

VIEWPOINT

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March 2024

February 4 storm fells three large trees

By Bruce Pierini

At least three large trees fell in Curtis Park on Feb. 4, far fewer than last January but equally dramatic. The fallen trees, among 88 reported throughout the city, were at Franklin Boulevard and Donner Way, 22nd Street and Third Avenue and Third Avenue near 26th Street.

Arlene Krause, whose stately two-story brick home at the corner of Franklin and Donner was set to be part of SCNA's annual Home & Garden Tour, was putting a puzzle together when she heard and saw her giant eucalyptus tree fall into the room next to the one she



A eucalyptus tree crashes into home at Franklin Boulevard and Donner Way Feb. 4

Credit: Will Carlton

was in. She ran out of the house, where neighbors quickly gathered because they also had heard the loud, cracking sound of the fall. One of them quickly helped

her turn off the electricity to the house.

The tree hit the 100-year-old home's

See Storm, Page 5

Curtis Park neighbors create support network for Afghan refugees

By Andrea Rosen

One hundred and ninety-eight. That's the number of Afghan refugee phone numbers in Kathleen Babin's phone. The Curtis Park resident has become the central point of contact to mobilize help to fulfill the wide variety of needs of Afghan and other refugees who have fled to Sacramento escaping brutal regimes in Afghanistan and Venezuela.

Since the closure of the Sacramento Food Bank in Oak Park in 2022, settling Afghan refugees has become Babin's full-time, unpaid job. Previously, she volunteered at the food bank and focused on organizing and distributing clothing. The

food bank provided a warehouse, which is now gone.

Babin is joined by two other almost-full-time volunteers, Judy Green Scheible and Glenda Higgins. The three women also work to provide and transport household goods, food, furniture, clothing and supplies to the bare apartments of refugee families. They donate not only their time and expertise but also their garages and houses, which are now used for storage. Nearby warehouse space is desperately needed.

These super volunteers emphasize that their work would be impossible without the generous donations and support of time and truck hauling of many Curtis Park neighbors, including, but not

limited to, Barbara Sherry, Nancy Anton, Kit Rich, Tom Shragg, Stefan Brown and others. Green Schieble said *Viewpoint* articles about the Afghan refugees have been invaluable in generating donations. Gwynnae Byrd of Home Transitions

See Refugees, Page 4



Kathleen Babin, pictured with a refugee family, makes a furniture delivery.

Photo credit: Courtesy Kathleen Babin

Mayoral Forum at Sierra 2 draws near-capacity crowd

By Dorsey Griffith

Homelessness and the general lack of affordable housing in Sacramento dominated the Mayoral Forum Tuesday, Feb. 6 at the 24th Street Theater.

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association, Land Park Community Association, Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association and South Land Park Association cohosted the near-capacity event. Four of six mayoral candidates attended: Steve Hansen, Richard Pan, Kevin McCarty and Flojaune Cofer. Former broadcast journalist Pamela Wu moderated the forum.

Most of the questions were submitted by area residents in advance; many were about potential solutions for people living on city streets and sidewalks. Each candidate was given up to one minute to respond to questions.

As one attendee noted, the process was well-organized and the discourse civil. The only disruption was an unexpected fire alarm midway through the forum, which sent everyone outside for a few minutes before the fire department determined it was safe to reenter the building and resume the event.

The forum opened with brief statements from each candidate. Cofer, who has a doctorate in epidemiology and works as a public health expert and advocate, said she was not accepting corporate PAC money and emphasized the importance of public health and community engagement to address city woes. "I know more is possible," she said. Cofer, who has been endorsed by The Sacramento Bee, would be the city's first female Black mayor.

Pan, a pediatrician who served as a state assembly member and senator, called himself a problem solver. He said the current city council was "out of touch." Citing the city's homelessness problem, he said, "We have to stop kicking the can down the

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Racial Justice Committee
Big plans for 2024

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Neighbors helping neighbors
Gift is bound to bloom

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Home & Garden tour returns April 27

This year's 34th annual Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour will showcase five homes in a variety of architectural styles and interior decor, including a Crocker Village estate and a "tiki hut" garage conversion. Unique indoor/outdoor entertainment and kitchen spaces also are featured.

The Capitol A's Model A Ford Club will tour a variety of pristine vintage cars throughout the neighborhood. The north end of Curtis Park will feature food trucks, live music by Midtown Jazz, information displays and picnic tables and chairs. Come have lunch in the park!

The event is an important fundraiser for the Sierra 2 Center and Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association programs, with the goal of raising \$15,000. Ticket sales begin March 15. You can purchase tickets online at www.Sierra2.org or at the Sierra 2 Center office. The event, which encompasses a two-mile area, is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bike racks will be provided. Ticket prices are \$25 in advance (\$20 for SCNA members) and \$30 on tour day (\$25 for SCNA members). Your discount is a great reason to join SCNA! Tickets for docents and



This stately house on the park will be featured on the April 27 home and garden tour.

Photo credit: Rudy Calpo

event volunteers are just \$10.

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

— Lori Harder

Yard Sale set for May 18

Mark your calendars for the annual Curtis Park Yard Sale on Saturday, May 18. Join us as we invite eager bargain hunters to traverse our streets by foot, bike, skateboard, scooter or car to discover amazing deals and contribute to sustainable living by rescuing treasures from the landfill.

Yard sale hours vary among homeowners; they typically start around 8 a.m. or 9 a.m. and conclude by noon or 1 p.m. Keep an eye on the SCNA website for updates on sale locations, which are published the day before the event. Don't forget to bring plenty of small bills and to wear a smile. Let's spread kindness to our neighbors and stay vigilant for the safety of little ones and furry friends.

How to host your sale

Any resident within the Curtis Park SCNA boundaries (between Franklin and Freeport Boulevards, north of Sutterville Road and south of Broadway) can join in for free. We encourage neighbors to team up to host a sale or enlist their whole block. SCNA will advertise the event on social media and other news outlets.

How to get on the yard sale list

Register your sale location for free at Sierra2.org/event/yardsale2024 by midnight on May 16. Enter your address and a description of the items for sale.

Grab a free printable copy of directional yard sale signs at the above link.



We'll include your location on our printable and mobile-friendly map, available on the day of the sale.

Plan to have your sale from around 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We welcome donations of earnings to Sierra 2 Center (though it's not required). People often leave items not purchased out for free through the afternoon.

We also recommend donating leftover items to local thrift stores such as:

- Highlands Community Charter School at hcscs.org/apps/pages/CC
- WEAVE at weaveinc.org/shop-weave or
- Find a clothing closet at findhelp.org/goods/clothing--sacramento-ca

— Heather Hogan

Volunteer opportunities

It takes over 60 volunteers to support SCNA's Home & Garden Tour. Help is needed to monitor home interiors for two hours or to set up or take down tables and chairs at the north end of Curtis Park. Tour tickets for volunteers are just \$10. Please volunteer and ask a friend to join you! Text or call Lori Harder at 916-801-7189 or email lorikoi@sbcbglobal.net to sign up.

Also, consider supporting SCNA and this event by placing an advertisement in the tour program, starting at \$250. Contact Kent Anderson, SCNA executive director, at 916-452-3005 ext. 204, or by email at kent@sierra2.org.



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

PAJAMA PARADE

9:30am @
North end of Curtis Park

EGG HUNT

10am @
Sierra 2 Green

Pajama parade and spring egg hunt bounce back on March 30

Join your neighbors for the long-awaited return of the annual SCNA Spring Egg Hunt on March 30. Festivities will begin at 9:30 a.m., with a pajama parade departing from the north end of Curtis Park. By foot, wagon or stroller, the procession will move through the streets to Sierra 2 Green. Egg hunters will bound onto the Green for the hunt at 10 a.m. Kids will be divided into age groups, with a separate egg area for toddlers 2 and under.

The SCNA board is looking to fill critical volunteer positions to help make this event run smoothly, such as leading the parade, helping to hide or protect the eggs or assisting with the grounds. To volunteer, contact Karl Saddlemire by email at karl.jay.saddlemire@gmail.com. Additional information about the event will be posted on the Sierra 2 website, sierra2.org.

What are your grown kids up to?

Curtis Park has been home to hundreds of youngsters who have gone on to have important, fascinating or thrilling careers. Do you have an adult child with an interesting story you'd like to feature? Send a current photo with a short paragraph to Viewpoint Editor Dorsey Griffith at dorsey.griffith@gmail.com. Please include your contact and photo credit information as well as the Curtis Park street name where your child grew up.

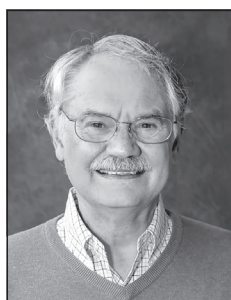
New year, new members and work underway on the SCNA board

The board met on Feb. 25 for an orientation session to ensure that members are knowledgeable about Sierra 2 operations, the SCNA Articles of Incorporation and bylaws, board member responsibilities and legal obligations including due diligence, ethics and conflicts of interest.

We have a full board of directors with 23 members, the maximum allowed by our bylaws. Twelve are new to the board and bring a wealth of talent and experience. We are fortunate to have such a strong board. All board members have been assigned to committees, with most serving on two committees. These committees are the heartbeat of the SCNA board; this is where the lion's share of work takes place to keep our organization thriving. Here's a look at our primary committees and their undertakings:

The Neighborhood Concerns Committee is the largest with 11 members. Its portfolio includes responding to

JOHN BAILEY SCNA Board President



concerns about trees, traffic, noise, vandalism, crime, building codes and more. It works closely with other Sacramento neighborhood groups in monitoring Sacramento City Hall to advocate for the betterment of Curtis Park and the city at large.

The Development Committee is responsible for organizing both fundraising and "friend" raising activities. Watch for updates on events in this and future issues of *Viewpoint*. Bringing back the wine tasting event from COVID hiatus is a top priority. The popular Home & Garden Tour returns, and the Big Day

of Giving is critical to SCNA's success. A subcommittee is being formed to focus on developing new activities for children and families. I can't wait to see what they develop.

The Facilities Committee manages the infrastructure of Sierra 2. It is currently engaged in renewing our lease with the city for a term of 10 years. An exciting plan to utilize heat pumps and solar panels to bring Sierra 2's carbon imprint to zero, while saving over \$60,000 per year in utility expenses, is in the works. The committee implements a schedule to replace major building components in a cost-effective manner, according to a 10-year timetable.

The Finance Committee oversees the organization's budget. During COVID, our cash flow was so tight that we were unable to make deposits into the investment portfolio dedicated to making sure that we have adequate funds for building maintenance. Replenishing the fund over

a period of years is a top priority. The committee also will look at upgrading office software to increase efficiency.

The Racial Justice Committee is formulating programs to better inform the neighborhood about civil rights issues. Stay tuned. The Senior Center Committee has re-formed after pausing for COVID. It seeks to bring new energy and financial support to this important mission. The Bylaws Committee will review and update our governing document.

Our new executive director, Kent Anderson, is off to a fine start. SCNA Vice President Kathy Les and I meet regularly to orient and acclimate him to SCNA.

The 23 members of your board have stepped up to the plate to volunteer their time and talents to make our neighborhood the best it can be. Please share your ideas with them as to how to improve our neighborhood. And let them know you appreciate their efforts.

Board Notes

Ad Hoc Committee to Review Bylaws

The board created an ad hoc committee to review SCNA bylaws to determine if any provisions should be updated to be consistent with actual SCNA operations. The committee consists of **Mimi Budd**, **Lily Harris** and **Matthew Royal**. The three will meet to review the existing bylaws, solicit input from others and formulate recommendations for changes. Those recommendations will then be brought to the full board and ultimately voted on by the general membership at the December membership meeting.

Board Approves Letter to Erect Memorial Bench in Curtis Park

The board will send a letter to the city drafted by former board member **Erik Fay** and **Nicoletta Anselmo**, wife of late board member **John Mathews**, in support of a bench in Curtis Park in Mathews' honor. A former board member and SCNA stalwart, Mathews passed away on Aug. 16, 2023. Mathews was a long-time Curtis Park resident whose numerous and varied contributions to the neighborhood and community are memorialized in the letter. If approved, the bench would be placed in the northeast sector of Curtis Park where Mathews often walked his dog. The board agreed to help seek funding for the bench.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director's Report

Kent Anderson reported on key areas that have kept the organization busy, such as the mayoral forum on Feb. 6, preparation for the board member orientation on Feb. 25, hiring and onboarding new employees, creating job descriptions for operations and admin staff, and working with the new committees.

SCNA Financial Shortfall

John Bailey reported a \$142,000 shortfall in the Reserve for Replacement portfolio balance. To rectify the shortfall, due partly to the deleterious effects of the pandemic on Sierra 2 operations, the board must meet its budget forecasts. Anderson suggested strategies to increase revenue, including obtaining unrestricted funds such as the employee retention credit fund, unrestricted grants from the city, etc. This would allow the board to recoup funds it already pays for costs such as physical site repairs and help reduce and, ideally, eliminate the shortfall.

SCNA to Renew Sierra 2 Lease with City

The Facilities Committee met with the city Department of Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment to discuss the board's zero-carbon project and lease renewal. The SCNA lease with the city expired on the last day of January. As part of the meeting, the committee received a verbal commitment to renew the lease within the next month. Until then, the current lease terms will continue. The board needs to renew the lease to pursue the zero-carbon project.

2024 Events Calendar Firming Up

The board's Development Committee is busy confirming dates for 2024 community events, which will be publicized in *Viewpoint*. The committee is looking into food trucks for Curtis Fest and Music in the Park. They are also working with the executive director to vet bands for Music in the Park; Anderson has received correspondence from numerous bands expressing interest in performing. The board also hopes to bring back the wine-tasting event in October but will need assistance from the community to organize the event.

Traffic Safety Study

Jerry Champa from Land Park is

hosting a workshop on traffic studies. He has asked SCNA board member **Noah Soliday Bench** to submit three or four traffic concerns in the Curtis Park neighborhood. The workshop is on March 2.

Racial Justice Committee to Host Police Commission

The Sacramento Community Police Commission, which has previously presented to the Racial Justice Committee, will return to speak to the committee about use of deadly force standards and other issues. **Keyan Bliss** and **Manuel Buenrostro** will present on March 6 at noon, via Zoom. The presentation will be recorded with their consent. See related story in this issue of *Viewpoint*.

Cleaning Up Excess Storm Debris

Multiple neighbors have expressed concerns about the increased debris piling up after storms. The city will not agree to collect the debris using leaf removal equipment, stating instead that residents should place the debris in their green containers. **Bill French** also suggested that neighbors schedule curbside pickups to have debris collected.

— Submitted by Lily Harris

VIEWPOINT

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ADVERTISE in Viewpoint.

Call Stacy Gray: 916-452-3005 x 200
or stacy@sierra2.org

Refugees

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has been particularly helpful as her work includes clearing out homes for her clients.

Higgins is especially gratified to see girls and women get an education here and learn English and math because they would not be allowed to go to school in Afghanistan. She meets Afghani women and girls who are illiterate and innumerate and anxious to learn. Babin said she was moved after witnessing an illiterate female refugee attend English classes six hours per day and earn her driver's permit. All three stressed that any girl they uplift by helping them learn English and get an education is worth the effort. Babin often helps with paperwork needed for school enrollment, medical appointments to obtain needed vaccinations and job applications.

Green Scheible and her husband "adopted" an Afghan family and took them shopping every week for a year. The refugee family are now fully employed in good-paying jobs and doing well. This unique and robust support network is self-created and voluntary. While they work closely with organizations such as NorCal Resist and official resettlement agencies, resources from these organizations are increasingly limited.

Many of the most recent Afghan refugees fly to Brazil and then make the arduous journey north to the U.S.-Mexican border to enter as asylum-seekers. They do not receive help from resettlement agencies because they do not possess the Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) granted to Afghans who worked with



Kathleen Babin and Glenda Higgins prepare to transport donations to refugee families.
Photo courtesy Kathleen Babin

American forces and were forced to flee in fear for their lives. Many of the Afghan refugees who have SIVs are highly educated and lived a middle-class lifestyle in Afghanistan.

"It's difficult to flee your country, leaving family and friends, your language and culture and start over completely with nothing," Babin said. "I can't do anything about how bad things are in Afghanistan and other desperate places in the world, but I can make the transition to their new lives a bit easier."

Green Scheible, a lifelong Soroptimist, relies on her chapter of 30 women who regularly donate household supplies and money. Because public food benefits cannot be used for dish soap, toilet paper, diapers and the like, these items are always badly needed and quickly run out.

Neighbors who would like to support their efforts may contact NorCal Resist at norcalresist.org.

Forum

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road."

McCarty, a former city council member who currently serves in the state assembly representing the 6th District, touted his legislative track record, especially efforts to turn state office buildings into housing. "I solve problems big and small. I know what city and state government can do."

Hansen, a small business owner who served on the city council from 2012-2020, emphasized that while tackling public safety, homelessness and affordable housing, he also wants to make Sacramento to a place "where the arts are celebrated and where our parks are full and safe. I want to put us back on track." Hansen would be the first openly gay Sacramento mayor.

In response to a question on plans for dealing with the city's unhoused population, both Cofer and Pan said they support Safe Ground Sacramento, which advocates decriminalizing homelessness and establishing Safe Ground communities where people can live until they find housing, such as in underutilized city parks and where they can get access to services and supports.

Hansen and McCarty disagreed: "A park in any neighborhood is not a place for a tent campground," said Hansen, who believes tiny home villages are a more evidence-based solution.

McCarty, who authored a bill that bans illegal camping along the American



Former Senator Richard Pan speaks during Mayoral Forum at 24th Street Theater Feb. 6. Credit: Bill Ainsworth

River Parkway, said the city needs to spend the \$23 million in state funds it already received to establish tiny homes and legal campgrounds on unused state property. He proposes a joint powers authority with Sacramento County to work on the problem together.

Another resident asked each candidate to describe their vision for sustaining and growing community parks.

Calling city parks "the lifeblood of our neighborhoods," McCarty said while trying to balance the city budget, the city must maintain core funding for parks but said partnerships with the state to tap additional resources are needed.

Cofer applauded city parks department efforts but acknowledged that many parks have deferred maintenance problems. She suggested identifying areas in which the city can save money to fund long-overdue park maintenance projects such as fixing broken toilets to make parks more appealing and useable.

"You can't enjoy a park unless you feel safe there," added Pan, who emphasized that they should not become camping

grounds. He said the parks demand continued investment.

Hansen said the deferred maintenance of many city parks was "atrocious," adding, "We can't focus on investing in the parks unless they are clean and safe." He noted that during his council tenure, he helped bring the number of city park rangers up from two to eight.

Candidates also responded to questions about the city budget deficit, making housing more affordable, the weak-mayor system of city government, crowdsourcing to fund community infrastructure projects and enhancing measures for pedestrian safety.

A video recording of the 90-minute forum can be viewed on the Sierra 2 website. Visit sierra2.org/news.

The mayoral primary will be held on March 5. If no candidate wins more than 50% of the vote, the leading two candidates will face off in a runoff election in November. The winner will begin serving a four-year term in December, replacing outgoing Darrell Steinberg, who has served in the role since 2016.

Looking back at the storms of 2023

By Patti Roberts

February’s storms triggered memories of last year’s massive winter storms that brought down trees throughout Curtis Park, crushing cars and damaging homes.

Viewpoint reached out to some of the neighbors affected by storms last January and profiled in last February’s paper to see how they fared in the aftermath. While they still have unsettling memories, they also expressed gratitude for their neighbors who immediately stepped up and rallied around with help.

The nightmare for Dorene Connelly and Rob Funk of 24th Street began when a neighbor’s large fir tree fell on their truck and house. Connelly said that during last year’s New Year’s Eve storm, the tree demolished their truck, crushed the roof of their front porch and punched a hole in their upstairs bedroom wall. It also obstructed the entrance to their home.

While Connelly and her husband suffered losses, they also had overwhelming response and assistance from neighbors.

“The next morning, which was New Year’s Day 2023, the storm had stopped, and the sun came out,” said Connelly. “It’s a day we’ll always remember with

much fondness and gratitude for our neighbors, friends and family who gathered and immediately pitched in to clear tree branches off the porch, roof, yard and driveway, and tarp the large hole in the roof to keep out the rain from the next predicted storms. That was amazing!”

Connelly said they were fortunate that their homeowners’ and car insurance kicked in and covered repairs to the house and the totaled truck. And repairs were done in spring after the winter storms had stopped.

Things were a little more complicated for Bruce Pierini on 25th Street. He and his husband Wayne were in Sicily when a neighbor emailed to tell them “a branch had fallen” on their house.” They saw it was more than a branch when neighbor Lynda White took them on a visual walk through their backyard via Facetime and realized their magnificent oak tree had been uprooted.

“I couldn’t believe that our giant oak, which had shaded three yards including ours, had come out of the ground,” said Pierini. “Within two days we were flying back home from Rome.”

The tree had fallen on a back-room roof and punctured two holes, which let water seep in.

“Our neighbors were great; they got the neighborhood fix-it man Jorge Lopez to come over on New Year’s Day to anchor a huge tarp over the back part of the house,” said Pierini. “All the neighbors were super sympathetic. Kathy Les and Hal Thomas asked if we needed a place to stay; others offered whatever help they might provide. They all were sterling examples of the kinds of neighbors you want to have.”

Crews took down the tree and huge stump within a week, though the continual rains that followed made it virtually impossible for significant repairs to begin. Eventually, after dehumidifying the damaged room, it was rebuilt, along with two destroyed fences.

“Since we no longer had shade in the backyard, we had a pergola built, and now have a beautiful sun garden,” Pierini said.

Storm

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one-story sunroom and patio above. The walls cracked and the roof, bedroom ceiling, chimney, HVAC unit and awning were damaged.

“The concern and help from my neighbors were very important to me,” said Krause. “It was our second go-around since we lost a large tree, though not on the house, last year.”

Since it was a city tree, a city crew was out within 24 hours to remove it from the roof.

In the days after the Feb. 4 storm, the home suffered some subsequent leaking during rain showers. Krause said she and her husband Broc plan to rebuild as close to the original as possible but understands it may take a while.

“I’m learning patience,” she said. The neighborhood suffered other damage as well. David and Sheila Enos of 25th Street reported that a large branch shattered their car’s rear window and gouged a sizeable hole in the hatchback.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Bret Harte garden will be abloom come spring

Bret Harte School received 20 packets of flower seeds for their school garden last month, thanks to Curtis Park resident Kathy Les, who presented the seeds to Bret Harte parent Lauren Gothard in February. With luck, the school garden will have a glorious display of orlaya, California poppies, orach, Queen Anne’s lace, bread seed poppies and more come spring.

Les has been growing flowers for years in her backyard. Many of her friends and neighbors have picked up a bouquet from her front porch to brighten their home. She donates all the proceeds from her bouquet

sales to the Sacramento Food Bank. One of her favorite seed suppliers is Floret, a family-run, cut-flower farm and seed company in Washington’s Skagit Valley. This year Floret changed its business model to focus exclusively on farm-bred zinnias, celosia and dahlias seeds. With an array of perfectly good seeds on hand from last year, Floret decided to hold an online give-away to reduce their inventory. Anyone could apply on behalf of a nonprofit.

Les thought of the Bret Harte school garden and quickly sent an email explaining why she thought it was a worthy cause.



Lauren Gothard with gifted seeds in the garden at Bret Harte School

Photo credit: Kathy Les

“I’ve tried for other drawings and never won anything,” she said. “Something in the back of my mind said, ‘What the heck?’ And it worked.”

— Gerre Buehler

At HOME in Curtis Park

STEFFAN BROWN

REAL ESTATE

steffan@steffanbrown.com

916-717-7217



OLDWELL BANKER
REALTY

CaBRE #01882787



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Fabulous French Country single story overlooking the park in Crocker Village!



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SIERRA CURTIS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Questions? Please contact groups directly.

ART

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

MUSIC

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4-week class
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Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 1
kristyoshiro.com/taiko-classes

Intermediate Taiko Drumming

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MARTIAL ARTS

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Shaolin Martial Arts**

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2
Lohan36@sbcglobal.net

Eagle Claw Kung Fu

Mondays, 6-7 p.m.
Wednesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Studio 2
Sifu Mary Melliza: 916-802-3144
Eagleclawsacramento.com

ADULT DANCE

Dancing with Heidi

Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Children's Ballet I, ages 6-9 (no experience required)
Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Adult/Teen Basic Ballet (some experience required)
Wednesdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Adult/Teen Ballet from the Beginning (no experience required)
dancingwithheidi@gmail.com

**Two Rivers Dance Center/
River City Taps**

Mondays-Thursdays/Saturdays
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

Thursdays/Fridays, 8:30 a.m. Room 10
Sat., 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Room 10
800-374-9191, weightwatchers.com

OTHER

Camellia Society of Sacramento Meetings

Last Sunday of the month, 2-5 p.m., Room 12
916-371-2174

City Life Church

Sunday worship service, 10 a.m. Room 10
916-538-9292

SIERRA 2 CENTER
FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY

Senior Center

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April 8 – "The Daughter of Time," by Josephine Tey

Nonfiction Book Club

3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon Room 12
March 20 – "The Art Thief," by Michael Finkel
April 18 – "The Book of Animal Secrets," by David Argus

Life History Writing

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Monthly: 2nd Thursdays
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\$35 per class
Optional paint kit: \$25

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Saturday, March 30
10 a.m.-noon
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In this engaging and immersive painting class, participants can explore the wonderful world of art, where the focus is not solely on the end result, but on the joy and fulfillment found in the creative process itself. Whether you are a novice or an experienced artist, this class welcomes individuals at all levels.

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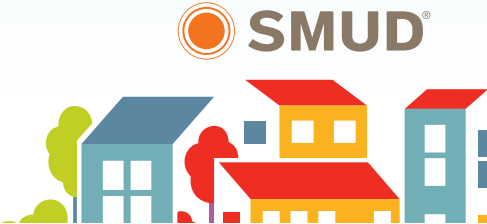
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Anton Barbeau at The Side Door Photo courtesy of the artist

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— Mindy Giles

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PARK ARTS



Hedgehog Collage

Nikki Thompson of 24th Street is a book artist
(aka Deconstructed Artichoke Press) and poet. With
an MFA from the California College of the Arts, her
art explores architecture, feminism and the politics
of work through the mixed media of bookmaking,



Elephant Collage

printmaking and collage. She can be contacted at
info@deconstructedartichokepress.com
Insta/Twitter: d_artichoke
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A backyard chicken-keeper's veranda

Curtis Park resident Carol Mott-Binkley is
an avid hobbyist iPhone street photographer and
regular donor to the annual PBS/KVIE Art Auc-
tion, Crocker Art Museum Annual Art Auction &
Crocker’s Big Names, Small Art fundraisers. Her



Golden Gate Bridge and karl the fog + vws

street photography will be featured in the exhibi-
tion “Contemporary Nostalgia” at Archival Gallery,
March 1-30 with a Second Saturday reception,
March 9. Visit archivalgallery.com/exhibitions for
more information.

Park Arts contributors

The Viewpoint publishes the creative work
of Curtis Park residents on an occasional basis.
Please submit works and a short biographical
description to dorsey.griffith@gmail.com.

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SCNA Racial Justice Committee launches new programs for 2024

By Kathy Les

SCNA’s Racial Justice Committee is off to an ambitious start for the year with new ways to expand its reach for greater education on racial-justice issues and history.

On March 6 at noon via Zoom, the committee will hear from Keyan Bliss and Manuel Buenrostro, chair and co-chair respectively of the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission. The two will share their thoughts on whether the Sacramento Police Department has made progress on the “deadly force” standard adopted under AB 392 enacted several years ago, on any changes to the process followed to acquire military-use equipment and commission goals under the provisions of its 2024 Work Plan.

This will mark the fourth year that the Racial Justice Committee has presented a program featuring the chair of the police commission to send an important signal that the neighborhood cares about these issues. The committee also has heard from Kathy Lester, Sacramento police chief, and the inspectors general of both the police department and sheriff’s office.

The Zoom session is open to all. Visit sierra2.org for a link to RSVP from the home page. The session will be recorded for those unable to attend and a follow-up summary will be published in the April issue of *Viewpoint*.

A new undertaking this year will be a neighbor-

hood-wide, one-book read for later this spring. The committee will select a book dealing with racial justice for a follow-up discussion.

The selected book will be announced in *Viewpoint*. Readers will be given about six weeks to acquire and read the book. The committee will announce a location for an in-person discussion.

Next fall, the Racial Justice Committee would like to help Curtis Park residents learn more about Nate Colley, Sacramento’s first African American attorney in private practice. He represented private and public clients to achieve greater access to housing. In the landmark case *Ming vs. Horgan*, Colley persuaded the U.S. Supreme Court that recipients of federal funds could not engage in discrimination. Colley also fought for the repeal of Proposition 14, and against housing and education discrimination in California. As a member of the National Bar Association’s Hall of Fame, Colley taught part-time at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law for 17 years.

The committee hopes to screen the award-winning film about Colley’s life and work as a civil rights lawyer as well as to host speakers who worked directly with Colley or have studied his life. Stay tuned for more details in future issues of *Viewpoint*.

SCNA’s Racial Justice Committee was formed following the police killing of George Floyd in May 2020. Since then the committee has hosted a variety of speakers from all walks of life, engaged the Curtis Park community in webinars on the subject of racial exclusion, and assembled an extensive list of books, videos and recorded interviews on the SCNA website at sierra2.org/neighborhood-scna/racial-justice/. The committee welcomes participation by any Curtis Park resident in its programs and efforts.

To attend the March 6 Zoom program, suggest a book for the one-book read or to express interest in the future program on Nate Colley, contact committee co-chair Kathy Les at Kathy.les321@gmail.com.

WHAT’S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

Free Heartfulness meditation class offered Sundays

For anyone interested in trying a new activity that is both energizing and relaxing, the Heartfulness meditation class at Sierra 2 Center on Sunday afternoons may fit the bill. A popular type of meditation with a worldwide, non-denominational following, Heartfulness meditation involves tapping deeply into one’s heart and cultivating feelings of peace, joy, love and gratitude.

Each class begins with relaxing visualizations, led by instructor Artee Chandekar, to disengage the thinking mind and rest the body. Chairs and yoga pads are provided, as well as blankets to keep legs warm on cold winter days. Chandekar allows each participant to select the pose most comfortable for them.

Class participants share that the meditation process feels blissful, powerful, profoundly relaxing and provides a strong sense of well-being. They say the feelings last well after the class ends and continue to accumulate and evolve between sessions.

Heartfulness teaches that the dynamic effects build on themselves and multiply, spilling over into hearts, minds and lives. It also teaches that the feelings experienced enliven physical touchpoints in the body, which manifests in physical changes as well. For those wanting to learn more, there are books, YouTube videos, a website and even a Heartfulness magazine.

Heartfulness is a non-profit organization operated by fellow participants and trainers who enjoy sharing the practice with others. Heartfulness meditation meets at Sierra 2 Center Sundays at 3 p.m. in Room 6. Both the class and coaching are free.

– April Hightower

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Montgomery Way as it looked in 1923.



Montgomery Way today.

Photo by Rudy Calpo

Montgomery Way Gateway Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places

By Janice Calpo

The Montgomery Way Gateway Historic District is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The 1923 “gateway” to the park was developer J.C Carly’s vision of his South Curtis Oaks premier street, leading from the Franklin Boulevard

entrance westward to the park. The district is being recognized as a streetscape that conveys Carly’s vision of beautiful architecture among original oak trees, with views of the park.


Revival-style homes, varied in their origins but cohesive in their scale and period, include Spanish Colonial, Italian Renaissance, Tudor, Mediterranean, Classical, Monterey and French. Many of these houses were designed by notable architects including Dean & Dean, who designed the Memorial Auditorium and Sutter Club, among many other Sacramento landmarks. Observers of the district will experience a sense of place and connection to the history that is part of the Curtis Park neighborhood. The National Register honors such places.

The current effort to document the history of Montgomery Way was initiated by neighbors in 2005. In the process, they also learned about options for registering the homes individually and as a district. Historic Environmental Consultants of Carmichael was hired to prepare the district nomination and, in collaboration with several neighbors, shepherded the submission through the State Office of Historic Preservation to the State

Historic Resources Commission in 2023. The commission considered the integrity of the architecture, setting and its ability to convey a sense of time and place, and unanimously recommended to the Keeper of the Register that the district meets the qualifications for listing. Three homes also have been individually listed on the National Register, and nine homes have been listed locally in the Sacramento Register. The status of these homes is identified by City Register and/or National Register plaques.

The architecture and setting are put into context by a history of how J.C. Carly’s ideas developed. In 1922, the United States was just emerging from World War I, with its veterans returning home. The Better Homes Movement, a national effort to encourage veterans to focus their energy on the pride of homeownership, also was supported by Herbert Hoover. Builder J.C. Carly acquired former farmland from William Curtis for his South Curtis Oaks subdivision and hired Dean & Dean to design many of the homes on Montgomery Way, including his home at the gateway entrance. His plan called for the homes to be on large lots and emphasize a garden-like and neighborly atmosphere. His building plans maintained many existing oak trees, which still stand today. In 1923, Designer Magazine featured Sacramento’s home-building efforts as part of this movement.

National Register designation seeks to honor places worthy of preservation and encourage stewards of such places to appreciate and protect them for current and future generations.



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Moonshine & Co. close to opening, hosts Lunar New Year party

By Susan MacCulloch

Moonshine & Co., the nail salon and cocktail bar next door to Naked Coffee on 30th Street, is almost ready for prime time. A soft opening should occur by early March.

Since the salon is a new concept, “it needs time to grow and adjust,” said CEO Lien Glankler. “We’re grateful for our family and friends who have given us so much grace and feedback through this time.”

In the meantime, if you see an A-frame sign in the front of Moonshine’s building, this means the salon is open while its nail techs are in training.

An early celebration took place Feb. 10 during Lunar New Year when Glankler opened the salon to family and Moonshine & Co. supporters. Guests



A sample mocktail at Moonshine Co. salon.

toured the new space that incorporates a combination of modern, vintage and colorful design elements. On offer was



Preparations are nearly complete for Moonshine & Co. Nail Salon's opening.

Photos by Matt Chong

a choice of two mocktails that will be on the cocktail bar’s menu: Mandarin Moon and Spring Dragon. The late afternoon event concluded with a performance by the Teng Fei Lion Dance team whose accompanying drums and cymbals outside the salon drew crowds from neighboring businesses.

Glankler’s family origin is Vietnamese. Her grandparents eventually migrated to Laos. “I grew up honoring both cultures,” said Glankler. Her family escaped their Laos home after the Vietnam War and moved to Sacramento in 1981.

The salon also features an exhibit that pays tribute to actress Tippi Hedren. Although largely unknown outside the Vietnamese community, many of those who resettled in California after the fall of Saigon in 1975 have an important connection to the actress most famous for her leading role in Alfred Hitchcock’s “The Birds.”

Hedren helped start the Vietnamese nail industry in California. As the demand for nail services grew in the 1970s, Hedren was instrumental in training refugee women in nail care, which provided stable employment and

allowed them to support their families.

With training from Hedren’s personal manicurist and employees at a local beauty school, the first 20 women were taught to achieve a perfect manicure. Hedren helped these women get licensed at the Citrus Heights Beauty School and find employment in nail salons throughout Southern California. Over time, generations of Vietnamese women began taking over the nail industry in California and throughout the United States. Today more than half of the nation’s nail salon workers are Vietnamese.

The exhibit at Moonshine & Co. also cites Hedren’s volunteer support at Hope Village, America’s first nonmilitary resettlement camp for Vietnamese refugees in California.

“Her impactful support for the Vietnamese nail industry serves as a testament to the transformative power of one individual’s compassionate actions in reshaping an entire industry through innovative ideas and genuine empathy,” Glankler said.

For news about the grand opening and future events, sign up for Moonshine & Co.’s newsletter at moonshineandco.com/newsletter-subscription.



C.K. McClatchy High School orchestra performing their Fall 2023 concert.

Photo credit: Allison Joe

C.K. McClatchy High School music program hosts Spring Soiree fundraiser March 16

By Allison Joe

Looking for an opportunity to support music in local schools? C.K. McClatchy High School students have been filling the halls with music and creative expression through participation in choir, concert band, orchestra and jazz ensemble.

Part of a music renaissance at the high school, the students are reinvigorating the music program and bolstering it for future generations of young musicians.

“The McClatchy Music Program has become one of the biggest parts of my life over the last three years,” said Zaidee Linch, a junior and clarinetist who lives on Donner Way. “You come to realize that this program is so much more than a class you attend for a grade. Friendships grow and flourish along with your knowledge and love for creating the wondrous art that is music.”

Freshman cellist Luella Borris of Second Avenue agrees. “I’ve met so many inspirational people (through the

program) who love making music and making such a huge difference in our world,” she said.

Violinist Matea De Kok, a sophomore who lives on 20th Street, said the music they play isn’t boring. “I love how our concerts span so many styles of music, from a modern rhythmic percussion piece to a compilation of songs from a beloved musical.”

The McClatchy High School Music Program Spring Soiree will be held at the school on Saturday, March 16 from 7-10 p.m. Hosted by the McClatchy Music Boosters, the event will include appetizers, mocktails and a silent auction to support the program. This adults-only event includes student solo and chamber music performances and will culminate in a concert. Tickets are available at mclatchy-music-boosters.square.site and are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

For more information on the McClatchy Music program and upcoming concerts, go to <https://ckmmusicprogram.org/>.



A Moonshine mixologist practices a drink order.

Sixth graders enjoy week in the great outdoors

Bret Harte begins raising money for next year's Sly Park trip

Bret Harte's sixth-grade class enjoyed a week-long education experience at the Sly Park Environmental Educational Center in January. Sly Park has been serving students in the Sacramento region for over 50 years. The experience begins when students, teachers and parent chaperones say goodbye to their families and travel east on Highway 50 by bus into the El Dorado National Forest.

Campers reside together in cabins, each accommodating up to 24 students and adults. The property also includes an amphitheater, cafeteria, gymnasium, basketball court, classrooms and several outbuildings. Operated by the Sacramento County Office of Education in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Sly Park's mission is to "cultivate environmental literacy through experiential and place-based learning," according to its website.

The permanent staff at Sly Park includes credentialed science teachers who spend the week instructing students about ecosystems, conservation, animals, geology and local flora. Students also compete in team-building activities and take several hikes throughout the week. For some students, the Sly Park trip is the first time away from home, and it's not uncommon for them to experience homesickness the first night. Students are engaged in a variety of educational activities from early morning until after dark but get the chance to write an occasional letter home. The camp experience culminates in performances put on by each cabin at the amphitheater.



Parent chaperone Jessica Vega and daughter Zoe De la Herran.
Photo courtesy Jessica Vega



LAUREN
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Curtis Park resident and Bret Harte student Daniel Moody enjoyed the week-long experience.

"My favorite activity was when we had to find resources to make a shelter," he said. "I also liked hanging out with my friends and meeting new friends that will be going to middle school next year."

An added benefit is making friends with students from other schools. Daniel's father Justin volunteered as a parent chaperone for the week and revisited his own childhood memories of Sly Park.

"I enjoyed Sly Park when I was in sixth grade," he said. "I wanted Daniel and the rest of his class to be able to make the same great memories. I wanted them to meet kids from other schools, go on night hikes and enjoy all the outdoor activities I got when I was their age."

Bret Harte's sixth-grade teacher Michael Rule was responsible for organizing the trip and preparing his students for the adventure. He appreciated the staff and teachers the most.

"It says a lot about Sly Park that they can have multiple schools with over 200 students and, by the end of the week, there is a strong sense of community with each other and with nature," he said.

Rule hopes to be able to provide this experience to sixth graders again next year, but it will take some help. For the last several years, the Sacramento City Unified School District funded the cost for students to attend Sly Park, but those funds end this year. Going forward, Bret Harte will need to raise money for students to attend, which costs about \$300 per student.

"I really hope, if nothing else, that the students return with a new appreciation for nature and how they play a huge role in that balance of nature," said Rule.

The sixth graders returned from the week-long Sly Park adventure exhausted, but excited to share their experiences. They hope the annual trip continues long after they graduate.

"It was a very fun and memorable experience, and I hope my little brother and sister get to go when they are in sixth grade," Daniel said.



Sixth-grader Daniel Moody gets ready to climb the rock wall.
Photo courtesy Justin Moody



Sixth-grader Zoe De la Herran makes a silkscreen t-shirt.
Photo credit: Jessica Vega.

Undoubtedly, the sixth graders made memories to last a lifetime.

For more information about Sly Park fundraising, contact the PTA at BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com.



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