

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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December 2023

SCNA Board selects new Sierra 2 executive director

By Dorsey Griffith

Kent Anderson, 41, has been selected by the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) board to be the new executive director at Sierra 2 Center for Arts and Community.

Anderson replaces Terri Shettle, who resigned in September after 14 years at the helm of the center. Anderson is a Sacramento native with 20 years of experience in non-profit organizations, including 10 years of executive director experience.

Anderson was selected by an SCNA interview committee among six finalists from an initial field of some 60 applicants and approved unanimously by the full SCNA board on Nov. 1. His first day on the job was Nov. 6.

"We developed an extensive job

description, and Kent met nearly all of the qualifications we were looking for," said SCNA board member Kathy Les, who was on the interview committee. "In addition, he is extremely professional and has experience working with a sizable board and staff in the context of a nonprofit whose dealings are with the public and a specific community."

Most recently, Anderson served as executive director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael, which is operated by the American River Natural History Association on land owned by Sacramento County. The ownership and management structure of Effie Yeaw is like that of Sierra 2, which sits on city property but is managed by the SCNA.

"I have an understanding of that dynamic and what is required to make it a benefit for all," Anderson

said in an interview. "This contributes to my ability to help lead the center to a bright and vibrant future."

Les said the SCNA board was especially impressed with Anderson's fiscal management of Effie Yeaw during the COVID pandemic, keeping the center running and staff employed while dealing with steep revenue losses.

"There was a strong parallel to how Terri Shettle managed Sierra 2 during the pandemic," she said. "Both were fiscally prudent yet sensitive to the financial needs of staff, and both took advantage of government grants designed to help nonprofits from sliding too far."

John Bailey, who also served on the interview committee, added: "During the interview process Kent



See Director, Page 4 Sierra 2 Executive Director Kent Anderson

Photo by Heather Hogan

Sign up now for Light Up Curtis Park

Untangle the lights and spruce up your outdoor space to dazzle nighttime passersby and neighbors for the third annual Light Up Curtis Park!

Here's how you can get involved:

Decorate your front yard, porch, windows, roof, bikes or pets with festive lights and creative displays.

Register your space for the People's Choice competition using the form at Sierra2.org/LightUp23. Registration closes Dec. 15.

Walk, bike or drive through the neighborhood enjoying your neighbors' creations.

Vote for your favorite decorated spaces online Dec. 16 through Dec. 31.

Winners will be announced on Jan. 4 and will be awarded gift cards donated by local businesses.

— Heather Hogan



100th birthday of Sierra School building celebration Dec. 5

Annual Membership Meeting follows

Join the SCNA board of directors and local officials from 6-6:30 p.m. on Dec. 5 to celebrate 100 years of the Sierra School building, home of SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center. The event will include brief speeches, a presentation of a mosaic plaque and a birthday cake served to attendees. Assemblymember Kevin McCarty and City Historic Preservation Officer Sean DeCourcy are scheduled to attend.

Immediately following the celebration, SCNA will host its annual membership meeting in Curtis Hall.

The SCNA Membership Meeting will include board elections, a review of SCNA's financial status and a recap of significant SCNA accomplishments in 2023. You must be a SCNA member to attend the meeting and vote. To join SCNA, visit www.sierra2.org.

Angel Tree
Annual Angel Tree is trimmed with tags for your choosing



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Bread
Meet the neighbors who are raising the bar on home-baked bread



Page 11

Correction:

The story about the On Broadway affordable housing project (*Viewpoint*, Nov. 2023) contained an income qualification error as relayed by the project developer. The story should have said "60% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for a family of four in Sacramento is \$64,320," not \$85,750 as stated in the article. In addition, families and individuals earning between 30% and 60% of the AMI will qualify for the majority of the apartment units.

Nominating Committee announces names of 2024 board candidates

The SCNA bylaws require that an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee present a slate of prospective board candidates to the board one month before the annual membership meeting (Art. IV. Sec. 4.A.). The committee of board members was formed in July and included Lily Harris, Jack Foster, Shannon Motley, Bruce Pierini and Kathy Les. The committee ultimately identified five incumbents who wish to run again and other individuals in the neighborhood who might be willing to serve.

The committee ran a piece in the October *Viewpoint* soliciting interested neighbors for the board. Committee members responded to those who ex-

pressed interest with informal interviews, and all were invited to an informational mixer held by the committee at Sierra 2 on Oct. 15. The mixer was well attended. Committee members provided background on the SCNA, the various committees that make up the board and members' personal perspectives on what it means to serve. The committee fielded questions from those attending. After the mixer, the committee followed up with the individuals who attended to determine whether they were interested in serving on the board.

At the November SCNA Board meeting, the committee presented the names of neighbors who committed to run for the 2024 board:

- (Incumbents) John Bailey, Kathy Les, Bill French, Gerre Buehler and Andrea Rosen

- (New candidates) David Enos, Dick Weng, Karl Saddlemire, Noah Bench, Kinsley Earl, Dave Gonsalves, Alysse Macaluso and Ryan Marenger

Names of those listed above will constitute the ballot presented at the Dec. 5 membership meeting. SCNA bylaws limit the number of board members to 23.

In addition, the bylaws provide that additional nominations may be made by any resident member at the membership meeting when the election is held on Dec. 5 as per Art. IV. Sec. 4.B.

— Mimi Budd

SCNA Board Candidate Statements

Richard "Dick" Weng of 27th Street

My wife and I moved to Curtis Park two years ago and had our first child here. As I watch my son and other children play at the Sierra 2 playground, I feel the urge to contribute to this thriving neighborhood. I've decided to throw my hat into the ring, running for a spot on the SCNA Board to help contribute to this neighborhood however I can. I have a professional background in construction and land development. I hope to bring my knowledge and expertise to benefit the board and the neighborhood!

Gerry Buehler of 4th Avenue (Incumbent)

I've lived in Curtis Park for 38 years, and during that time I've been a member of the SCNA board for several terms, participated on the Wine Tasting and Home & Garden Tour Committees and contributed articles to the *Viewpoint*. I've also been in charge of *Viewpoint* distribution since 1987. I'm running for the SCNA board to represent the interests of my neighbors and to support their desire to live in a community that encourages their active participation. I would like to work on projects to enrich our neighborhood by increasing membership and volunteers. I'm also very interested in our project to convert Sierra 2 to an all-electric building.

Noah Soliday Bench of Marshall Way

As a board member, I want to give back to this wonderful community. I want to ensure the continued success of the Sierra 2 Center, bring back neighborhood events like the Easter Egg Hunt and Wine Tasting, work with the city on traffic and land use, and assist the board and *Viewpoint*

with digital record keeping and information access. My wife and I moved to Marshall Way in 2019 where we now reside with our two daughters. We adore SCNA events, and we're at the Sierra 2 Center or Green almost every day. My career as a tools engineer is one of constant learning, coordinating diverse groups, weighing priorities, building consensus and solving complex problems. I know my skills and experience will be an asset to the board and our neighborhood.

Karl Saddlemire of Highland Avenue

I have been a Curtis Park resident for seven years. On Highland Avenue, my wife and I are raising our two young sons – one broadly obsessed with dinosaurs, the other an unapologetic triceratops specialist. By day, I work as an attorney handling criminal appeals and capital post-conviction cases for the Federal Defender's Office. I am running for the board to support the many family-friendly activities championed by SCNA, such as Music in the Park, the Easter Egg Hunt and Home & Garden Tour. I would like to serve on the neighborhood concerns and ad hoc racial justice committees to ensure that everyone's voice is heard in conversations about improving Curtis Park. I hope to bring my love of Victorian serialized fiction to future editorial work for the *Viewpoint*.

David Enos of 25th Street

My wife and I bought our home in Curtis Park almost 20 years ago. We had two young children at the time and welcomed our third child during the first year we moved in, after several months of renovation work. I enjoyed raising our three children here and will welcome a bit more free time once our

son finishes his senior year. I have volunteered in youth sports for the past 15 years as a coach and board member for both Land Park Little League and Kennedy High School baseball, and I am now the head varsity baseball coach at Kennedy. I have owned Valley Sign Source for 27 years and moved my location to Curtis Park near Franklin and Fourth Avenue, operating there for 11 years before leaving for more space in West Sac. I love this neighborhood and acknowledge the importance of maintaining a strong neighborhood association to represent and hear the priorities of all residents. If elected, I would also like to ensure continued success of Sierra 2 operations and maintain long-tradition Curtis Park activities like Music in the Park, the Home & Garden Tour and youth sports.

Andrea Rosen of Portola Way (Incumbent)

I have lived in Curtis Park since 1979 and raised my two (now adult) children here, too. They loved the activities put on by our beloved association. I was recruited to the board quite early on and have had the privilege of serving for the better part of the last 40 years (yes, I am that old.) I have worked on dozens of SCNA projects over the years. I have a lot of history with this organization and am very dedicated to the betterment of our neighborhood and Sierra 2. I am so excited to continue to meet the many young people who are moving into and energizing our neighborhood. A high-functioning SCNA board means a lot to this neighborhood in so many ways, and I aim to help it continue to be one of the best neighborhood associations in the city. I would love to hear from you and would be humbled to receive your vote.

Bill French of E. Curtis Drive (Incumbent)

With a large number of board members retiring this year, I would like to add some continuity next year with a new term. The next few years will be very challenging but promising, with a new executive director and new lease for our aging Sierra 2 Center. I would like to contribute to our future as a board member.

Kinsley Earl of Sixth Avenue

My family and I moved into Curtis Park in 2019. As a Sacramento native, I am excited to be raising my child in this unique and thriving neighborhood. My professional background is in account management and marketing. I have a variety of volunteer experiences in my background as well – such as coaching youth soccer, event planning for schools and tutoring. I am running for the SCNA board because I want to give back to this neighborhood that so warmly welcomed my family. I want to help preserve the unique character of Curtis Park and continue to build on its legacy of community and active participation.

Ryan Marenger of Eighth Avenue

As a new member of the neighborhood, I have been thrilled by the level of community engagement I have seen in the past year. In my professional capacity as a nonprofit finance and accounting consultant, I've had the opportunity to work with and participate in the operation of a large number of organizations. I would use my professional experience to help SCNA make sensible decisions that serve and enrich the neighborhood, while at the same time fostering equity and inclusion, increased community engagement and ongoing financial stability.

See Statements, Page 3

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your board president

Following an extensive and thorough process, I am very happy to report that SCNA has a new executive director. Kent Anderson was introduced to and approved for hire by the board at the November board meeting. Kent spent November adjusting to new surroundings and preparing for the upcoming Annual General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 5. You can learn more about him on the front page of this issue of *Viewpoint*. Please join us in welcoming him.

Pursuant to our SCNA bylaws, the Ad Hoc Nominations Committee presented its slate of prospective directors to the board at the November board meeting. Those names will appear on the December 5 ballot. The bylaws also provide that "...additional nominations may be made by any Resident member at the membership meeting..."

Board service is a serious commitment and carries with it a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the Sierra 2 Center

BILL HOOVER SCNA Board President



and SCNA. The Ad Hoc Nominations Committee selections were made with those factors in mind.

At this point, it is worth reflecting on the purpose of SCNA's existence as stated in our 1980 Articles of Incorporation (Art. II D.):

"D. The specific purposes of this corporation are to:

- Promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Sierra Curtis neighborhood in Sacramento, California;
- Promote the educational, community and recreational uses of the Sierra School and its grounds;
- Promote and foster good racial and

community relations in the Sierra Curtis neighborhood;

- Sponsor and encourage educational, community and recreational programs through public and private funding in the Sierra Curtis neighborhood of Sacramento."

Our bylaws reinforce these purposes and emphasize that SCNA "...operates the [Sierra 2 Center]... for these purposes."

On a different note, the Dec. 5 Annual General Membership Meeting will be my last, as my second term expires Dec. 31. I do not plan to run again, so this is my final President's Message for *Viewpoint*.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve SCNA and the Curtis Park neighborhood as board president these past four years (and previously in the late 80s). The challenges faced by the last two boards have been many, and they required a dedicated commitment to successfully meet them.

Saving Sierra 2 Center for the second

time in its 100-year history has been perhaps our greatest challenge but certainly one of the most rewarding. The board also was faced with replacing *Viewpoint's* two longtime senior editors (Carol Blackman and Dennis Cusick) who retired. We welcomed Dorsey Griffith as the new Executive Editor and Bonnie Rodriguez as our Graphics Editor without missing an issue. Most recently, after Terri Shettle resigned after 14 years, the board was successful in finding her replacement. The Crocker Village gas station rehearing also was resolved successfully. Throughout it all, the focus on trying to solve problems has been to do what is best for the Curtis Park community as a whole.

These successes could not have been accomplished without the incredible work of many talented and dedicated board members. I am especially thankful and appreciative of their efforts. Thankfully, many of them wish to continue their board service and deserve your support.

Statements

Continued from page 2

Kathy Les of Portola Way (Incumbent)

It's my strong belief that life in Curtis Park is enriched by our strong neighborhood association and the crown jewel of our neighborhood – the Sierra 2 Center. Together these two assets make Curtis Park one of the most desirable neighborhoods to live in the city. Over my 30 years living and raising a family in Curtis Park, I have served as a SCNA board member, executive director of SCNA and *Viewpoint* editor. On the board, I have served on many committees, including the Development Committee, which under my leadership raised more than \$150,000 during the Covid years when the Sierra 2 Center lost revenue during the temporary closure. Right now SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center are at a key transition point as we onboard a new executive director and the neighborhood comes together around the future of the Sierra 2 Green. As a current and future board member, I will bring stability and continuity to the association. In my role as a board member I will advocate for the whole neighborhood, our quality of life as residents of Curtis Park and for the continued viability of the Sierra 2 Center.

David Gonsalves of Highland Avenue

My partner and I moved to the neighborhood in 2009. She has lived in the neighborhood starting in 1971, and her mom still lives here. We love Curtis Park and want to continue working to improve the neighborhood. I would like to work to enhance the Sierra 2 community center. When I was on the board from 2010-2014, we upgraded the patio outside of

Curtis Hall. We also improved the walkway on the north side of the main building. I would also like to help restart the wonderful events that helped make living in Curtis Park such a wonderful experience. There is still much to do, and I would like to be a part of that effort. I hope you will consider voting for me.

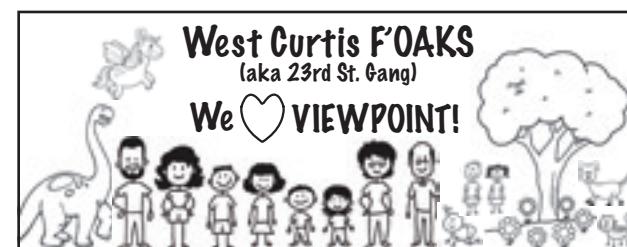
John Bailey of Coleman Way (Incumbent)

I am a retired CPA and chief financial officer. I have served as SCNA treasurer for the last four years, as well as during much of the 1980s and 1990s. I have also served as treasurer for other local nonprofits. Revenue shortfalls due to Covid-19 lockdowns threatened SCNA's existence. With incredible support from neighbors, SCNA survived, but it remains in a weak financial position. During Covid, SCNA was unable to add to the savings account dedicated to funding building maintenance, which now barely covers three years of such costs and must be strengthened to a minimum of five years, because repairs to an old building frequently occur on an emergency basis and the funds must be in possession at that time. Operating funds need to be strengthened as well. After decades of professional experience in shepherding large for-profit and nonprofit organizations, I believe I bring the needed expertise to guide SCNA back to a fiscally responsible position, and I ask for your vote.

Alysse Macaluso of Curtis Way

My name is Alysse Macaluso, and I moved to Curtis Park in 2022. I took a step away from my corporate career to be a stay-at-home mom when our son was born. As I reflect on the changes in my life over the last few years and decide what's next for me, I realize that it is important for my family to see me do things I am passionate about outside of the home. I want to make a positive difference in our community and

dedicate my extra time to continue the efforts that make this neighborhood the thriving, inclusive and vibrant community that it is! I am passionate about community engagement and finding new ways for people to connect. As a new mom, I believe there is an opportunity to coordinate more family-oriented events so that children of all ages and families can come together. Sierra 2 Center has also been a great resource for my family, and I love the building and everything it offers to our local community. I will be committed to listening to your ideas and concerns and advocating for changes that you want to see. I hope you will vote for me!



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WHAT'S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

Political button show at Sierra 2 pins down history

The annual political button show by the American Political Items Collectors (APIC) comes to Curtis Hall at Sierra 2 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9. Fans of American history, button collectors and pop culture aficionados can peruse the more than 15 tables of memorabilia available for sale.

Visitors will find hundreds of political campaign buttons, posters, advertising pinbacks, women's suffrage, protest and social justice cause-related items, as well as pop culture material. They also can get free expert appraisals of political items, bid in live auctions and see displays of political Americana.

Admission is \$3. Children and students are free, and first-time attendees will receive free buttons.

The American Political Items Collectors is a non-profit hobbyist organization dedicated to the study



and preservation of material relating to America's political heritage. Its members range from students to stockbrokers, history teachers, political scientists, elected officials and armchair historians.

— Submitted by Adam Gottlieb, APIC Northern California chapter president

Sacramento Write for Rights comes to Sierra 2

One letter can change a mind. A hundred letters can save a life.

Write for Rights Sacramento will hold a letter-writing event at Sierra 2 Center from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Dec. 9. The event, which takes place during Human Rights Week, is part of Amnesty International's global campaign to defend human rights and human dignity.

Write for Rights Sacramento will provide materials

and instructions for participants to write, email or post messages to advocate for those around the world who have been harmed or jailed for their beliefs. Cocoa, tea, coffee and snacks will be available for everyone who drops in to write.

The event, at 2791 24th Street, is sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Amnesty International.

— Diane Rosenblum

Director

Continued from page 1

provided compelling accounts of successfully dealing with many of the same issues we deal with at SCNA and Sierra 2. He has a proven track record in meeting the challenges of facility maintenance, volunteer engagement, grant writing and fundraising, board development and financial management."

As Sierra 2 executive director, Anderson will oversee the historic 400,000-square-foot Sierra 2 facility, manage the center staff and develop programs and events, including fundraising activities. He will interact with the SCNA

board, as well as facility tenants and members of the community who use the facility. Sierra 2 is home to a 296-seat theater, three dance studios, a senior center, banquet hall, garden room with a courtyard, five general spaces and 12 rooms that are rented.

"Most community amenities are either owned and operated by a government agency or by a nonprofit, but not necessarily a neighborhood association with a very specific mission," Anderson said. "Sierra 2 helps fulfill that mission. They are two complimentary sides of an organization rather than one entity. A lot has to happen to keep the organization functioning well."

Anderson and his partner, as well as their three dachshunds, live in Oak Park and frequently walk through and around Curtis Park, where they enjoy the lively activity, trees and historical architecture, as well as some of the theatrical and musical productions offered at Sierra 2's 24th Street Theater. He said he is struck by the strong sense of community in Curtis Park.

"There are lots of great neighborhoods in Sacramento, but Curtis Park really stands out as a real neighborhood, and that's because of the work of the SCNA and the presence of Sierra 2," he said. "I am drawn to organizations like Sierra 2 and the SCNA because of the great work and reputation they have and being involved in something meaningful."

Anderson grew up in Roseville but attended Christian Brothers High School in Oak Park. He later attended Sierra College and Chico State and recently obtained his MBA at Sacramento State University.



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Flavor of the Month in December:

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Trees in Curtis Park

Young trees need structural pruning for a long life

By Dan Pskowski

A landscape with mature, long-lived trees is most easily achieved by proper structural pruning in the first 10 years of a tree's life. Home-owners or their gardeners prune these young trees because it can be done standing on the ground. But often they are not trained in how to correct structural defects, which, if not addressed, can cause limb failures and possible tree removal as the tree matures.

The objective of structural pruning is to develop a strong trunk and branch structure to support the crown. Properly pruning young trees has many benefits. It promotes longevity and the environmental, ecological and social benefits that trees provide. It reduces branch failure, which decreases the risk of injury to people or property damage. It also lowers future maintenance costs. During my career as an arborist, I pruned mature trees making large cuts that were detrimental to the tree's health. This was required to reduce weight and manage structural issues that were not properly addressed when the tree was young. I have also seen 10- to 20-year-old trees split apart. During Sacramento's winter storms, trees with poor structure are usually the first to fail.

When should you structurally prune your young deciduous tree? Winter is the best time for deciduous trees since the leaves have fallen and it's easier to

see the branch structure. Tools required are a bypass hand pruner, pruning saw, bypass lopper and a pole saw with a lopper attachment. If you must get on a ladder, then the tree is too large for you to prune. Do not work near power lines.

Since structural pruning is done annually you will be making just a few cuts. Never remove more than 10% to 20% of the live branches. Start off with the removal of any dead, broken or crossing branches. Remove any water sprouts or suckers at the base of the tree. Select a single, central trunk and remove or shorten any competing or upright leaders. Do not allow multiple branches to grow from the same origin.

For more guidance, visit the Sacramento Tree Foundation web page at sactree.org. They have excellent graphics and YouTube videos on pruning young trees and how to make proper cuts. Plus, they are offering a free hands-on Young Shade Tree Pruning workshop from 9-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 in Rancho Cordova. Check out the organization's events webpage or call 916-924-8733 to register for this class.

Fruit trees have different and unique pruning requirements. Check out the Sacramento County Cooperative Extension home page at sacmg.ucanr.edu or call the UC Master Gardener Help Desk at 916-876-5338 Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m.



Japanese Zelkova tree on West Curtis Drive with a split trunk
Photo by Dan Pskowski

Moonshine & Co Nail Bar coming to Curtis Park

By Susan MacCulloch

After months of permit, license and construction delays, a unique nail salon and cocktail bar will open in early February next door to Naked Coffee on 30th Street along the vibrant North Franklin Boulevard business corridor.

Founder and CEO Lien Glankler has been a hairstylist for 22 years. Many clients would ask about nail salon recommendations, but Glankler never had a suggestion.

"Hearing about all their frustrations with their nail services and wanting a better experience for myself, I thought 'Why don't I open it?'" said Glankler.

Curtis Park was always a top choice to locate her

business. While it took several years of seeking the ideal commercial space, "We were drawn to the quaint charm and sense of community that Curtis Park offers," said Glankler.

"We want our nail bar to be an integral part of the neighborhood and provide a personalized experience for our clients that complements the local ambiance."

Moonshine & Co will feature a high-quality nail bar using eco-friendly natural products. An event room on the premises is available for birthday parties, bridal showers, corporate events, craft parties and other gatherings.

The "bar" in the business name is a cocktail bar open during business hours. "Each drink is carefully curated with specific ingredients designed to evoke

distinct emotions and sensations," Glankler said. Depending on final details, Glankler plans a soft opening for friends, family and the Curtis Park community by the new year and the salon's grand opening by Valentine's Day. For more info, visit @Moonshineco on Instagram and Facebook.

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Curtis Park Craftsman Cottage!

2125 Portola Way

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March 2024

Herbal
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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
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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
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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
Class schedules:
tworiversdancecenter.com/ and rivercitytaps.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

OTHER
City Life Church
Sunday worship service, 10 a.m.
Room 10
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LEISURE
Book Club
2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 12

Dec. 11 – “The Midnight Library,” Matt Haig
Jan. 8 – “When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit (A Trilogy),” Judith Kerr

Nonfiction Book Club
3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon
Room 12

Dec. 21 – “The Last Slave Ship: The True Story,” Ben Raines
Jan. 18 – “Sacramento Renaissance: Art, Music and Activism,” William Burg

Life History Writing
Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

Open Art Studio
Bring your art or craft project to work on while socializing.
Fridays, noon-3 p.m. Room 11

CARDS & GAMES
Pinochle
Fridays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

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

Fun Bridge (Contract)
Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

Women's Friendship Group
Meet new friends and discover new hobbies. 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11

EDUCATION
My Story Project
2nd Monday, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

FITNESS
Gentle Yoga
Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-noon Studio 3
Pat Shaw, 916-856-0136

SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

Punch cards \$80/10 classes;
\$45/5 classes or \$10 drop-in
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TAI CHI CHUAN
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1

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

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

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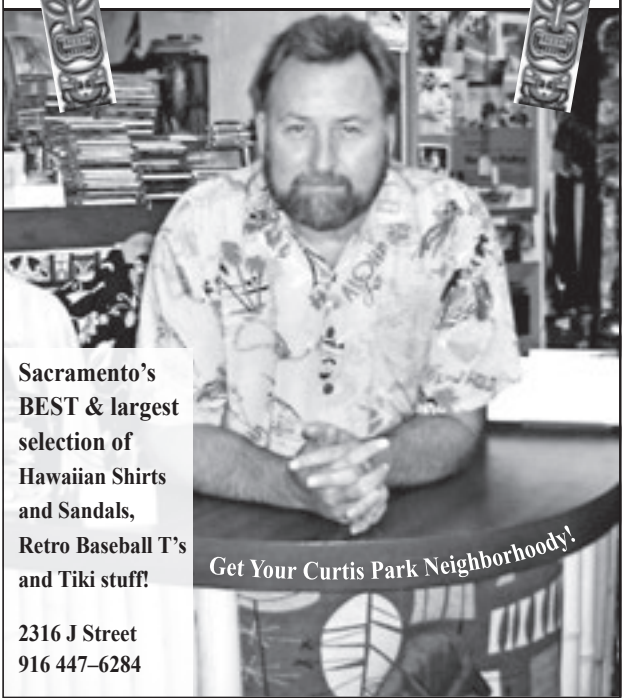


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HOLIDAY HIGH TEA
Sunday, Dec. 3
SOLD OUT!

INTRO TO DRAWING CLASSES
Saturday, Dec. 9: A Red Cardinal
Saturday, Jan. 13: Mandalas
10:00 a.m.-noon
\$30 per class

In December, we will recreate the beautiful red cardinal, which symbolizes passion, creativity and hope. In January, we will use the creative power of a mandala to set our intentions for 2024. We wish that everyone enjoys health, kindness, peace and abundance. We will explore the principles of symmetry, precision and color balance. Completed pictures can be framed and hung or given as

a gift. Local artist and teacher Marie Taylor offers step-by-step instruction in a relaxed and welcoming environment for ages 16 and up. This class is ideal for beginners or those wishing to practice their drawing skills.

WINTRY WOODS PRINTMAKING
Sunday, Dec. 10
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
\$40

Reflect on the change of season by examining fallen leaves to admire their complex structure and natural beauty. Students can ink up fallen leaves and hand press them into their print block, then carve the leaf's image as a permanent stamp or choose from woodsy designs like birch trees, pines, and trees with bare branches to create your custom stamp.

Printmaking designs, materials, tea, hot cocoa and cookies will be provided. You're welcome to bring other snacks and drinks (beer and wine OK; no cocktails please).

HERBAL CLASSES
Thursday, Dec. 14: Remedies
Thursday, Jan. 18: Herbs for Detox
6-8 p.m.
\$40 per class

Join Herbalist Toni Riehle for hands-on herbal workshops designed to help you stay healthy during the holiday and cold and flu seasons. In the December gathering, you'll learn the art of crafting two herbal remedies – Elderberry Syrup and Fire Cider. These traditional herbal preparations have been trusted for generations to boost the immune system and combat common winter ailments. In January, you'll learn how to get rid of toxins quickly and safely with your own homemade herbal detox.

VIBRANT EXPRESSIONS PAINTING
Thursday, Jan. 11
Monthly: 2nd Thursdays
6-7:30 p.m.
\$35 per class
Paint Kit optional: \$25

This exciting new class will explore our intuitive personal connections with the colors of the rainbow. It is not a typical color theory and mixing class. This class is an artistic adventure to be immersed in the emotional and cultural dimensions of color, discovering the unique ways in which each hue can evoke feelings and tell stories for you.

THE BASICS OF DRAWING SERIES
Jan. 14, 21, 28 and
Feb. 4, 11, 18
Sundays, 1-2:30 p.m.
\$75/month
A good drawing is the foundation for art in any media. Using the humble

pencil, you'll learn the basic elements of drawing such as form, dimension, shading, perspective and more. The in-class drawing will be supplemented by optional homework and instructional videos. By the end of this course you will have drawn a variety of subjects including animals, flowers, landscapes and still lifes. Local artist and teacher Marie Taylor is the instructor.

FAMILY PHOTO BOOKS
Thursday, Jan. 18
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
\$45


Have you ever wanted to preserve your family memories by creating a photo book, featuring children growing up, weddings, vacations, holidays, travel, or other significant events? Join Judy Bujold, professional digital photo manager, to learn the various options involved in creating Photobooks. This course will take you from not knowing how to start, to having a photobook in your hands. Bring a laptop and some photos in a folder on your laptop or flash drive, with a plan to start a photo book.

ABSTRACT INTUITIVE PAINTING
Saturday, Jan. 24
10 a.m.-Noon
\$30 class fee
\$25 optional art kit
In this engaging and immersive painting class, participants can explore the wonderful world of art, where the focus is not solely on the result, but rather on the joy and fulfillment found in the creative process itself. Whether you are a novice or an experienced artist, this class welcomes individuals from all levels of painting expertise.

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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LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

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THE SIDE DOOR

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All shows 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$20-\$30.
Advance tickets
available.



Friday, Dec. 1:

Hot Roux, Louisiana blues meets swampy rock 'n' roll

Saturday, Dec. 2:

Richie Lawrence & Katie Thomas, Americana eclectic husband/wife duo

Friday, Dec. 8: Richard Smith, British, now Nashville, roots music guitar man

Saturday, Dec. 9: Vivian Lee, elegant jazz and standards singer

Friday, Dec. 15: Jessica Malone, NorCal's sweet songbird; breezy, confessional folk-rock

Saturday, Dec. 16: Lee Bob (with band) & BellyGunner (Gabe Nelson's band), prolific pop/folk/rock singer/songwriters. Think modern-day McCartney & Lennon

Saturday, Dec. 23: "Side Door Xmas Eve Special," five top-notch singer-songwriter friends with all the emotions of "holiday spirit." David Houston, Kepi Ghoulie, Jonah Matranga, Allyson & Kevin Seconds

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Tuesdays: "Dead Night" with Dick's Picks, Dave's Picks and unreleased. 5:30-9 p.m.

Thursdays: Black Yacht Club presents "The Acoustic Circus," 1st Thursday, 7-9 p.m.

"On the 2 & the 4," Jazz with Kent Lacin & Two Rivers Trio," 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6-9 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

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24th Street Theatre
EST. 1929

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Shows:

Dec 7: 7-9 p.m.

Dec 8: 7-9 p.m.

Dec 9: 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Dec 10: 1-3 p.m.

Dec 14: 7-9 p.m.

Dec 15: 7-9 p.m.

Dec 16: 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Dec 17: 1-3 p.m.

Prices: \$20-25

Tickets: [tix.com/ticket-sales/serving-heartsproductions/6996](https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/serving-heartsproductions/6996)

Box Office: 916-582-8613

James Snowbank and his family discover what Christmas is really all about while snowed in, forced to spend time around the family radio. During the snowstorm, radio host Thomas Watson is airing their Radio Show, but the snowstorm has caused some acts to cancel, leaving the small cast to pull the show together. The Radio Show performs its yearly Charity Broadcast dedicated to the city's orphanage. The show features a story hour, jingles, commercial segments, charity spots, special guests and weather updates. As the Snowbank family is glued to the show, their relationships develop, and they learn the true meaning of Christmas.

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location: Sierra 2 Center

two rivers dance center

HOME OF RIVER CITY TAPS

It's time to pick up your Angel Tree tag

For the eighth year, the Sierra 2 Center staffers have volunteered to host an Angel Tree to solicit holiday gifts for underserved children. The tree is in the center's lobby with gift wish tags, placed on the tree on Nov. 15.

The staff are thankful for those who have come to the Sierra 2 Center to pick out an angel tag this year and in years past. We hope that more neighbors come by the center, find the perfect tag and bring the purchased gifts to the main office by Dec. 13. All gifts will depart Sierra 2 on Dec. 14 via a Salvation Army truck. Participants who can't make the deadline should take their angel gifts directly to Cal Expo by Dec. 16.

Please remember to enter the tag information and your information on the sign-out log, located on the podium next to the tree. The bags are on the shelf below. Grab one bag for each angel tag. Please also take a copy of the program instructions and deadlines. When you return your gifts to the Sierra 2 Main Office, bring the bottom portion of the Angel Tree tag and tape it to one item. When your gift is turned in, Stacy Gray will ensure the Angel Tree spreadsheet is updated and every angel is accounted for.

The Sierra 2 staff appreciates your participation. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday. If you drop off your gift when the office is closed, please call our facility staff. (Do not leave your gifts under the tree or in the hallways.)

For any questions, contact Stacy Gray in the Sierra 2 Center office: 916-452-3005 x200 or email her at stacy@sierra2.org.

— Stacy Gray



This year's Angel Tree is laden with gift wish tags

Photo by Stacy Gray

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location: sierra 2 center



RIVER CITY TAPS

No movement on Sierra 2 dog park plan

By Jim Miller

Prospects for a city-sanctioned dog park in Curtis Park remain much as they've been for months, at least publicly.

As of mid-November, the city website with dog park-related information had not been updated since a July 2023 open house at the Sierra 2 Center to gather feedback on city dog park options.

The city's dog park action plan includes a second city-sponsored open house this fall. No such event has been scheduled.

Representatives of the city parks department and Councilman Rick Jennings' office say work on the issue has continued, and additional information will be released soon. There were no new developments as of *Viewpoint* press time.

Meanwhile, the temporary dog park in the southwest corner of the Sierra 2 Green – a central part of the action plan released in March – has been shuttered since mid-October. A sign on the park's gate said it would be closed until further notice.

Parks Department spokeswoman Gabby Miller said the city closed the park Oct. 18 following reports of pieces of glass on the ground. City parks staff have yet to finish needed maintenance work because of weather-related delays, she said.

The temporary park's opening last spring followed months of growing disagreement over the number of unleashed dogs at the Sierra 2 Green.

Sacramento has 14 city-sanctioned dog parks, which officials say is too few to meet demand in the city of 528,000.

During the pandemic, Sierra 2 became a popular unofficial dog park, and people came from around the area to allow their dogs to run.

Dog owners and their supporters said there was little impact on the park or other park users. But critics said the dogs hurt other park users' experience and damaged the turf.

The city has issued one citation and five warnings to people for having unleashed dogs at the Sierra 2 Green, Miller said.

Days before the July open house, the city released concept plans for city-sanctioned dog parks at the Sierra 2 Green, Curtis Park, Land Park and Ray Eames Park in Crocker Village.

City officials said they would use residents' feedback from the open house to evaluate and revise the plans. Analysis of the feedback would help yield a priority site plan.

The sole city option for the Sierra 2 Green envisions converting the grass area, including the soccer field, into a dog park – one area for larger dogs, another for smaller dogs. Sierra 2's playground would remain.

At its Aug. 2 meeting, the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association board voted to oppose the city's Sierra 2 option. The motion's supporters said such a park would hinder operations of the adjacent Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and Community.

Area median home prices decline

By Dennis Cusick

The median home price in the 95818 ZIP code, which includes most of Curtis Park, declined 7% in the last year, according to a nationwide analysis of real estate data published recently by The Business Journals newspaper chain.

Three city neighborhoods ranked in what the study identified as the 25 most expensive in the Sacramento area: No. 21, East Sacramento's 95819, at \$722,400, down 5%; No. 23, Midtown's 95816, at \$711,800, down 6%; and No. 25, Curtis Park's 95818, at \$699,400.

The study attributed the declines in home prices primarily to increasing mortgage-interest rates.

In addition to most of Curtis Park, the 95818 ZIP code also includes parts of the Land Park, Southside Park and Newton Booth neighborhoods.

The study said the annual income needed to afford the median home in the 95818 ZIP code also declined, from \$196,500 in 2022, to \$181,100 this year.

The study considered the Sacramento area to include the counties of Sacramento, Yolo, Placer and El Dorado. The four most expensive ZIP codes in the area are all in Placer County – Homewood, Tahoe City, Granite Bay and Carnelian Bay. All have median home prices over \$1 million.

The study was based on data available Aug. 31, 2023, compared with Aug. 31, 2022.

In mid-November, 15 homes were for sale in Curtis Park, ranging in price from about \$430,000 on 26th Street to \$1.5 million on Montgomery Way, according to the Amen Realty website.

Erroneous Petrovich family plaque installed at Ray Eames Park

A brass plaque installed Nov. 16 at the Crocker Drive entrance of Petrovich Family Playfields, the flood basin portion of Ray Eames Park in Crocker Village, contains an erroneous reference to the Holocaust.

The city agreed last summer to the plaque's installation and naming of the playfields for the Petrovich family as part of the settlement of three lawsuits brought by Petrovich Development Co. regarding the City Council's votes in 2015 and 2022 to deny a permit for a gas station adjacent to the Safeway supermarket in Crocker Village.

The plaque is meant to honor developer Paul Petrovich's father, John "Pete" Petrovich. In part, the

plaque states that he had been "a recipient of the Bronze Star for his valiant leadership on the battlefields during World War II, which included landing on Normandy in France on D-Day, leading his troops to safety during the Battle of the Bulge through a treacherous mine field, and guiding his troops during the initial liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp in Poland."

The Dachau Concentration Camp was near Munich in Germany, not in Poland.

The plaque's wording is exactly as specified in attachment B of Petrovich's settlement agreement with the city.

Sacramento Parks Department spokeswoman Gabby Miller said in an email that the developer installed the plaque, and that city staff are working to replace it. No other details were provided.

In an email, Petrovich told *Viewpoint* that he alerted the plaque's manufacturer several months ago to the error in the plaque's language, but the error was not corrected.

Petrovich had sought to have the entire park named for his family, but the Sacramento City Council voted in 2019 to name it instead to honor internationally famous furniture designer Ray Eames, who grew up in Curtis Park.

Uptown Studios building for sale

Uptown Studios owner Tina Reynolds has listed the marketing and design firm's building at 2415 23rd St. for sale for \$1.5 million, the *Sacramento Business Journal* reported.

Reynolds started the firm in 1992 and moved into the renovated warehouse building south of X Street in late 2016.

Reynolds said on LinkedIn that her team has been working remotely since the start of COVID, so she no longer needs the building.

"We are going to miss our sweet space and hope it goes to a fantastic new business that will love her as much as we all have," Reynolds wrote.

The building, which dates to 1961, previously housed a glass sculpture gallery, a rental car company and an automotive air-conditioning company.

Listing agent Melissa Martinez with Lyon Real Estate told the *Business Journal* the building includes a kitchen, bathrooms, glass interior walls, glassed-off private offices, open studio space and an upstairs loft.

Viewpoint needs an advertising sales volunteer

Curtis Park residents support area businesses, and your community newspaper could benefit from their advertisements. If you can spend a few hours per month encouraging local businesses to advertise their goods and services in *Viewpoint*, please contact Executive Editor Dorsey Griffith at Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com.

— Viewpoint Staff

—Dennis Cusick

Winter donations needed to assist refugees

Now that the weather has turned cold and wet, neighbor volunteers helping refugees are asking for warm blankets and coats. There is also a great need for children's clothes for ages 3 to 10, especially shoes, pants and jackets.

Refugees are continuing to flow into Sacramento. They come from Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ukraine and other countries in crisis. In some cases, three families share small, temporary quarters. In others, a family has an apartment but little or no heat, warm bedding or even a bed.

Volunteers working through NorCal Resist have praised the generosity of our neighbors. People with beds (including bunk beds), linens, kitchen items, strollers and the other items mentioned above can contact Curtis Park neighbors Glenda Higgins 916-501-0502, (glenda.higgins@gmail.com) Kathleen Babin 916-717-0154, (katjbabin@gmail.com) or Judy Green Scheible 916-917-6667, (jgscheible@hotmail.com) for item pick up. Receipts from the nonprofit are available.

— Judy Green Scheible



Becca Blondin with parents George and Susan
Photo by Susan MacCulloch

51st wedding anniversary visit

Becca Blondin grew up on 26th Street and now lives in an off-the-grid village north of Seville where she runs a biodynamic skincare business (fromseed2skin.com). Blondin was home in November to help celebrate the 51st wedding anniversary of her parents, George and Susan. She is pictured here with them and samples of her body lotions, soaps, lip balms and moisturizers.

KIND NEIGHBORS

Not long ago, my husband Bill Patterson was filling dog-bag containers on the west side of Curtis Park when he lost his balance and fell backward onto the asphalt path with a bang. Fortunately, passing neighbors called 911 and me. They kept Bill from moving. Because he fell at a 90-degree angle across the jogging path and onto the asphalt, another neighbor moved their car to protect him from passing vehicles.

A Fourth Avenue neighbor drove me to the park. An ambulance transported Bill to the UC Davis Medical Center Emergency Department. Bill had sustained severe whiplash that he said was even worse than when he was skydiving in college. He is very grateful for caring neighbors. We do have a great neighborhood.

— Doris Brown, Fourth Avenue

Do you have a kind neighbor story you'd like to share in Viewpoint? Email Dorsey Griffith at Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com.

Board Notes

Board approves Kent Anderson as the new Sierra 2 Center executive director

The board approved Kent Anderson to be the new executive director of Sierra 2 by a unanimous vote of the 15 members present. Anderson started work Monday Nov. 6.

John Bailey reported that a search panel for the Personnel Committee consisting of himself, Kathy Les, Gerre Buehler and Valerie Burrows (Sierra 2 Facility Manager/Interim Executive Director) interviewed three finalists on Oct. 14. To ensure fairness, a standard list of questions was asked with time limitations for responses. All candidates were strong and capable, but Anderson most impressed all four committee members.

Anderson's experience as executive director with several nonprofits, most recently at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, seemed to parallel most closely the experiences, culture and environment at SCNA/Sierra 2. He has strong experience managing a comparable nonprofit and successfully ushered the Effie Yeaw Center through the COVID pandemic. He upgraded the technology and reconfigured the interior space in an aging building to

create a state-of-the-art museum. He managed a staff of 25, coordinated large-scale events and fundraisers, and wrote grants for an organization that utilized 300 volunteers. He also has experience negotiating a lease arrangement with a government agency. He provided concrete responses to questions asked by the search panel members relating to these experiences and achievements.

He toured the facility on Oct. 16 and had a positive experience meeting with staff. Reference checks were completed with very positive reviews.

After Bailey's presentation, board members asked Anderson questions about his work experiences and after Anderson left the room, the panel answered questions from board members. Following the Q&A, the vote was taken.

Nominating Committee Announces Names of Board Candidates

The SCNA bylaws require an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee to present a slate of prospective board members to the board one month before the annual membership meeting. The committee identified five incumbents and eight new candidates whose names will constitute the ballot

presented at the Dec. 5 membership meeting (See "SCNA Nominating Committee Announces Names of 2024 Board Candidates" in this issue of *Viewpoint*.)

Treasurer's Report

John Bailey reported that for the fiscal year, SCNA finished with a surplus of \$46,000, which was \$89,000 better than the budget. Sierra 2 yielded a profit of \$142,000, which was \$87,000 better than budget. SCNA department activities came to a net cost of \$47,000, which was \$6,000 better than the budget. The Senior Center hewed close to budget. Fundraising netted \$46,000; while less than budget, this is still a great success. Unrealized earnings on the portfolio came to \$15,000.

"Zero Carbon" Electrification Project Update

Facilities Committee Chair Gerre Buehler said that Hal Thomas reported that Villara Building Systems has not yet submitted the component of the Zero Carbon Project proposal that covers solar panels, backup batteries and a charging station but that they intend to submit it soon. The proposal for heat pumps, ducting and heat-pump water heating came in at

\$250,000. Thomas estimates the total project will cost around \$375,000. Buehler noted that Villara Building Systems is not necessarily the company that will do the work. Valerie Burrows provided all updates regarding operations at Sierra 2 as reflected in the Facilities Committee minutes.

Development Committee

Shannon Motley reported that plans for the 100th Year Commemoration of the establishment of Sierra 2 School are progressing. Lori Harder has asked that more neighbors consider donating their homes for the April 2024 home tour.

NCC Committee

Erik Fay announced that the city presented the Homeless Response Impact Team report at the Nov. 15 NCC meeting. Mimi Budd reported that the Racial Justice Committee will meet on Nov. 8 with guest Joe Flores, District 7 Parks Commissioner. Kathy Les reported for *Viewpoint* Committee. She commended Dorsey Griffith for her outstanding work as *Viewpoint* editor.

The next SCNA meeting will be the annual membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 5 in Curtis Hall.

— Submitted by Mimi Budd

Breaking bread with neighbors

By Patti Roberts

Two bakers in Curtis Park are sharing their beautiful bread loaves with neighbors. You can smell their freshly baked bread when you walk past their homes. The aromas entice neighbors and friends to try them.

Michelle Ojovan of Marshall Way offers hers twice a week for those who order ahead, while Kellie Gale of Montgomery Way bakes on weekends.

The two women have never met, but share many similarities: they are new to the neighborhood, began baking during the COVID lockdown and bring the flavors of their Eastern European roots to their breads.

Ojovan did not learn to bake while growing up in Moldova but has fond memories of the smells and tastes of her home country.

Gale also had little baking background but became obsessed during the COVID isolation and began trying to duplicate Eastern European flavors of her Ukrainian grandmother.

Ojovan, a freelance photographer, moved to the United States nine years ago at age 19 to study, and life got in the way. She moved around to Texas, Washington and Chicago before settling in Sacramento where she met her husband playing volleyball.

"I started baking because I was homesick and wanted to connect more with my culture," she said. "Hospitality is a big part of my heritage; in Eastern Europe, there is a tradition of feeding guests with bread, butter and salt. My mother is amazed at my baking since I



Michelle Ojovan

Photo by Michelle Ojovan

was not into it growing up."

She shared loaves with neighbors who warmly welcomed her to the block. When one insisted on paying her, she decided to get her cottage cooking license and now sells her bread through online ordering.

"I went from baking three loaves to six, and it just exploded," Ojovan said. She now bakes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; her current menu includes Plain White Blondies, Whole Wheat, Country Loaf, Sesame, Sunflower Miso, Sesame Loaf, Kalamata Olives Loaf and Jalapeño Cheddar, all between \$10 and \$13 a loaf.

Ojovan takes orders Fridays and Mondays through kioskbakery.com or through Facebook or Instagram @kioskbakery.

"The response has been overwhelming. I'm selling out every week, and I'm extremely grateful for the community,"



Kellie Gale and son Edwin

Photo by Steve Martarano

said Ojovan. "Getting to meet neighbors is my favorite part of having a cottage bakery."

Gale, a massage therapist in Davis, also began sharing her bread with her Montgomery Way neighbors to thank them for their hospitality and generosity toward her and her 4-year-old son, Edwin, after she moved into her home two years ago with few possessions.

"Everybody on my street came over to introduce themselves and offer me items to help me settle in. And I began offering them bread in return for their kindness," Gale said.

"One person trades me his chicken eggs, another offers fresh produce from her garden, another with jams, while some offer personal items for my home," said Gale, who also accepts donations for her bread. "In return, I give them bread for thanks. I'm so appreciative."

Gale has loved to cook since she was a

child. With a Ukrainian grandmother, Gale wanted to duplicate her Eastern European flavors in perogies, paska bread and stroganoff.

"I was in search of peace during the pandemic," Gale said. "And sourdough needs patience, time and care – which I've learned to embrace. My favorite bread to bake is Country Sourdough – it's classic and old-school."

"Now, on a weekly basis, I offer sourdough for people who order ahead. I recently made garlic and rosemary loaves, and I would love to explore baguettes, chocolates and olive loaves. But what I've learned in life is to start small. Right now, it's a very small endeavor, but I sell out every week."

Gale is looking into a cottage food license, but currently she operates solely on a trade or donation basis. To order, visit Gale's Instagram site: [instagram.com/shop.unearth](https://www.instagram.com/shop.unearth)

Highland Avenue ages gracefully, gratefully

On Oct. 8, Highland Avenue celebrated its 100th birthday. Although it was a span of several years before all the homes were built, neighbors chose this year as the centennial because the map of the neighborhood, Heilbron Oaks, was created in April 1923. The Highland Park streetlight also has a plate embossed with this date.

Nancy Shea and Jeanne Baldwin, both avid genealogists, spent many hours researching the histories of each of the homes and compiling binders with house histories, newspaper clippings, interviews and stories from past and present residents, making enough copies for neighbors and the Sierra 2 ar-

chives. Gail Miller, Kate Williams, Carol Spurgeon, Annie Cook and Amy O'Neill added to their efforts. Nina Bookbinder provided her editing and graphics skills, and Jeff Cook created the cover drawing.

With the inspiration of reviving Highland Avenue's Fourth of July block parties of some years ago, the celebration included a closed street, water games, a bounce house, crafts for the kids, refreshments and lots of time for visiting. Residents were especially happy to get to know several new, young families. Highland Avenue carries on!

The group sang over a proper birthday cake, and then listened to a talk by local historian, Dan Murphy. Highland Avenue residents



Nancy Shea and Jeanne Baldwin help celebrate Highland Avenue's 100th

Photo by Annie Cook

look forward to the street's 101st birthday, and all are grateful and happy to be part of the celebration.

– Annie Cook



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Students prepare for annual Bret Harte Winter Concert

Students are set to perform for their families at the annual Bret Harte Winter Concert from 6-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20 in the school's multi-purpose room. The annual event is so popular, it's standing room only for those who arrive late.

Students began rehearsing for the concert in early November under the direction of long-time music teacher, Alan Cunningham. The event features holiday classics like Jingle Bell Rock and Frosty the Snowman, and each class will perform one or two songs. Preparation is serious business.

"There are 10 steps to success," said Cunningham. It starts with students practicing their songs with the lyrics in front of them, then progresses to memorization, adding movement and finally practicing on stage.

Cunningham is a singer by trade, plays several instruments and has taught music at Bret Harte since 2004. Instruction includes singing, memorizing songs, learning rhythm, music education and playing instruments. Second graders are introduced to the xylophone. Third, fourth and fifth graders study the recorder, and sixth graders learn the ukulele.

Each class has music twice a week. To begin, students line up on the blacktop and march to the music room, a bright, welcoming space crowded with instruments. A piano stands in one corner alongside a guitar, drums, xylophones and several sets of ukuleles. Song notes and music lessons decorate the walls, while a large, blue music-themed rug sits in place of desks. Students know what's expected of them as soon as they enter the room. They immediately sit in a circle around the blue rug before they begin. Cunningham's lessons progress with each class throughout the year, giving students a chance to develop their singing voices and have fun along the way. By this time of year, even the youngest students have memorized half a dozen songs. His favorite part of teaching is hearing them sing.

The music program at Bret Harte began providing music education for students in the 1990s when



LAUREN
GOTHARD
and
LINDSEY
SIN

the school chose to offer music instruction during the designated teacher prep time instead of physical education (PE). Bret Harte is one of the few schools in the district to offer music at the elementary level. Most music education is offered in middle and high school.

"Physical Education is mandatory by law, so most schools choose PE over music and art," said Bret Harte Principal Roxanne Wolfe. Bret Harte students still receive PE instruction from their teachers during class.

Almost three decades later, Bret Harte's music program is a highlight for students and families. As students learn new skills, they also experience the joy that music provides. It's a bonus to display what they've learned in front of their friends and families at the Winter Concert every December. Festive holiday attire is highly encouraged for performers



Music teacher Alan Cunningham welcomes second-graders to the music room.
Photos by Lindsey Sin
and attendees, and refreshments are provided by the PTA.

If you are interested in learning more about Bret Harte ahead of kindergarten registration in January 2024, please contact the office at 916-395-5190 for tour dates.



Music teacher Alan Cunningham plays the ukulele and leads second-graders in a rendition of "The Magic Penny."

Have Medicare questions? I have answers.



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