

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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September 2023

Sierra 2 Executive Director Terri Shettle to step down

By Dorsey Griffith

After 14 years at the helm of Sierra 2 Center, Terri Shettle has announced she will leave her post on Sept. 8. After a three-week vacation, she plans to return to help out 10-15 hours per week.

Shettle did not elaborate on why she has decided to step down but expressed general weariness after dealing with the COVID pandemic disruptions and the most recent Curtis Park controversy over the off-leash dog park at Sierra 2 Green.

"The decision has been coming for a while," she said. "It's just time. The past three and a half years were very hard and the past six months have been especially hard with the dog park issue."

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) board has begun the search for Shettle's replacement, a task those who know Shettle and her accomplishments agree will be challenging.

"She's got a lot on her plate," said longtime tenant and friend Bruce Beals, whose Sacramento men's AA group has met daily on the campus since 1981. "Whoever replaces her has absolutely massive shoes to fill."

Sierra 2 is a 40,000-square-foot, non-profit community facility that

See Shettle, Page 5

Decision on dog park in Curtis Park remains elusive

By Jim Miller

Consensus on a city-sanctioned dog park in the Curtis Park neighborhood remains elusive following a community open house on options, a listening session among stakeholders and a vote by the Sierra-Curtis Neighborhood Association board to oppose a city dog park plan for the Sierra 2 Green.

On July 19, hundreds of people, as well as two Sacramento police officers, attended a city-sponsored open house to weigh in on several dog park concept plans for the Sierra 2 Green, Curtis Park, Land Park, and Ray Eames Park in Crocker Village.

People could vote on the city options in person and online. As of a July 31 cutoff, more than 400 people had submitted comments, a city parks spokeswoman said.

A week later, a "listening session" organized by SCNA brought together leaders of various groups involved in Sierra 2 Green dog park discussions. Following those events, on Aug. 2 the SCNA board voted 8 to 3 with four abstentions to oppose the city's Sierra 2 dog park option, which would convert all the grass area into a permanent dog park.

The city's July open house was part of the parks department's action plan released earlier this year. Based on feedback and other criteria, the city will identify a "top priority site plan," according to the action plan.

City parks spokeswoman Gabby Miller said parks staff continue to review public comments. The city will "evaluate and revise" concept plans

See Dog Park, Page 9



Curtis Park residents Zoe and Julio de la Herran with signs supporting a permanent dog park at Sierra 2 Green. Photo by Dorsey Griffith

Centennial celebration postponed

By Kathy Les

After much thought, the SCNA Development Committee has decided to postpone its annual fall fundraiser until next year. Prior to COVID, SCNA's annual Wine and Food Tasting was the association's biggest event of the year, attracting over 500 people.

This year's wine tasting was planned as the Centennial Celebration for the old Sierra School building that houses Sierra 2, which turns 100 this year. Restaurants and wineries still face COVID-related staff shortages and financial

difficulties, which has made them more reluctant to participate than expected.

In addition, the departure of longtime SCNA Executive Director Terri Shettle created a big gap in the planning and implementation expertise available to the committee, making the originally planned date of Oct. 14, just after her planned departure, difficult. Several on the Development Committee also are participating in the search for a new executive director and felt they should focus their time on that effort.

However, the committee does not want the year to slip by without celebrating the 100th birthday of the old Sierra School building, home to Sierra 2. Plans are in the works to hold a ceremonial celebration and open house later this year, possibly in conjunction with SCNA's annual membership meeting in early December. Watch for details in upcoming issues of *Viewpoint*.

See Centennial, Page 10

City settlement impacts Crocker Village appearance

By Dennis Cusick

A number of developments over the summer have altered the appearance, function and future of Crocker Village.

Of greatest significance was the city's settlement of pending litigation with developer Paul Petrovich over his nearly decade-long effort to place a gas station in the Crocker Village shopping center adjacent to the Safeway supermarket.

According to the text of the settlement, the city agreed to:

- Buy the historic Hale Building at Ninth and K streets downtown from the developer for \$18.5 million.

See Crocker, Page 8

History made
Montgomery Way homes recognized by state historic commission

Page 10

Local support needed
Refugees arriving in Sacramento could use your help

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Meet Manuel Luna
Racial Justice Committee speaker

Page 4



Progress to report on the region's homelessness crisis

In the last several Sacramento City Council meetings, my colleagues and I have focused on the most significant issue facing Sacramento today – homelessness, and what we can do about it, both in the short term and in the longer term. The City of Sacramento is currently under a judicial injunction forbidding the city from moving individuals living on public property until the end of the August heat wave, which has allowed us an opportunity to continue building relationships with unhoused folks living in encampments around the district.

With the opening of Miller Park's Safe Ground site, coupled with the authority we vested in the city manager to open hundreds of new shelter and Safe Ground beds in the coming weeks, we're looking at a significant increase in our capacity to get folks off the streets. Because the city lacks enough places for unsheltered people, they are continually moved around from neighborhood to neighborhood. We can only stop this cycle by working collaboratively to open more sites while managing trash, blocked sidewalks, critical infrastructure and crime.

My office has spent a significant amount of time working with community members and neighbors on solutions to the large encampments in the northern end of the district, including Broadway, Frank-

CAITY MAPLE

City Council Member District 5



lin Boulevard, Alhambra Boulevard and W Street. We've made excellent progress with the Department of Community Response's teams regularly going out to camps and offering resources, services, transportation and housing – and we're seeing an increased willingness to take advantage of the services being offered by the city and county.

While we're making real progress on the short-term solutions (identifying and opening new shelter and Safe Ground sites), as a Sacramento City Council member I'll continue to advocate for long-term solutions: robust tenant protections, a formal regional body with a strategic action plan and state and federal housing investments.

Please reach out to my team if you have any questions. They can be reached by emailing district5@cityofsacramento.org or calling 916-808-7005.



Photo by Matthew Royal

Amalia development nears completion

By Matthew Royal

Completion of the two-story Spanish Revival-style "The Amalia" mixed-use project at the corner of 24th Street and Castro Way appears imminent. The property, featuring eight residential units and up to three commercial spaces, is a project of HK3 Development.

One block from Café Dantorels and across 24th Street from Sierra 2 Center, the project was originally intended to open in late 2021 or early 2022 and rumored to house a coffee shop and pizzeria.

After breaking ground in March 2022, the project experienced two two-week-long delays after re-inspections of the underfloor plumbing and concrete slab forms, according to the Sacramento Community Development Department's Agency Counter app, which allows users to check the status of permits, applications and case records. This may have caused additional delays in the inspection schedule from June through November.

From October 2022 through June 15, 2023, two subcontractors filed four Notices of Claim/Mechanics Liens on the property, indicating that they had not been paid on time. As of August 20, all outstanding liens have been released, according to the Sacramento Clerk/Recorder Public Index Search.

The building is covered in white stucco and colorful ceramic tiles, a design that was influenced by input from the SCNA Neighborhood Concerns Committee during an August 2020 meeting with the developer. Additionally, a new sidewalk has been poured, and a concrete sitting wall completed, hinting to The Amalia's future role as a neighborhood meeting place.

The Turton Commercial Real Estate agency released a promotional flyer estimating that The Amalia will open in the third quarter of 2023. HK3 Development could not be reached for comment to confirm an opening date. However, according to LoopNet, an online marketplace for commercial property, all three commercial units are priced at the top 10% of retail rentals for the City of Sacramento and are available for lease starting Nov. 1, 2023.

Submit your creations for Park Arts

Viewpoint wants to feature your creative work on its occasional Park Arts page. Submit short written pieces or reproducible photos of your creative work to Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com. Works should be accompanied by the creator's name, email address, phone number and short bio. Submissions will be curated and run as space permits.

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Pedestrian bridge still closed

The pedestrian bridge crossing over Highway 99 at Eighth Avenue and Franklin Boulevard, which has been closed for fencing and lighting improvements, is slated to fully reopen on Sept. 15, Caltrans has announced.

As of Aug. 30, the bridge opened for pedestrian crossing between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m.

The closure was extended due to construction delays because of a strike by Northern California Painters and Finishing Contractors. The closures affected four pedestrian bridges in South Sacramento.

A free, on-demand shuttle service from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. is available to area residents by calling 916-361-5466.

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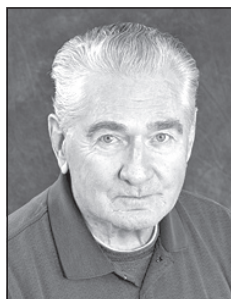
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Thanking Shettle for years of service to SCNA, Curtis Park

The resignation of SCNA Executive Director Terri Shettle, though unexpected, was understandable. For 14-plus years Terri has been the face of Sierra 2 and, typically, SCNA's first point of contact for the public. Not only has Terri been our executive director, she is also a long-time Curtis Park neighbor. Her love for, and dedication to, our neighborhood has been evident in the way she performed her duties and responsibilities as executive director.

Terri's extensive knowledge, talent and skill in managing Sierra 2 has proved instrumental in its success. This was no more evident than during the pandemic when the future of Sierra 2 was in doubt. Terri played an integral role in helping lead Sierra 2 out of its

BILL HOOVER SCNA Board President



financial quagmire. Similarly, she has provided sound guidance and advice to SCNA's Board of Directors and regularly provided staff support for SCNA-sponsored events and activities through the years. She has been a loyal and dedicated employee, and her departure is a huge blow to SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center at a very critical time.

After the board was notified of Terri's

resignation, the executive committee immediately began discussions with Terri to develop a transition strategy. These have been productive sessions and produced an agreement that Terri will continue in a part-time capacity for a period of time after Sept. 8. Additionally, the executive director job description has been updated and placed on several online job sites (information on the position is in this *Viewpoint* issue). In the interim, existing staff duties and responsibilities are being reevaluated to ensure coverage of key areas during the transition. By the time you read this column, I hope we are in the process of reviewing resumes.

But, make no mistake, we do not expect this process to be easy due to the

job requirements, its inherent complexity and the timing.

You are probably wondering why Terri chose to resign. I can only suggest that you would have to ask her yourself. Having worked with and observed Terri for nearly four years now, I am well aware of the wide range of skills needed to operate the Sierra 2 Center and assist SCNA. It is apparent that the stress related to keeping Sierra 2 Center afloat during three years of COVID lockdowns and dealing with recent board changes have taken a toll. The current situation relating to the city's mishandling of the dog park issue and resulting fallout, are contributing factors as well.

I and all who have worked with Terri wish her well.

Board Notes

Settlement in Crocker Village Gas Station Lawsuit

SCNA President **Bill Hoover** said that SCNA attorney Patrick Soluri has reported that a global settlement was reached between Paul Petrovich and the city regarding the proposed siting of a gas station in the south end of Crocker Village.

Treasurer's Report

John Bailey reported that the May financial statement reflected a good month, and that SCNA is above budget and in the black for the year. **Hoover** noted that the 2024 budget has been delayed due to other issues.

Centennial Celebration

Shannon Motley reported on commitments from restaurants and wineries to participate Oct. 14 in the 100-year anniversary celebration of the Sierra School's founding. (The event has since been postponed. See story on page 1.)

Racial Justice Committee

Mimi Budd reported that the

committee will host a discussion on Sept. 13 at noon with Manuel Luna, who will speak on Two-Spirit culture in the Native American community. Luna is the Community Health Program manager of the Sacramento Native American Health Center. To attend, please contact Kathy Les at kathy.les321@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

Clean and Quiet Yard Care

Kathy Les reported on the Expo on Electric Lawn Equipment held Sunday Aug. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Southside Park.

City's Open House and SCNA Listening Session Debrief

Fifteen (of 19) board members in attendance provided feedback on the city's Open House held on July 19 at Curtis Hall where the city introduced eight options for dog park sites and asked attendees to vote on where they do or do not want a dog park sited. At the Listening Session on July 26, representatives of the five interest groups spoke

about goals and concerns in siting a dog park. Two city representatives attended, along with SCNA board members. A video recording of the session can be accessed at Sierra2.org.

A variety of opinions were aired during a lengthy discussion. Out of the discussion came the following motions and votes:

It was moved and seconded that the board vote to oppose the city's Option 1, which would convert most of Sierra 2 Green into a permanent dog park.

A substitute motion was made to reject all proposed options pending further discussion with the city to assess the needs of dog owners. After a discussion, the board rejected the motion with a vote of 9-6.

Discussion was held on the original motion to oppose Option 1. Members also discussed future board action recommending that all groups unite to meet with the city to determine the legal parameters and regulations for a dog park and the process for siting a dog park to avoid creating proposals

that may fall outside the purview of what is required.

The vote on the original motion to oppose City Option 1 passed by a vote of 8-3 with four abstentions.

Lily Harris was authorized to draft a letter in conjunction with each of the advocacy groups* to address concerns about the process the city is using and its failure to provide critical information about the legal rules and restrictions on siting a full-time dog park, not only at Sierra 2 Green, but at any of the other proposed alternative sites.

Bill Hoover suggested that when the letter to the city is ready, it can either be sent with the notice of the opposition vote or sent separately, as appropriate.

The next SCNA meeting will be Sept. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

*The advocacy groups referenced above include Common Ground, Land Park Soccer Club, Families for Sierra 2 Park, Dog X, and Sierra 2 Center. SCNA also will be included.

— Submitted by Sue Hida and Mimi Budd

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Birds in Curtis Park

The ubiquitous mourning dove thrives in urban settings

By Dan Murphy

The mourning dove is among the most abundant and widespread species in North America, with a population of about 350 million. The bird's name is derived from its repeated coo call, which people find mournful. A less human-centered attribution would point to the short lifespan of the species, which averages about one year for adults. Humans play a role in this; hunters kill more than 20 million doves a year, more than the total of all other game birds combined.

Humans also have benefited the species through our changes to the landscape. The mourning dove shuns extensively forested areas and wetlands, and agriculture produces the seeds that are the bird's preferred food.

Mourning doves have three surprising characteristics: how they feed their young, how they drink water and the sounds they make when they're upset.

Mourning doves maintain their numbers through a fecund breeding strategy. Both male and female adults share incubation duties. They have a protracted breeding season in which multiple nesting attempts can occur every 30 days. The female lays two eggs per attempt. Birds in the southern part of the United States may nest almost the entire year. As with other pigeons and doves, both parents feed their newly hatched young on "crop



Photo by Dan Murphy

milk," a unique secretion of the cells of the crop wall, which is an enlarged part of the esophagus. They nest readily around yards, are frequent visitors to bird feeders, and often are seen sitting on utility lines.

Adult males are slightly more colorful than females, with a pale rosy breast versus the tannish color of the female. The male head has a bluish crown and nape, while the female's is brownish. Males have a distinctive bluish-gray cap and nape and pinkish rosy hue over the face, throat and breast; their neck feathers are tinged with pink iridescence. The bare skin around the eyes in adult males is turquoise blue and turquoise green in the adult female.

Another unusual characteristic of mourning doves – and other doves and pigeons – is they can drink water by sipping. All other North American birds must tip their head up and let gravity do the work.

Mourning doves can surprise people, as well. When frightened they take off in flight with a loud whistling whir that, if you don't expect it, can be quite startling.

OBITUARIES



John Mathews

Photo by Joan Cusick

John Mathews, community advocate

It is my sad duty to inform you of the sudden passing of John Mathews on Aug. 16, 2023 from complications related to recent back surgery.

John, who was 73, was a long-time Curtis Park resident and a respected SCNA Board colleague. He was often encountered walking his 13-year-old dog, Carina, who died a few weeks earlier.

John was mild-mannered, gracious and humble, yet forthright as he saw fit. He had a strong moral compass that served our board and the neighborhood well. He was an excellent listener and a steady, reliable presence who helped guide the board through difficult issues. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held for John and an announcement made at the appropriate time. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

— Bill Hoover



Fred Hiestand

Courtesy of Civil Justice Association of California

Fred Hiestand, justice reform champion

Sacramento and Curtis Park lost one of its stars on July 2 when Fred Hiestand of Rochon Way passed away. He was general counsel for the Civil Justice Association of California (CJAC).

"Fred has been the titan of civil justice reform in California over the last five decades on behalf of the business community," said Kyla Christoffersen Powell, president and chief executive officer of CJAC.

In his personal time, Fred served on the board of St. HOPE, founded by former Mayor Kevin Johnson to revitalize Oak Park through high-quality public education and economic development.

Fred is survived by his wife Peggy, his children Kevin, Kerry, Alison and Zane, and four grandchildren.

— Judy Green Scheible

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Manuel Luna to speak on Two-Spirit culture in the Native American community

By Kathleen Ave

The Racial Justice Committee (RJC) of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association will host a discussion Sept. 13 at noon with Manuel Luna, Community Health Program Manager of the Sacramento Native American Health Center or SNAHC.

SNAHC is a non-profit, community-owned, federally qualified health center

committed to providing a culturally competent, holistic and patient-centered continuum of care with no tribal or ethnic requirements.

In Native communities, the term "Two-Spirit" was created by and for indigenous peoples to describe those who may embody both a masculine and a feminine spirit, including a wide variance of gender identities, roles and expressions. Manuel will share information about the Two-Spirit culture within the larger American Indian/Alaska Native community and discuss his work at SNAHC, including the origin and content of the land acknowledgment statement he uses in gatherings.

If you would like to attend the RJC meeting, please contact Mimi Budd at mimibudd@comcast.net for a Zoom invitation. The invitation is online only.



Courtesy of Manuel Luna

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Shettle

Continued from page 1

includes a 296-seat theater, three dance studios, a senior center, banquet hall, garden room with courtyard, five general spaces, and 12 rooms rented to regular tenants. As executive director, Shettle has overseen the management of the historic building's upkeep, its tenants and events – operations that under her leadership have become more sophisticated and financially sound.

Shettle said she is leaving Sierra 2 functioning well.

"The staff is in good shape. The tenants are strong. The organization is in good shape. We just have to put the pieces of the transition together. This is my neighborhood. This is my community. This is my place. I don't want to see it collapse."

Prior to her job at Sierra 2, Shettle was a vice president at a resort company when she moved to Curtis Park from Snowshoe Mountain in West Virginia in 2002 to join her partner, Melissa, who is now her spouse. She later worked for Target Corporation while completing her MBA, the Sacramento Foods Co-Op (original locations), Title Nine, (a women's ath-

letic clothing store), and had a full-time consulting business – jobs that demanded a lot of travel. She was excited to apply for SCNA's executive director position as it would allow her to work so close to home.

"I didn't know what I was getting into at the time," she said. "I thought I'd be running a venue and doing property management."

The job turned out to be far more than that. Shettle had stepped into the middle of a complex and controversial period for SCNA as the then-named Curtis Park Village development plans were getting underway. The creation of what is now called Crocker Village engaged many Curtis Park residents, eliciting criticism on several fronts and creating community divisions. Lawsuits between the City of Sacramento and the developer ensued.

"The (SCNA) board was meeting almost daily at one point, and I found myself very involved," Shettle said. "All the communications and records flowed through my office. It's a central hub."

Real estate broker Steffan Brown has known Shettle for more than 10 years and worked with her while he was an SCNA board member and also as a leading sponsor for various SCNA events over the years. He said he has been impressed by

how she's handled her responsibilities.

"She always was professional but never seemed impersonal," he said. "I never saw her lose her composure, and she could convey compassion and empathy without being unprofessional. She'd give you a clear-eyed, unbiased view and the facts the best she could. I always felt that she could have run a lot of medium-size or large companies with ease."

Eventually, Shettle built a stronger infrastructure for Sierra 2 Center, including developing center staff, pushing for a better website and social media, reporting and tracking systems for accountability, and promoting SCNA events to a wider audience. During her tenure, the annual SCNA operating budget has grown from \$400,000 to \$1 million.

Kathy Les, a current SNCA board member who served as interim executive director of Sierra 2 from 2003-2005, said Sierra 2 operations have benefitted enormously under Shettle's management.

"I have been very impressed with her ability to have so many plates spinning at once," she said. "She's so good at keeping track of everything in a very organized fashion. She has a great institutional memory and is very dynamic in her skill set – everything from task management

and not-so-interesting administration duties to event organizing."

Les noted that the Curtis Park wine-tasting fundraising event more than doubled in size under Shettle's leadership, drawing up to 500 people from across Sacramento before COVID put the event on hold.

"We've elevated the professionalism and the image of the facility," Shettle said. "You want to create a place where people want to be. You can only do that by thinking about what your facility needs to be."

Shettle also managed to build strong bonds in the community, ties she hopes to maintain long after her departure.

Valerie Burrows, who has worked at Sierra 2 for 19 years, said she treasures the many ways her boss made them feel appreciated. She cited a recent outing for food and games at DOCO's Punch Bowl Social, a River Cats game, an office tribute to the Olympics replete with costumes, flags and games, cooking contests, cookie swaps and festive birthday acknowledgments.

"We will miss her commitment to making sure staff had opportunities to bond," Burrows said, "so that each of us felt part of our team."

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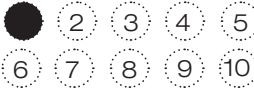
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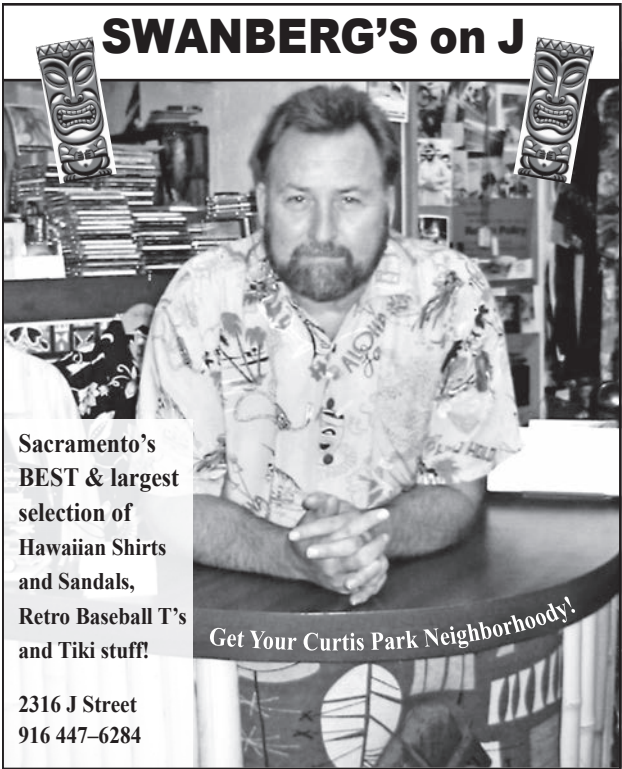


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CPR, AED AND FIRST-AID TRAININGS
Wednesday, Sept. 6

Class 1: 9 a.m.-noon, CPR, AED & First-Aid training, \$110/per person

Class 2: 1-3 p.m., CPR & AED training (without first aid), \$65/per person

CPR Training for Life presents two informative and entertaining life-safety workshops. A 2-year certification card, 2023 CPR/AED and first-aid digital booklet, heart attack survival card and mouth barrier are all included in each training.

INTRO TO DRAWING: TIME FOR TEA
Saturday, Sept. 16

10:00 a.m.-noon
\$30

This workshop will focus on composition and color palettes by drawing a stack of “teetering” tea cups. Your picture will be perfect to frame for a kitchen or breakfast room. Local artist and teacher Marie Taylor offers step-by-step instruction in a relaxed and welcoming environment for those ages 16 and up. This class is ideal for beginners or those wishing to practice their drawing skills.

Submit your creations for Park Arts

Viewpoint wants to feature your creative work on its occasional Park Arts page. Submit short written pieces or reproducible photos of your creative work to Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com. Works should be accompanied by the creator's name, email address, phone number and short bio. Submissions will be curated and run as space permits.

MEDICINAL MUSHROOMS

Thursday, Sept. 21

6-8 p.m.

\$40 (includes materials)

Medicinal mushrooms have a rich and diverse history that spans thousands of years across various cultures. Throughout history, these fungi have been revered for their therapeutic properties and have played a significant role in traditional medicine systems around the world. Today, medicinal mushrooms are widely available in various forms, including extracts, supplements, teas and powders. They are known for their potential to support the immune system, promote cardiovascular health, enhance cognitive function, and they possess antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. As interest in natural and holistic health continues to grow, the popularity of medicinal mushrooms does too. Join herbalist Toni Riehle to learn about mushrooms such as turkey tail, chaga and reishi in this hands-on workshop where you will blend your own mushroom “coffee” to take home.

FALL BOOK CLUB TEA

Sunday, Sept. 24

12:30-2 p.m., Garden Room

\$55 for in-person; \$59 for to-go

Nothing goes better with afternoon tea than a good book! Create a list of favorite books to share as we gather for this fun tea event. What were your beach reads over the summer? Now that it's fall, what are you looking forward to reading? Who are your favorite authors? As the weather gets cooler, The Novel Tea adjusts its tea menu to suit the new fall feel to include savory finger sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, a variety of desserts and The Novel Teas' own specialty teas.

If you prefer to enjoy this tea with friends or your book club in the comfort of your home, you have the option to choose a to-go tea kit.

ABSTRACT INTUITIVE PAINTING

Saturday, Sept. 30

10 a.m.-noon

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.

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LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

Here's your handy guide



Kathleen and Patrick Minor of You!You!You at The Side Door
Photo courtesy of Patrick Minor

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September 15: You, You, You w/ the Voices of the Golden West, Tracy Walton & Shelly Burns, poetic singer-songwriter duo with special guests

September 16: Nashville Honeymoon, California country honky-tonk

September 22: Jazz Gitan, 1930s and '40s hot gypsy jazz

September 23: The Hence Phillips Band, genre-jumping storyteller/multi-instrumentalist (formerly with Jackie Greene)

September 29: The Kathy Kallick Band, Grammy-winning West Coast bluegrass greats

September 30: Red Dog Ash, award-winning Central Valley High Lonesome band

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"On the 2 & the 4," Jazz with Kent Lacin & Two Rivers Trio, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7-9 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.
"Sunday Acoustic Jam," 1st Sunday monthly 1-4 p.m.

"Drum Circle," 3rd Sunday monthly 5-7 p.m.
— Mindy Giles

Support live music!
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Gym opening on the horizon

By Patti Roberts

Over the last seven months, neighbors have watched the large City Sports Club being erected in Crocker Village and looked forward to its July opening date. But because of SMUD delays, that won't happen until early September, according to General Manager Guido Benitez.

"We apologize for any inconvenience to our new members, and we're equally frustrated at the delays," Benitez said. "We're just waiting for SMUD to power up the transformers. We look forward to opening our doors and welcoming our Curtis Park neighbors."

According to Benitez, more than 200 Curtis Park residents have already signed up for membership at the 37,000-square foot club, and many have stopped by the sign-up trailer on Tenth Avenue to ask about the delays.

"We're excited about the upcoming opening, and I am sorry about the delay," he said. "We've had great responses from people who live in Curtis Park who say they look forward to coming to our state-of-the-art facility, and many say they love that it's within walking distance from their houses."

East Curtis Drive residents Robin and Bill French stopped by the trailer to see if there was word about the opening. They're already members and are happy that the neighborhood will have such a close gym.

"It takes only 10 minutes for us to walk here," Bill French said. "It's so much more convenient than other gyms we've belonged to, and I think it will be so



Simon Sandberg, City Sports fitness counselor

Photo by Judy Green Scheible

social with so many of our neighbors joining. We look forward to the opening."

A June *Viewpoint* article described what City Sports has to offer, including state-of-the-art workout equipment, group fitness classes – including aerobics, aqua aerobics, Pilates, yoga and Zumba – an indoor swimming pool, and free-weight and circuit training areas.

One of the unique offerings will be the Recovery Center, which will include cryotherapy, red-light therapy, compression therapy and hydromassage beds.

"Thank you for your patience and we look forward to seeing you soon," said Benitez.

Hours will be 5 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 5 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday, and 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information visit citysportsfitness.com.

Crocker

Continued from page 1

- Pay the developer an additional \$7.5 million.
- Name the detention basin and playfields within Ray Eames Park the "Petrovich Family Playfield." The city council voted in 2019 to name the park after internationally famous designer Ray Eames, who grew up in Curtis Park.

• Issue a written apology to the developer. The 754-word apology reads in part: "The City apologizes to Mr. Petrovich for conducting an unfair hearing (on the gas station proposal). The City further acknowledges Mr. Petrovich's contentions in his lawsuit that following the denial of the conditional use permit, he believes the Crocker Village project faced significant unfair treatment, which he asserts severely negatively impacted his health, family, reputation, and business."

Petrovich sued the city in 2016 over its 7-2 vote in 2015 to deny a conditional-use permit for a gas station in Crocker Village. A Superior Court judge ruled that the city council's process was unfair to Petrovich and that then-Councilmember Jay Schenirer was biased against him. The judge ordered the city council to conduct a new hearing with Schenirer recused, which the city council did in February 2022. The second vote was 7-0, with Schenirer recused by court order and Councilmember Katie Valenzuela recusing herself.

Petrovich sued the city again, saying the second vote was also unfair, in part because of comments Mayor Darrell Steinberg made in advance of the rehearing.

A third lawsuit, which sought monetary damages as a

result of the city's actions, was also part of the settlement.

In recent years, the three-story Hale Building had served as headquarters of Petrovich Development Co. Petrovich told *The Sacramento Business Journal* that he had hardly used his office in the building since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic in 2020. Its ground-floor tenant, Rite Aid drug store, closed last year.

The settlement does not make clear the status of Petrovich's gas station proposal.

"It does not end the fight for the gas station," Petrovich wrote in an email to *Viewpoint*. "I have several other ways to accomplish that goal that do not require City Council approval."

Among other changes in Crocker Village over the summer, the left-turn lane from northbound Crocker Drive into the middle of the Safeway portion of the shopping center was eliminated and the median strip was filled in.

In late June, the city council approved Petrovich's plan to build housing in the 2.5-acre remainder of the "flex zone," part of the last undeveloped parcel in Crocker Village, adjacent to an existing senior apartment complex. Original plans for what became Crocker Village left the use of the flex zone to be determined later, depending on market demand.

The last major commercial building in Crocker Village was completed over the summer. Its tenant, City Sports Club, has posted signs seeking members.

The text of the city's settlement with Petrovich is available at cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/City-Clerk/Contracts/SETTLEMENT-AND-RELEASE-AGREEMENT-with-Exhibits_Fully-Executed.pdf?la=en.

POINT OF VIEW

Off-Leash Dogs Should Remain at Sierra 2 Green

By Dan Bernstein and Kirsten Smith

They don't own property and they don't vote. But dogs are an integral part of the Curtis Park neighborhood. And, as almost anyone who lives here would agree, they help bring us together.

For more than two decades, Sierra 2 Green has served as an outdoor community room of sorts – a spot where people can gather and converse with their neighbors while their dogs run and frolic off-leash to get the exercise they need. For the most part, the dogs – from the tiniest terriers to the largest Labradors – have coexisted peacefully with other park users, including kids playing soccer and tots in a playground.

That coexistence became threatened last fall when the city banned off-leash dogs from most of the Green and relegated them to a small slice of the park on a temporary basis. Now, due to a lack of imagination from both the city and the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA), we could soon lose our only neighborhood dog park – despite a city survey last winter finding that the vast majority of respondents support retaining it. The results were not surprising given the hundreds of households with dogs in our neighborhood, many within walking

distance of Sierra 2.

Until recently, Sierra 2 Green included a mixture of neighborhood park uses and users. Dogs were allowed off-leash on the soccer field with their owners during limited hours (in the early morning and early evening), but never during soccer games or practices. In an effort to return to that tradition, more than 100 Curtis Park residents have come together to form “Common Ground,” with lawn signs of support sprouting up in the neighborhood. Some say that this type of arrangement is no longer workable given the proliferation of dogs in the park in recent years and the failure of many dog owners to obey the off-leash hours. But these problems could be addressed with better enforcement of the hours, a stewardship program to help care for the soccer field and a higher fence around the playground to ensure that dogs cannot invade the tots' space – even though, according to our examination of city records, there has not been a single report of a dog bite or attack at Sierra 2 Green for the past 20 years.

What are the alternatives? At an open house held at Sierra 2 Community Center recently, the city presented a series of dog park options. Only one option was offered for the Green, which eliminated the soccer field. Predictably, that generated strong

opposition from members of the Land Park Soccer Club, which wants to use the Green as its home field. Rather than seeking to forge a compromise or look for creative alternatives, the SCNA board simply voted at its August meeting to oppose that proposal.

Incredibly, the only new idea floated by some board members was a shuttle service to transport Curtis Park residents and their dogs to the existing dog park adjacent to the Belle Cooledge Community Center. This would only contribute to traffic and pollution while making some of our neighbors feel like exiles.

Opponents of an off-leash dog area at Sierra 2 argue that parks are for children and that when the issue is children versus dogs, children should always be favored. This is a false choice. Parks are for both children and adults, including parents of children, as well as parents of dogs.

If Curtis Park is to retain a neighborhood dog park, the most viable option is a return to tradition, when adults, children and dogs shared the limited space at Sierra 2 with respect for rules and each other. We have never had so many real fences dividing the Green – or figurative fences dividing neighbors.

Dan Bernstein lives on Sixth Avenue. Kirsten Smith lives on Florence Place.

Dog Park

Continued from page 1

through October, she said, and a second community open house is planned for the fall.

Officials say Sacramento, particularly its northern half, has a shortage of city-sanctioned dog parks where dogs can run off-leash. The Sierra 2 Green emerged as a popular unofficial dog park during the pandemic.

The increase in unleashed dogs prompted complaints from residents and other Sierra 2 users. They said the park, with a playground, basketball court and city-permitted soccer league, is not an appropriate place for a city dog park.

In early April, the city opened a new temporary dog park at Sierra 2. Some people continue to let dogs run unleashed outside the designated area. The city has issued six warnings and no citations since June 1, when

the action plan said enforcement would begin.

The July 19 open house followed the city's release of the dog park concept plans. Maps and descriptions are available here: www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Sierra2ParkInfo.

Open house attendees signed in with their ZIP codes and received voting tickets in three colors: green (“preferred choice”), yellow (“second preferred choice”) and red (“least preferred choice”).

Councilmember Rick Jennings, who represents much of Curtis Park, including the Sierra 2 Green, said police officers attended the meeting “to make sure that no one feels threatened or intimidated.

“We want to satisfy as many people as we can knowing that not everybody will be happy,” Jennings said at the open house. “The good thing is that no decisions have been made. We will keep coming and try to make sure we hear the voice of the people.”

Highland Avenue resident Katie Williams said she appreciated the open house and hopes its deliberations won't be skewed by the view of out-of-area residents.

“I've had five dogs over the years. I used the Sierra 2 training park,” she said. “But I have a concern for those who bought their houses there and didn't have a regional dog park at the time and now will have a hard time selling their home.”

Debra Sherman of Fourth Avenue, another long-time dog owner who wore a Snoopy shirt to the open house, wants to keep a dog park at Sierra 2.

“It's very special to me. That's why I live here,” she said. “Everybody I know in Curtis Park I know because of their dogs,” she said at the open house.

In the days before the open house, “Common Ground” signs began appearing in Curtis Park front

yards. Trish Davey, a representative of Common Ground, was one of several speakers at the July 26 listening session, along with leaders of Land Park Soccer, Families for Sierra 2 Park, DogX Curtis Park, and the Sierra-Curtis Neighborhood Association.

Common Ground members, Davey said, seek a return to the time when youth soccer, dog owners and other Sierra 2 users collaborated to share the space.

“We don't want to lose soccer if we can. We don't want to lose the opportunity to have some of our neighborhood dogs off-leash,” she said at the listening session. “What we want to explore, together, is if there are post-pandemic, neighborhood-scale, solutions to share the green.”

The city's single dog park option for Sierra 2 envisions no shared use. The grass area would become a dog park – one acre for large dogs, a half an acre for small dogs – with no soccer field. The tot playground would remain in the park's southeast corner.

On Aug. 2, the SNCA board voted 8-3 to oppose the city's sole option for Sierra 2. Board members did not take a position on the other dog park options for Curtis Park, Land Park or Ray Eames Park in Crocker Village.

SCNA board member Bill French, who voted yes on the motion, said he and others are concerned that the city's Sierra 2 dog park option would harm the “extremely successful” operations of the adjacent Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and Community.

The issue, French said, has created a rift in the community that could have been avoided.

“We got this problem brought onto us by the city,” he said.

Dorsey Griffith contributed to this story.

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Centennial

Continued from page 1

The Development Committee is seeking Curtis Park residents interested in participating on the planning committee for next year's Wine and Food Tasting fundraiser to be held in the fall of 2024. Expect to attend monthly planning meetings and what many describe as their favorite fundraiser in Sacramento. Anyone interested should email Development Committee chair, Shannon Motley at smmotley1@gmail.com.

Do you have something in your garage or attic you want to sell? *Viewpoint* is accepting classified ads for items unrelated to a business. Ads must be no more than 25 words, and only Curtis Park residents can buy ads. Each ad is \$10 per month and must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication. *Viewpoint* is not published in January or August. To place a classified ad contact Fran Coletti at 916-452-3005, ext. 210.

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Montgomery Way one step closer to National Register designation

By Kathy Les

Montgomery Way, once the most fashionable street in Curtis Park, has been officially recognized as the Montgomery Way Gateway District by the State Historical Resources Commission for its contributions to Sacramento history.

The decision, made on Aug. 4, makes it eligible for consideration to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The 24 homes on Montgomery Way between East Curtis Drive and Franklin Boulevard were built from the mid-1920s to the early 1930s for Sacramento's most prosperous business owners. The homes were part of the South Curtis Oaks subdivision created by landowner and developer J.C. Carly, who also lived on Montgomery Way. Carly was responsible for several subdivisions of the same era in Curtis Park and East Sacramento.

The homes were deemed notable for their historic contributions to Sacramento history and their period architecture. Several of the homes were designed by the architectural firm Dean and Dean, which designed

many of Sacramento's most stately homes during the decades prior to the Great Depression. The firm also designed Memorial Auditorium, the Sutter Club and Trinity Episcopal Church in midtown, as well as Sacramento City College's original buildings.

The nomination was made by Preservation Sacramento, the State Historical Society and Montgomery Way homeowners. A majority of the homeowners supported the nomination, allowing the nomination to go forward.

Nine of the homes on the street already have received individual historic landmark designation from the City of Sacramento Preservation Commission. Of these, seven have plaques noting the designation on their front façade, facilitating a stroll through local history for people walking down the street.

The Montgomery Gateway Historic District nomination will be forwarded by the State Office of Historical Resources for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service typically makes a final decision on National Register listings within 45 days of receipt, so this nomination likely be decided sometime in October.

SCNA seeks new executive director

With the departure of long-time SCNA Executive Director Terri Shettle, the search is on for her replacement. Her shoes will be hard to fill, but in the more than 40 years of the Sierra 2 Center and SCNA, the organization has always benefitted from a committed and capable executive director.

The Sierra 2 Center for the Arts hosts hundreds of theater performances, dance and enrichment classes of all types, weddings, special-occasion celebrations and SCNA's own events, such as the Wine Tasting and the Home & Garden Tour, throughout the year. The 100-year-old building housing Sierra 2 requires ongoing maintenance as well as staff management and oversight of activities and classes within the building. In addition, SCNA is a unique neighborhood association with wide-ranging committees, special events and the *Viewpoint* newspaper distributed to 2,500 households 10 months of the year.

To continue SCNA's vital work for the Curtis

Park neighborhood and for the Sierra 2 Center, the SCNA Board of Directors is looking for a dynamic individual to match the multi-faceted undertakings of our association. Strong leadership and excellent customer-service skills are essential. Good management skills and the ability to establish a productive and comfortable working environment are also vital. Of paramount importance is the ability to foster and maintain effective working relationships with the SCNA Board, its committees, SCNA employees and community groups, tenants and clients of the Sierra 2 Center.

The position requires a diverse set of skills, including facilities management, personnel administration, fundraising, event planning, SCNA Board support and acting as our community liaison. The position will remain open until a suitable replacement is found. For a full job description, email jobs@sierra2.org.

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Support needed for efforts to help refugees

Food, household goods, housing among asks

By Judy Green Scheible

As refugees continue to pour into Sacramento, the need for food, household goods, housing and other support continues. Several Sacramento nonprofits are scrambling every day to fill these needs with the help of generous neighbors.

“Our biggest need is storage,” said volunteer Kathleen Babin of Portola Way. “When the Food Bank left Oak Park, we lost our warehouse. Now

we’re using our garages. But they are getting stressed.

“We also need trucks and drivers to move furniture and household goods to our refugees in apartments all over town.”

A steady demand for beds (queen and twin), blankets, towels, linens, pots with lids, utensils, silverware, plates, etc. continues. All goods must be clean and in good shape.

Among the nonprofit agencies helping with resettlement are NorCal Resist, Opening Doors, International

Rescue Committee (IRC), Lao Family Community Development and B’nai Israel, which is part of the Hebrew International Aid Society.

Anyone interested in contributing to the effort to welcome our new residents may donate goods, labor or cash by contacting Curtis Park neighbors Judy Green Scheible at 916-917-6667 or jgscheible@hotmail.com, Kathleen Babin at 916-717-0514 or katjbabin@gmail.com or Glenda Higgins at 916-501-0501 or glenda.higgins@gmail.com.



Backyard bath welcomes hawk

This Cooper’s hawk made its home in a tree on Craig McCulloch’s 25th Street property then discovered it came with a bathtub.



Courtesy of the Foster family

Meet Colette Reese Foster

By Dorsey Griffith

Colette Reese Foster entered the world on May 22, two and a half weeks early but perfectly healthy at almost 20 inches long and 6.8 pounds. She is the daughter and first child of Lauren and Jack Foster of Eighth Avenue.

Lauren said the whole experience happened quickly and with relative ease.

“It was, ‘Monday morning, reporting for duty!’” she said.

The couple is smitten.

“We spend a lot of time looking at her,” said Jack. “She just started

smiling at us. She likes to look out the window and is starting to take in her surroundings more and more.”

Perhaps most surprising, he said, is that everything they do as a family, from trips to Tahoe to backyard gardening, they do through new eyes.

“Everything has new magic to it,” Lauren added.

They also are enjoying very regular visits by both sets of grandparents – Lauren’s from Land Park and Jack’s from the Bay Area.

“We really wanted to be parents, so this is really fun,” said Lauren. “We were ready for this.”

Sac Open Studios 2023

Seven Curtis Park artists are opening their studios Sept. 9 and 10 during the first weekend of this year’s Sac Open Studios tour, the region’s largest such art event. The annual tour runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and features about 260 artists over two weekends.

The studios open in Curtis Park include:

- Cassy Moore, mixed media, 2417 Castro Way, #11
- Cara Gregory, jewelry, mixed media and painting, 2344 Portola Way
- Thomas Fillebrown, painting, 2981 Franklin Blvd.
- Sandy Whetstone, ceramics, Triple Exposure Studios, 2998 Franklin Blvd.
- Diana Sunseri, painting, art altars and political collages, 2514 Montgomery Way



- Antonia Price, sculpture and textiles, 3622 W. Curtis Dr.
 - Jean Wiley Art, painting, 2707 Coleman Way
- Previews of their works are available here: sacopenstudios.com/directory

Congratulations to our CURTIS PARK GRADUATES



Mewton family graduates

Shannon Mewton of Franklin Blvd. graduated from CSU Sacramento in May with a BA in English (magna cum laude). Her focus is on publishing and teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL).

Neil Mewton (Paul and Shannon Mewton of Franklin Blvd.) graduated from CSU Long Beach in May with a BA in Anthropology (cum laude). Their focus is on cultural resource management and ethnographic research.



Workers prepare area behind Bret Harte's student resource center along Franklin Boulevard on Aug. 8.

New outdoor spaces await Bret Harte students

The Sacramento City Unified School District is completing summer improvement projects at several school sites ranging from basic items, such as updating clock and announcement systems, to more complex campus-wide enhancements to outdoor spaces. Toward the end of the last school year, the Bret Harte community learned the school was on the list of sites for major improvements. Work began as soon as the school year ended in mid-June, and daily activity continued throughout the summer. Construction crews could be seen repaving the driveway and parking lot on the west side of the school, preparing for new asphalt in the outdoor playground area and pouring new concrete at the front entrance.

“Once everything is done, we will have replaced concrete, asphalt, improved draining and irrigation, and [built] new playgrounds,” said Principal Roxanne Wolfe. A large shade structure over the picnic tables will also allow students to enjoy lunch outside. The construction projects were made possible by Measure



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GOTHARD
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H and allowed the district to bring outdoor spaces up to code and improve ADA pathways, among other improvements.

The significant amount of work on the Bret Harte campus means that it may not be completed before the beginning of the school year. The school has a plan for that.

“I am confident that we will be able to return and have some areas for students to play,” said Wolfe. “We may have to deal with clean-up, but the district has been very supportive and has assured me they have a plan to help us welcome students back.”

In addition to the updated outdoor spaces, staff have been busy planning for the new school year. Wolfe shared a few goals she has for the incoming classes of students.

She said they plan to improve instructional practices with additional staff training on learning standards and will continue to support students’ needs by providing teachers with the tools and support to ensure every child excels.

She also shared that she plans to increase the number of community events and give neighbors more opportunities to check out the school, all of which support her long-term goal of making Bret Harte a destination school for Curtis Park families.

Wolfe also has been working on a professional development plan for the new school year.

“Teachers will have ongoing training in classroom instruction, analyzing student data and lesson planning,” said Wolfe. The Sacramento County Office of Education also is providing professional development support in mathematics. She hopes to extend library hours so students have more opportunities to explore reading.

The school will host the annual New Parent Orientation on Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 4 p.m., followed immediately by an Ice Cream Social from 4:30 to 6 p.m. for all families and students. This will be an opportunity for students and families to see their classrooms, meet their teachers and catch up with friends. The school also will host Back to School Night on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 5 p.m.



Parking lot area undergoing renovations on Aug. 15

Photos by Anne da Vigo

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