra Curtis neighbors. SCNA must remain acutely aware that its goal is to do what is best for the entire neighborhood.

In the 40-plus years since its formation, SCNA’s mission and purpose, dictated by our Articles of Incorporation, haven’t changed. The goal has

always been, and continues to be, the preservation of the heritage of the Sierra Curtis neighborhood along with the enhancement of the quality of life here. SCNA is directly involved in providing cultural, educational and recreational opportunities, and services that benefit the neighborhood as a whole. Our Sierra 2 Center stands as a proud example of that commitment.

However, our success is the product of much hard work and should not be taken for granted. If you feel as strongly as I do about our neighborhood and the value of SCNA and Sierra 2 Center, then I encourage you to get involved.

Board Notes

City Update on Dog Park Action Plan

The board welcomed Councilmember Rick Jennings, District 7, and Jackie Beecham, Director, Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment, and their staff members to discuss the city’s March 27 dog park action plan. Jennings said site plans for a dog park will be developed based on feedback from the board and community; he stressed the importance of continued community involvement.

He introduced Beecham, who provided an update on action-plan implementation. She said the city is developing site plans for Sierra 2 Park as well as for other regional and community parks in the Curtis Park area to meet public needs. An open house will be scheduled during the second or third week of July when the entire community can provide feedback about the locations, layouts and proposed amenities that will have been identified.

If the city decides to develop a new dog park or renovate an existing space, it will seek funding. Beecham acknowledged the challenging and contentious nature of the issue. She said the city is committed to transparency and engagement and to reviewing emails despite being unable to respond to all of them. The city also is monitoring feedback about the temporary dog park and use of the sports field by soccer and other sports teams that have expressed interest. A second open house will be scheduled for feedback at some point.

Several board members provided information for Jennings and

Beecham on board involvement on the issue: Erik Fay provided background; Bill Hoover reiterated unanswered questions about the process; Mimi Budd tracked board accomplishments over the prior eight months; and John Bailey identified potential financial consequences including indemnification of Sierra 2 Center for loss of rental revenue from tenants and property value loss for neighbors.

In the president’s report, Hoover reported that he and Executive Director Terri Shettle met with Jennings and Anne Linton, Chair of Families for Sierra 2 Park. He noted that Jennings has proposed to meet individually with all dog park stakeholders to hear their points of view.

The board voted to cancel the “listening session” that had previously been tentatively scheduled for June 22. The board agreed that at the regularly scheduled July 5 meeting, the Neighborhood Concerns Committee (NCC) will recommend a format for the “listening session” to be held on or around July 26, one week after the city’s first open house meeting on July 19. The July 19 presentation by the city will better inform board members about the city’s technical analysis of dog park sites as well as other neighbors’ opinions. At the August meeting, the board may vote to take a position on siting a permanent dog park at Sierra 2 Park. Stakeholder groups that will be invited to the “listening session” include Sierra 2 Center, the Soccer League, Solettrain, Dog X and Families for Sierra 2 Park.

Executive Director’s Report

Terri Shettle briefed the board on the success of Curtis Fest. More than 103

vendors participated, and food trucks reported over \$13,000 in revenue from the day.

The board voted to send a letter of gratitude to staff member Heather Hogan, the major organizer of the event. She recruited quality artists and succeeded in drawing participants from the entire region.

Finance Committee

Treasurer John Bailey reported that for the year to date, SCNA is \$72,000 ahead of budget. The budget for the full fiscal year yields a \$43,000 loss, but if current positive trends continue, he thinks the year will finish in the black. He reminded committees to submit their upcoming year budgets.

Facilities Committee

Gerre Buehler said the committee is moving ahead with the solar options project for Sierra 2 Center. The city has paid for repairs to the damaged roof caused by January storms and has agreed to reimburse the center for sump pump repairs.

Development Committee

Shannon Motley reported that the committee has hired events planner Marjorie Perez to coordinate the fall fundraiser. The committee is considering additional events including an egg hunt and a Halloween celebration.

Neighborhood Concerns Committee

Erik Fay reported on Captain Daniel Monk’s presentation on crime rates in the neighborhood, which dropped in 2020-2021. Most have stayed low. Monk noted that Curtis Park ranks high in terms of safety. Neighbors should

report streetlights that do not work. Friends of Sierra 2 Park presented concerns about the temporary dog park.

The board voted not to oppose a deviation request to the city for a front yard hot tub on Montgomery Way. The NCC had presented a letter for consideration highlighting the historical importance of the street, noting SCNA’s commitment to preserving the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood heritage. NCC also provided a 2021 SCNA letter supporting the proposed Gateway Historic District on Montgomery Way. Other board members noted that the term “preserving heritage” can be flexibly interpreted. The vote was 10-7 not to oppose the deviation; two members abstained.

Viewpoint Committee

Kathy Les and Bruce Pierini will meet with Shettle and Fran Coletti to discuss a *Viewpoint* budget.

Racial Justice Committee

Mimi Budd reported that three new members joined the committee after reading a *Viewpoint* article about the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission’s May presentation. The next meeting is Sept. 13 and will feature a speaker on Native American issues.

Clean and Quiet Yard Care Committee

Kathy Les reported on an electric yard care survey. She said half the neighborhood participants were willing to use electric yard care or help their provider purchase electric equipment.

The next SCNA board meeting will be on July 5 at 6:30 p.m.

— Submitted by Mimi Budd

Neighbor aces pickleball equipment design

By Patti Roberts

Allen Perumal was an avid volleyball and cricket player while growing up in Chennai, India. He continued playing both sports after settling down on Portola Way with his wife, Lydia Marque, and sons, Devin and Dylan. But all that changed for Perumal, a freelance web and software designer, when he tore his ACL/MCL and meniscus a couple of years ago.

"When I realized I could no longer participate in the sports I loved, I began looking around for alternatives," Perumal said. "And that's when I discovered pickleball."

Pickleball, which combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong, is now the fastest-growing sport in the United States. Perumal started out using a cheap pickleball paddle, but after a month recognized it was compromising his game. So, he upped his paddle

choice to a more expensive one, but months later became frustrated again. "It did not hold up – it started to fray and, frankly, was a boring piece of equipment."

That's when Perumal decided to put his design background to work. He did extensive research, began sketching and then ordered prototypes to try out. He wanted his paddles to be cost-efficient, durable and high-performing and also feature fun designs. Perumal was on the path to designing a range of equipment for players of all levels – pros, recreational players and young kids.

Working with a designer he knew in India, Perumal went through more than 40 versions and six months of trial and error, as well as lengthy testing by pickleball players, before settling on his final designs. Now he's introducing his company, Figureology, with his trademarked pickleball slogan, "Let's Dink It."

Perumal is launching Figureology by introducing his paddles to players around Sacramento, reaching out to local equipment shops, finalizing his website (Figureology.com) and obtaining USA Pickleball Association approval for tournaments. Figureology is prominent on social media platforms including YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

"I'm very happy with the results," Perumal said. "The pros are impressed with how much the raw carbon graphite paddle gives them better spin, control and power. In addition, the handgrips make playing more comfortable and sweat proof, thus good for longer games."

Recreational players also enjoy better spin and control using the raw carbon graphite paddles, while the two sizes for different heights provide more sweet



Allen Perumal, his wife Lydia Marque and sons Devin and Dylan with Allen's pickleball paddles.

Photo courtesy of Allen Perumal

spots.

"I played my first tournament with my new Figureology paddle and was pleased with the result," said JoAnne Craig-Ferraz, an avid recreational pickleball player. "The textured surface gave me more control and the wider elongated body helped in my defensive play by blocking shots. I feel like I can grow in my skill level and not outgrow this paddle."

For young players, the smaller paddles have either an astronaut or unicorn design.

Perumal also has designed seamless pickleball balls with thicker plastic so they don't crack and can withstand more pressure.

"It's been a long but fun and fulfilling process designing and producing these Figureology paddles and balls," Perumal said. "But I'm proud of the results and look forward to introducing my products to the pickleball community. Let's Dink It!"

FYI

Viewpoint will not be printed in August. Look for your next issue in September.

VIEWPOINT

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Meet your Measure U Committee representative

This month, Council Member Rick Jennings introduces Jose "Junior" Goris of the Measure U Committee.

Jose "Junior" Goris represents District 7 on the Measure U committee. Moving from Miami to Sacramento in 2014, Junior quickly became familiar with Sacramento's important issues, becoming a fixture at city council and school board meetings.

"We all have an obligation to serve," Goris said. "Public officials can't do it alone. Citizens must assist in building and shaping a neighborhood, school or

**JOSE
GORIS**

**District 7
Measure U
Committee**



state they wish to be a part of."

Junior works as a labor representative for United Airlines, traveling to more than 70 countries. As an engaged local and city resident, he is a parent advocate, serving on multiple commit-

Sierra 2 Center THEATER

MATILDA JR.

Performances: July 28-30
General admission: \$15
Showtimes and tickets:
youngactorsstage.com

"Matilda JR." is a gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the power of imagination. This story of a girl who dreams of a better life and the children she inspires will have audiences rooting for the "revolting children" who are out to teach the grown-ups a lesson.

Packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs, "Matilda JR." is a joyous romp. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

THE SORCERER and TRIAL BY JURY

Performances: Aug. 11-13
and Aug. 18-20
General: \$25
Seniors over 65: \$22
Children 2-11 years: \$10
Young adult 12-17: \$20
Showtimes and tickets:
lightoperasacramento.com
Info: 916-538-2282

Accompanied by a full orchestra, Light Opera Theatre is proud to present this double bill pairing two of Gilbert & Sullivan's earliest comic operas, "The Sorcerer and Trial by Jury."

"The Sorcerer is a magical show with a plot based on a Christmas story, "An Elixir of Love," that Gilbert wrote in 1876. Love potions, a sorcerer and his magic spells... what could possibly go wrong? "Trial by Jury" is a delightful, one-act operetta about the glamorous Angelina, jilted by her dastardly fiancé Edwin. She decides to sue him for breach of promise of marriage. The judge and, indeed, all the members of the jury fall for Angelina's charms. Will she finally manage to walk down the aisle?

tees and subcommittees at SCUSD. He currently serves as school site president at his children's school and as an advisory committee member for First 5 Sacramento.

Locally, Junior serves as the vice president of the Pocket-Greenhaven Neighborhood Association, where he has been a board member since 2020. Junior recently joined the Executive Board for LEAD4TOMORROW, an international non-profit organization that focuses on developing sound families, thriving communities and a peaceful world.

Crocker

Continued from page 1

Crocker Village.”

Jordana enjoys the large, modern spaces she has in Crocker Village.

“We had a lot of nooks and crannies in our Curtis Park home. Now we have an open floor plan,” she said. With ample living space in her Crocker Village house, she doesn’t need her garage for storage or extra living space and “can actually use it as a garage.”

Across the board, residents expressed their love of Curtis Park’s trees, storied homes and community, but the extra room and open canopy around the new trees of Crocker Village attracted them to the new development.

Collins said there are aspects of Curtis Park that she misses and hopes to see develop in her new neighborhood.

“If you were to do an unofficial survey, I’m sure a lot would say they moved to Crocker Village to have the space to have a pool,” she said. She added, however, that Curtis Park’s tighter spaces also led to more chance interactions and events in front yards and alleys. “My friends on 25th and 26th streets near Sierra 2 had their own little group doing potlucks and progressive dinners, and there was a sense of community. Crocker Village is still finding that.”

Community and walkability

Jordana started a Facebook group

to connect “South Side of the Park” neighbors. “It’s fun to see other Curtis Park neighbors in Crocker Village. We all assumed they would be transplants. It’s nice to see familiar faces. When someone asks where I live, I still say ‘Curtis Park.’”

Back on Third Avenue, Jordana and her former neighbors in Curtis Park would line the alleyway with Christmas lights for the Curtis Park lighting event. Now, many of the residents of Crocker Village have formed bonds through new traditions, such as hot chocolate nights at Christmastime. She said these small gestures go a long way in creating a sense of community and belonging.

Crocker Village residents also enjoy its walkability. Residents can walk to nearby coffee shops, parks and grocery stores, which keeps them active and engaged in the area.

“I walk six miles a night. I walk all over Curtis Park,” said Archie. “I love the canopy of trees in Curtis Park and Crocker Village’s wide-open skies.”

Crocker Village moving forward

Crocker Village is still being developed, including Ray Eames Park, which will serve both as a retention basin and park with grass, a ballpark, kids’ play area and dog park. Currently, the basin is surrounded by a high fence and padlocked to foot traffic. Residents are eager for its completion.

“My front door is facing the basin,”

said Collins. “A lot of people have little courtyards or patios looking out into the ugly basin, but people aren’t out there.”

Jordana noted that the new plantings will grow over time, adding, “I feel like I’m in Curtis Park, without the trees.”

With a growing sense of community, Collins anticipates that it won’t be long before she’ll hear someone say, “I have extra lemons,” a refrain common in the rest of Curtis Park. “We’re all newcomers at Crocker Village. The bonds will build.”

SAVE THE DATE

SCNA invites you to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sierra School – now Sierra 2 Center – with a Roaring ’20s Fundraising party on Oct. 14.

The celebration combines the annual Food, Wine and Auction event with an elegant centennial commemoration. Mix and mingle with your neighbors while sampling food from great restaurants and libations from wineries, breweries and distilleries.

Proceeds support:

- Sierra 2 Center facility upkeep and renovations
- Programs at The Learners and Senior Center
- Events and activities in the Curtis Park neighborhood
- Neighborhood schools and clubs

For more information visit Sierra2.org/100years

Sierra School turns 100 this year!

Did you attend the school or know someone who has?

Do you have photos, report cards, school programs or memories to share?

SCNA is seeking school memorabilia to display at the upcoming Centennial Celebration on Oct. 14.

Contact Terri Shettle at terri@sierra2.org for more information or to pass along your Sierra School memorabilia.

Congratulations

to our

CURTIS PARK GRADUATES

HIGH SCHOOL



Ansel Ang-Olson, son of Saralyn and Jeff Ang-Olson of Ninth Avenue, graduated from McClatchy High School and the HISP program. He will attend Williams College in the fall.



Briana I. Burgos, daughter of Rafael and Maggie Burgos of West Curtis Drive, graduated from Christian Brothers High School. She will attend University of Oregon to study biology.

SCNA / Sierra 2 Center invites you to celebrate 100 years in Curtis Park with a Roaring '20s Fundraising party!

Our annual Food, Wine and Auction attracts the best restaurants, wineries, breweries, and distilleries. Mix and mingle with your neighbors at this elegant, once-a-year event.

Proceeds support:

- Sierra 2 Center facility upkeep & renovations,
- programs at The Learners and Senior Center
- Events and activities in the Curtis Park neighborhood
- Neighborhood schools and clubs



Questions? Please contact groups directly.

ART

Glass Acts Mosaics Collective
All skill levels welcome.
Tuesdays, noon-3 p.m. Room 11
Glassactmosaics.org

MUSIC

Beginning Taiko Drumming
4-week class
No experience necessary.
Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 1
kristyoshiro.com/taiko-classes

Intermediate Taiko Drumming
4-week class
Previous taiko experience required.
Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Studio 1
kristyoshiro.com/taiko-classes

Capital City Music Together
Songs, rhymes, movement and instrument play
Kids ages 0-5 years
Schedule and info: capitalcitymusic-together.com

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

Eagle Claw Kung Fu
Monday, 6-7 p.m.
Wednesday, 6-7:15 p.m. Studio 2
Saturday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Studio 2
Sifu Mary Melliza: 916-802-3144
Eagleclawsacramento.com

ADULT DANCE

Dancing with Heidi
Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Children's Ballet I - ages 6-9 (no experience required)
Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
Adult/Teen Basic Ballet (some experience 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
Thursday/Friday, 8:30-10 a.m. Room 10
Sat., 8:30 a.m. & 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



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Activities are free, except where noted. (Donations appreciated)
Room 12 • 916 455-6339. For more information: Sierra2.org.



LEISURE BOOK CLUB
2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 12
July 10 – “Angle of Repose,” Wallace Stegner
August 14 – “Exile Music,” Jennifer Steil

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB
3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon
Room 12
July 20 – “The Devil You Know,” Charles Blow
August 17 – “Hillbilly Elegy,” J.D. Vance

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
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Thursdays
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WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP
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2nd Monday, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

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GENTLE YOGA
Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-noon
Studio 3
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Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1

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Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1
Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon, Studio 1

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Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 2

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 "Open Mic" Hosted by Bobbie Sol - 3rd Thursdays, 7:15-9:30 p.m.
 Fridays... "Local Sounds" acoustic showcase. Hosted by Four-Eyed Whale, 6-9 p.m.
 Sundays..... Ukulele class with Gurukulele (Jim Coats), 4-5 p.m.

— Mindy Giles

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THE ABSTRACT INTUITIVE PAINTING

Saturday, July 8
Saturday, Aug. 26
10 a.m.-noon, Room 7
Fee: \$30

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. This class is offered in a warm, friendly and welcoming environment for all levels of artist/non-artist. Tap into your creative side with this fun and unique art class!

INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING

It's the Berries: Saturday, July 15
Here Comes the Sun: Saturday, Aug. 16
10-noon, Room 7
Fee: \$30

These workshops will focus on visual

accuracy, proportion and blending by creating a cluster of strawberries in July and a sunflower in August. 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 drawing can be framed and hung.

SAC SEWS: UPCYCLED POTHOLDERS WITH VISIBLE MENDING

Saturday, July 22
10 a.m.-noon Room 7
Fee: \$35

Are you interested in gaining skills for a sustainable lifestyle? Do you have clothes that need mending, but don't know where to begin? This class will cover the basics of patching holes and adding decorative stitches. You'll practice with fabric scraps and create an upcycled potholder that you can take home with you and put to good use. Participants are welcome to bring their own mending projects as well. Fabric scraps, insulated fleece, thread, needles and pins will be provided.

DEEPER DIVER INTO ABSTRACT INTUITIVE PAINTING WORKSHOP

Saturday, Aug. 12
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Fee: \$50
Optional Art Kit: \$25

This workshop is perfect for anyone interested in learning more about abstract intuitive painting or to further explore their artistic abilities without the pressure of traditional painting techniques. Our experienced instructor, Cara Gregor, will guide you through some creative exercises and the process of creating a unique and personal abstract painting using a variety of materials, creative tools and techniques. You'll leave feeling inspired and empowered to continue exploring your creative side.

ETIQUETTE TEA

Sunday, Aug. 20
12:30-2 p.m. Garden Room
Children under 12 \$30
Adults \$50

Join the Novel Tea for a fun lesson in proper table etiquette. We all know that we aren't supposed to talk with our mouths full or put our elbows on

the table, but do you know what the 4 B rule means? Or how to engage in conversation while eating? These questions and more will be examined in a fun way while enjoying a full afternoon tea. Proper dress and hats encouraged. Children must be accompanied by an adult companion.

PHOTO ORGANIZING AND PRESERVATION

Thursday, Aug. 24
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 7
Fee: \$35

Do you have boxes, bags and albums full of precious family photos and memorabilia just sitting neglected in the closet? Are your photos fading or stuck in photo album plastic? Is it all so overwhelming that you do not know where to start? Ideas and solutions for sorting, organizing and sharing your photos and memories will be taught. Handouts covering the process will be provided. In addition, scanning options and cloud storage as a backup for your digital photos will be discussed. As a perk for attending the workshop, bring 25 loose, standard-size photos for scanning after class and get a kick start on your photo preservation.



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Open House

Continued from page 1

Department, told the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) board in June.

The open house will be the first public airing of options for a permanent dog park following the release of a city draft action plan on the subject.

That plan, which emerged in early spring, marked the city's most significant step to address Sierra 2 Green's years-long status as an unofficial dog park and the disagreements over what, if any, city-sanctioned dog park facilities should be in the community.

The SCNA board has not taken a formal position on having a city dog park at Sierra 2 or any other location in the Curtis Park neighborhood.

Dog owners say Sacramento has a critical shortage of places where dogs can run free and that Sierra 2 Green is an optimal location. Critics contend that Sierra 2 Green, home to a

popular playground and surrounded by homes, is not an appropriate place for a dog park.

The city's draft action plan called for a temporary dog park in Sierra 2 Green's southwest corner. A blue fence now separates the playground and temporary dog park, and people and pets enter and exit the park through a steel container sally port.

City crews have repaired the sports field in the Green's northern half, and city-permitted soccer began there in early June.

The future of the temporary park, and prospects for a permanent one, will depend on feedback gathered at the open house and future open houses and other upcoming work, such as environmental reviews and determining how to pay for any park.

The site plans "will cover multiple locations, with various layouts, and list the types of amenities that would be included in a dog park, if that's something that we were to proceed with," Beecham said at the June SCNA meeting.

Letter to the Editor

To the editor,

I feel sorry for the unfortunate young driver mentioned in the June *Viewpoint* who swerved to avoid an unleashed dog, and whose car came to rest on a neighbor's shrub. But I think the take-home message here is not the one the writer intended. It seems clear that this young woman may have been driving too fast for the conditions, along the side of a popular city park.

Would our reaction be any different if she had swerved to avoid an unleashed 2-year-old child (setting aside for the moment any judgment some might make of parents who leash their toddlers)? I am

glad she made, apparently instinctively, the snap decision I hope we all would make, that it is better to damage an inanimate and replaceable machine than to injure and perhaps kill another living being. I would suggest that the result was not a bad one, but the only acceptable one under the circumstances.

For too long we've set up our society for the maximum ease and convenience of motorists, while pedestrians, cyclists, children and pets are considered obstacles, at a cost of tens of thousands of lives every year. I'd prefer to live in a place where the children and dogs run free, and the cars have to tread (or roll) more cautiously.

— Francisco Prieto

2020 Census and Age Distribution in Curtis Park, City and County

Percent of population	Curtis Park	City of Sacramento	Sacramento County
Under 5 years old	4.5	5.9	5.9
Ages 5-17	10.5	16.4	17.3
Ages 18-64	65.7	63.9	61.8
Ages 65-84	18	12.2	13.2
Age 85 and older	1.3	1.6	1.8

Source: U.S. Census block data

Population

Continued from page 1

Mattu said she appreciates the neighborhood's mix of residents, as well as the fact that Curtis Park draws visitors from across the city.

"There are young families and there are older families. I like having neighbors who've been here for 20 or 30 years," she said.

Whatever their age makeup, family households remain the most common type of Curtis Park household, according to the 2020 Demographic and Housing Characteristics data released by the Census Bureau in late May.

Married-couple households account for the largest share. Their numbers increased by four percentage points from 2010 to 2020, the first census following the 2015 legalization of same-sex marriage.

Curtis Park's age profile skews older than those of Sacramento and Sacramento County overall.

The percentage of 65-and-older residents in the city and county, for example, is almost one-third lower than Curtis Park's share of 65-and-older residents, the census data show. And children represent about 23 per-

cent of the city and county's population, but 15 percent of Curtis Park's.

Other more localized factors might explain the differences.

Curtis Park home prices once were comparable to other parts of Sacramento. Not anymore. Real estate company Redfin listed a May 2023 median sale price of \$707,500 for Curtis Park homes. County-wide, the median sale price was \$515,000.

The median household income in Sacramento was \$75,311 in 2021, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

The concept of aging-in-place, meanwhile, has become more common, and older residents may be more likely to stay in their longtime homes.

Yet population patterns can change.

Krikorian recalled that when she moved to Curtis Park many of her neighbors were of retirement age. By the 1980s, there were gaggles of children on her street. "It was one big commune," she said.

In recent years Krikorian said her block again has more young families. "From my perspective, what happened in the 1980s is beginning to happen again," she said.



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What to Expect:

- Visit the open house to view and provide input on concept plans assessing the potential of a dog park in the Sierra 2/Curtis Park community.
- Drop in anytime between 4pm and 7pm to participate.
- **Can't attend in-person?** Previews of the concept plans will be available at the website listed below. Submit your feedback and comments to Sierra2greenpark@cityofsacramento.org

For more information, visit:

<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Sierra2ParkInfo>

July 19, 2023
Wednesday | 4pm-7pm



Sierra 2 Center for the
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POINT OF VIEW

Think sustainability when tending your garden

By Jessamyn Lett

This spring, *Viewpoint* ran articles about electric lawn care and other changes we can make to support a healthy climate. As a landscape architect who designs public spaces, I want to share a few design choices that can reduce yard maintenance.

Design with zones. Zones are areas defined by a common trait. One crucial zone for healthy happy plants is the hydrozone – a grouping of plants with similar water needs and irrigation. Plants can get too little water or too much. A plant that gets just the right amount is healthier and requires less maintenance. To determine how much water a plant needs, I use the WUCOLS plant database, a free online search tool, ranking plants' water needs from very low to high. I then draw out where my hydrozones are and make sure my irrigation system applies the right amount of water to each. Although low- and very-low-water plants are wonderful, if you put them on the same sprinkler system as a lawn, they will not save water or thrive.

Give your plants enough space. When placing plants, consider their mature size. Pruning should only be required once a year (if that) for appropriately spaced plants. I have fallen victim to seeing tiny plants surrounded by a sea of mulch and wanting to put them closer together. Resist the urge! If it says it will get to be 6 feet wide, make sure to plant them 6 feet apart and give walls or sidewalks a little extra space. Having trouble waiting for their growth? Add

some wildflower seeds or perennials in the meantime. Many landscaping companies also put plants too close together. Let them know you want the plants spaced for their mature size.

Weed fabric. Say no to weed fabric in planting areas. That black synthetic material was developed for agricultural applications where it is replaced regularly. Long term, it is UV sensitive and easily damaged, which causes shredded bits of black plastic to pop up around your yard. Weed seeds also grow through it, get tangled in the weed fabric and are harder to pull out. Lastly, plastic weed fabrics can negatively affect soil health. Healthy soil is full of living microorganisms that use the organic matter from your mulch, plants and compost to thrive. Weed fabrics block this relationship, making your plants more prone to disease.

Aesthetics. A key aspect to reduce garden maintenance is changing expectations. We have been conditioned to see beauty in neat and clean, green and flat. You can have a stunning yard that is wild, native and shaggy. Although an obvious choice is to remove your lawn, you can also reduce the need to prune or deadhead by allowing your plants to go to seed. It is great for the wildlife that eats those seeds and makes for fantastic and interesting shapes and colors in your landscape.

One disclaimer: All gardens need tending. My goal is not to eliminate maintenance but to tend the garden in a way that is regenerative for me and the earth.

Jessamyn Lett lives on 24th Street.

At what price to the community?

By David Gonsalves

My wife and I and our then one-year-old moved into our dream home across the street from Sierra 2 Park in 2009. For her, it was a return to her roots. Her family still resides in the home they bought on Third Avenue in 1971. In 2011, we added a second child.

Our children grew up playing basketball, catch, croquet, tetherball and soccer in Sierra 2 Park. We flew kites, picnicked and much more. The park was the reason we purchased our home. In the years that followed, we had conflicts with owners running their dogs off-leash outside of the "dog training" hours. Both of my children were roughed up by dogs much larger than their little bodies. Eventually, my kids refused to go to the park because they were afraid of aggressive dogs.

Many young families have recently moved to Curtis Park and want to play with their kids in the park. We never wanted to live across the street from a large-scale dog park. A bigger dog park also jeopardizes the soccer field, featured on the original park master plan from 1982. This season, Land Park Soccer League expects 350-plus kids will play soccer here, and potentially hundreds more will use it for rugby and flag football year-round. Sports fields are in short supply, and, according to Google Earth, the entire green space is only about 2.57 acres.

Adding a dog park here is not safe because of the number and proximity of competing children's uses. Children in the playground area climb the high fence and enter the dog park because, after weeks of community safety complaints, the city only separated the fences by 3.3 feet, instead of the hundreds of feet that separate children's playgrounds and basketball courts from dog parks everywhere else in Sacramento.

There are already 14 city dog parks, three of which are three miles or less from Sierra 2 Park. Truitt Bark Park is 1.5 miles away, and it cost \$1.2 million to build. How many tens of thousands of dollars have already been sunk into the multiple, temporary iterations of a dog park at Sierra 2 Park?

Cramming a regional dog park into a space that wasn't designed to accommodate city-wide use means congestion, increased traffic, dog waste on our lawns and more cars blocking our driveways.

Sierra 2 is not the right place for Sacramento's 15th dog park, one serving the entire Sacramento area. The costs of this facility are too great a price for this small neighborhood to pay.

David Gonsalves lives on Highland Avenue.

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Trees in Curtis Park

Tree roots are not always the cause of foundation damage

By Daniel Pskowski

Arborists often are asked to determine whether roots from nearby trees are threatening their home's foundation. If there is a crack in the foundation with some surface roots nearby, the homeowner assumes the tree is the cause of the damage. Excavation along the edge of the foundation is required to locate where roots have developed. Various methods are available: hydro-vac, air spade, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and hand excavation. When a root meets the foundation, it either goes left, right or dives straight down. The roots that dive come to the bottom of the stem wall, go underneath it and come back up in the foundation's crawl space. This cool, damp area is a good growing environment for roots. Early in my almost 30-year career as a city arborist I learned that even though a root is in contact with the foundation wall, it might not be the cause of the crack.

One case involved a property owner who had filed a claim against the city indicating that the roots from the 30-inch-plus diameter Modesto ash (*Fraxinus velutina* 'Modesto') in the city park strip had damaged the foundation. When I visited the property, the house had already been raised above the foundation. There were two roots, one four inches and the other five inches in diameter, that contacted the foundation, dove down and came up in the foundation crawl space. It appeared that roots caused the damage. However, a structural engineer's assessment determined that the roots were not the cause.

If tree roots are not causing foundation damage, what

is? Soil plays a key role in foundation cracks. Our fine silt loam soils cannot be compacted to 90% and therefore can settle. Areas that have had the native soils graded away with compacted layers of subsoil and rubble can shift and subside over time.

In the Curtis Park neighborhood, there are some very large trees close to homes that may be protected. For single-family residences or duplexes, the city's tree ordinance protects native oaks that have a trunk diameter of 12 inches or greater and all other tree species with a trunk diameter of 32 inches or greater. The trunk diameter is measured at 4.5 feet from the base of the tree. The ordinance allows removal if the tree or its roots are causing or threatening to cause damage to any main structure on the property or adjacent property and there are no reasonable alternative means to mitigate the damage or threatened damage. Reasonable means include root pruning, the installation of a root barrier, or pruning the tree. Unfortunately, the ordinance requires a licensed structural engineering report.

Don't assume when there is a crack in the foundation with some surface roots nearby that the tree is the cause of this damage. You may be observing two phenomena that occur together and mistaking correlation for causation.

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

Oak Park Farmers Market up and running again



Longtime Oak Park vendor Herguin Lopez of RHJ Farm in Watsonville visits with a customer at the market reopening.



New to the Oak Park Market are Curtis Park Tenth Avenue neighbors Rushella Zitmpre, left, Elliana, 11, Sophia, 9, and Loren, who work on the community Be Love Farm.

Photos by Judy Green Scheible

Guest Column

Switching to electric yard care

By Melissa McKenzie

Desiring to do more for my local environment, I recently completed a Climate Steward program that required a research project through the University of California Extension. After consulting with SCNA's Clean & Quiet Lawn Care Committee, I focused on my interest in switching to zero-emission electric lawn care landscapers in the Curtis Park neighborhood.

While the survey sample in Curtis Park was small – 26 households (including four that do their own lawn maintenance) – the results strongly indicated that neighbors are interested in exploring conversion to electric equipment. Even small changes can bring significant results.

If half the homes in Curtis Park (1,250 households) use gas leaf blowers weekly, they emit as much smog-forming pollution as a light-duty passenger car driving the circumference of our planet 55 times.

Seventy-eight percent of respondents indicated that their lawn care providers are sole proprietors (two or fewer workers per company) or small businesses with less than five workers. While the purchase of electric lawn care equipment by these small landscapers may seem like a financial burden, the survey results also indicated that Curtis Park residents are willing to pay more for electric lawn care. Over 50% of respondents were willing to pay up to 10% more for the services, while 31% were willing to pay 25% or more for the switch to electric equipment.

When those surveyed were asked what they would do if their lawn care providers couldn't afford the switch, almost 50% said they would either help fund the purchase of the new electric equipment or work with other Curtis Park neighbors to share the cost of new electric equipment. Over 40% of respondents said they would switch to a new electric provider if their current landscaper did not convert to electric.

California's Air Resources Board (CARB) currently offers vouchers for commercial electric lawn equipment – reducing equipment costs by 70% to be more affordable.

So, how do we move forward as neighbors to provide further impetus to electric conversion and make Curtis Park a healthier environment? I am working on an informational flier in both English and Spanish that neighbors can utilize for conversations with their lawn care providers to educate them on the discounts available for electric equipment.

For more information on 1) how to engage with your lawn care provider to help them better understand the cost; 2) how to work with other neighbors who share the same provider to help in the conversion process; or 3) how to find an electric landscaper, contact SCNA's Clean & Quiet Lawn Care Committee at kathy.les321@gmail.com.

About the author: *Melissa McKenzie of Donner Way recently retired after a career with both Fortune 100 companies and large nonprofit agencies providing sales and marketing research expertise.*

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"War Against Humanity," oil, 22x28"

Diana Sunseri

Diana Sunseri concentrates on painting, but easily gets sidetracked and ends up collaging about politics or building spiritual altars from old boxes, broken jewelry and rosaries, rusty hinges and other found objects. Her oil paintings often feature bold, colorful portraits of women inspired by faces from vintage photographs. "I'm looking for a certain tilt of the head, a strength, a longing – a face that tells a story." www.dianasunseriart.com



Dave's House

Jean Wiley

Jean Wiley is a plein air and studio painter with a background in graphic design. She has participated in workshops, group shows and open studios. Her painting is a visual interpretation and physical expression of light and color. She spent formative high school years on Oahu and, impressed by the landscape, now has a second home on Maui. She hopes to capture the feeling of living in the moment. Her work can be seen at jeanwileyart.com or on Instagram, @jeanwiley.

Kate Johnston

Kate Johnston is a lawyer and writer. She has lived in Curtis Park since 2002. Her book of food essays, *Delusions for Breakfast*, can be found on Amazon. jkatejohnston@gmail.com

Duck Thighs & Buffalo Butter

If my house didn't need a new roof and my kid were done with college and my dogs weren't approaching their costly old age, I would shop only at Taylor's. I might shop at Taylor's and never leave. Make me down a pallet in your meat department.

Yesterday I went to Taylor's and got house-made corn dogs and smoked pork chops and cruised the aisles. They have beluga lentils and slow-dried squid ink pasta and Italian tuna packed in olive oil in glass jars. Three kinds of capers. Butters galore. Duck thighs. Aged beef. Newborn lamb. Dry scallops.

The produce section is small, but carefully chosen. Unless you're getting very fancy, you wouldn't have to go to another store, or the farmer's market, just for produce. I got parsley, eggplant, two apples, a pear and an avocado without feeling violated by the price.

And it's not just fancy stuff. Taylor's stocks household staples, and most of the prices are what you'd pay at Safeway, sometimes less. Take peanut butter, a product with which I am obsessed. The Safeway website admits to having a hundred items in the nut butter section. Taylor's has eight and still manages to cover a broad range of tastes and budgets, from well-priced Jiff to Fix & Fog, which makes wildly priced blends like almond-cashew-maple. So at Taylor's, unlike Safeway, you don't have to hunt among a hundred items for the one simple thing you came for. You don't have to be on your guard against PB Bites (which are pellets) or PB2 (which is powder), or 6-ounce squeeze pouches (which are for astronauts). Serenity through nut butter.

Reading this over, I see that I've been trying to avoid the word curated. It sounds so snooty. But Taylor's is snooty, and why not? All retailers sell stuff, and they also sell the way you feel when you buy that stuff. They sell an identity, usually a highly aspirational one. At Taylor's that identity is: Urban Gentry. Surrender to the snoot.

But first you have to get there.

A fiendish series of left-turn prohibitions, traffic lights and railroad tracks make Taylor's horribly difficult to drive to from Curtis Park, even though it's right there. And when you finally do arrive,

Jack Moncrief

My first introduction to poetry came in the form of a letter to an unsavory business associate, wherein I took an excerpt from Edgar Allen Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum." I was hooked by the bee sting of a pen. I subsequently wrote haikus, read at Luna's Café and joined River Styx Poetry Society in 1987.

Afternoon Haiku

To answer to love,
Sometimes resembles sadness.
It arches to the soul and delivers

you'd better get your manners on, because your rival in the tiny parking lot just might be your neighbor. Courtesy and aggression must be measured to the ounce.

Or walk. On bloody stumps if necessary. Buy what you can carry. It's for the best.

A recent post on Taylor's Instagram solicited suggestions for their in-store play-list. The first response was "Lost In the Supermarket" by The Clash, which made me laugh and also made me listen to the song, which is about suburban isolation and malaise, in short, everything Taylor's is not. I still haven't come up with a song that fits what Taylor's is. "Gimme a Pigfoot and a Bottle of Beer" was my best shot, but that's not right

either. Pigfoot is about the only cut that Taylor's doesn't have in the meat case, and I don't think Bessie Smith was singing about Demin Kimono Rice Lager or Confused Therapy India Pale Ale.

But back to The Clash song: "We had a hedge back home in the suburbs/ Over which I never could see..." How sad is that? How lonely. And it reminds me that Taylor's and the other small businesses that rim our neighborhood form a kind of bulwark against isolation. We know them. They know us. They help us know each other—only a little, but that's plenty.

And as for the pigfoot, I'll bet Taylor's will sell you one if you ask nicely. I'm sure they've got a few kicking around in the back.

Linda Tennyson

Linda Tennyson is a writer and poet, mostly a poet. Her work rooted in nature is often inspired by her daily walks in Curtis Park, where she has lived since 1999. She is also moved to write about social injustice, matters of the heart and her dog Lucy. She can be reached at desertwalk3@gmail.com.

Mountain Lake 2023

I've hiked to Dardanelles Lake mostly in summer
when the sun warms everything to yellow.

No corners in the deep blue lake.

No nuance in the pines' bright green needles.

My feet soak in the lake's great bold beauty.

September colors the water steely green

bearing browns of August half submerged and winter in her womb.

Black shadows silhouette dark pines, tiny triangles across the lake peninsula.

On shimmering waves, cool breeze shatters sun-beams.

A dog's bark bounces over the lake.

Stillness echoes.

I pull my jacket close around my neck.

Wild bequiles with power to keep me beyond the setting sun.

Too early to leave, too late to stay.

Loves fragile song lingers in her curves.



Taylor's Market

Teresa Zepeda

Teresa Zepeda is a printmaker. She has lived in Curtis Park for 20 years. Her silkscreens and etchings can be seen in the upcoming show, California

Printmakers: Tradition and Innovation, at Arts Benicia in July. You can also see some of her work in the fine arts competition at the California State Fair. teresazepeda@rocketmail.com.

Bret Harte schoolyard renovations set for summer



LAUREN
GOTHARD
and
LINDSEY
SIN

Big changes are coming to Bret Harte Elementary for the 2023-24 school year. Renovations to update the schoolyard and play structures on campus began June 19 and should be complete before the first day of school, Aug. 31. Updates include new concrete and black top. Additions to the schoolyard include four new play structures. “We also have a large, covered area being added for the tables to provide shade for students to eat outside,” said Principal Dr. Roxanne Wolfe, who plans to be in close contact with the project manager over the summer.

Bond money funds construction and improvements on campus. In 2020, voters passed Measure H, a general obligation school facilities bond that provided \$750 million to make much-needed improvements and repairs. “The district has a system they use to decide which schools are in need of improvements, and then the schools are selected,” said Wolfe. Projects of all sizes have been underway at schools in the district all year.

Bret Harte also received a grant from CAL Fire to make other improvements to the school. Wolfe plans to plant more trees around the field and update irrigation for the field and school garden, which also may be expanded under the grant. Wolfe also hopes to add a space for physical fitness under the sycamore trees in the middle of the schoolyard and welcomes input from families and the community for other enhancements. “We are very excited for the new improvements to our campus,” she said.

The annual Field Day was one of the last events to take place on the former schoolyard this year. Students participated in events that promote physical activity and team building, such as relay races, musical chairs and pool noodle soccer. Activities were organized by sixth-grade teacher Michael Rule and his class. Sidewalk chalk and bubbles also were available for students to enjoy. Wolfe said her favorite part of




Students and teachers work as a team on the parachute game.

Photo by Lauren Gothard


Field Day is seeing students interacting together and with teachers in a playful space.


“The energy is so positive during these

events,” said Wolfe. “Kids are smiling and laughing. It reminds me that our work here is important.”



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