

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

Vol. 45 No. 8

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April 2024

34th Home and Garden Tour set for Saturday, April 27

By Lori Harder

Several neighbors are preparing for the annual Home & Garden Tour, an important fundraising event set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 27. The tour offers a diversity of architectural styles and decor, including a fun “tiki hut” garage conversion.

Long-time Curtis Park neighbors who moved to Crocker Village are opening their new home to tourgoers, bridging the two neighborhoods. Interesting front yard landscapes and a 1960s Field & Stream vintage trailer round out the sights along a two-mile loop. Bicycle racks will be provided at each location for those who opt to cycle the route. Watch for plein air artists at work along the way.

The homes on tour this year reflect

a variety of residences that characterize Curtis Park, built in the era the historic neighborhood was established.

An early 20th-century bungalow illustrates the Arts and Crafts movement, using wood, handmade tiles, carved rafter tails and an abundance of windows to connect with nature. The post-WWI era brought the romance of faraway places that returning soldiers experienced, with revivals of old architectural styles.

One Tudor Revival home, owned by a family with generations of artists, perfectly displays the multiple types of media that can define art and includes a mosaic glass studio and a woodworking shop.

Another Tudor Revival that has

See Tour, Page 5



Arts and Crafts-era bungalow with a second story surrounded by trees featured on tour April 27.

Photo by Rudy Galpo

Curtis Park voter turnout strong in local, state and national contests

By Jim Miller

Curtis Park voters largely aligned with local and statewide trends in high-profile contests on the March 5 ballot, preliminary precinct results showed.

As of March 22, county elections officials continued to process a small number of remaining ballots. Results are scheduled to be certified by April 12.

Dr. Flojaune “Flo” Cofer led the mayoral field, with Assemblyman Kevin McCarty in second. Former state Sen. Richard Pan and former City Councilman Steve Hansen placed a close third and fourth, respectively, but both have conceded the race.

Cofer was the top vote-getter in every Curtis Park-area precinct, ahead of either Hansen or McCarty, who has represented the neighborhood in the California State Assem-

bly since 2014.

No candidate approached the 50 percent threshold to win the mayoral election outright. The top-two finishers will face off in the fall.

In the race to succeed McCarty in the 6th Assembly District, state prosecutor Maggy Krell, a Democrat, is the top vote-getter district-wide.

Curtis Park voters had mixed preferences for the seat.

Neighborhood resident Rosanna Herber, a Democrat and member of the SMUD Board of Directors, led in some Curtis Park precincts. Krell polled more strongly in the neighborhood’s western and southern areas.

Paula Villescaz, a Democrat and member of the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education, narrowly led in the precinct that includes Curtis Park’s northern end.

See Voter, Page 5

SCNA seeks donations May 2 for Big Day of Giving Goal is set for \$50,000

By Kathy Les and Kent Anderson

Each year on the first Thursday in May, more than 30,000 individuals across the Sacramento region help support hundreds of nonprofits with crucial donations. This year, the annual Big Day of Giving (BDOG) is May 2.

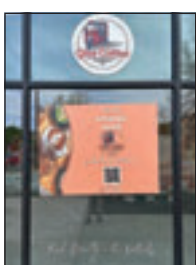
SCNA is among the organizations that depend on contributions from our community of donors. BDOG made all the difference during the COVID years when Sierra 2 Center was forced to close and faced a significant decline in revenues for three years running.

This year, community participation will help continue the traditions and programs that the Curtis Park community relies on and appreciates. SCNA is seeking donations for three primary components of our organization: the Senior Center, *Viewpoint* and general support for the Sierra 2 Center facility.

For more than 20 years, the Senior Center at Sierra 2 has offered free and low-cost programs to area seniors. Donations this year will help cover the costs of programming, staff and resources to

See Giving, Page 4

Quisa Coffee opens in June
Farmers market favorite has roots in Pakistan



Page 7

Oak Park Farmers market returns



Top chefs plan cooking demos

Page 11

Corrections

In the March edition of *Viewpoint*, the front-page story about the mayoral forum erred in its description of candidate Flojaune Cofer. If elected, Dr. Cofer would be the first female Black mayor of Sacramento. Also, the front-page Afghan refugee story omitted the byline. The author was Andrea Rosen. We regret the errors.

A look back at SCNA finances

By John Bailey

Here's a look at how SCNA and Sierra 2 survived COVID-19 over the last five fiscal years.

The table that follows lists SCNA revenues and expenses from fiscal years 2019-2023. A few notes and highlights:

Sierra 2 rental revenue typically accounts for about 80% of SCNA's total revenue. It declined once the lockdown began in 2020, hit rock bottom during 2021 and has since rebounded. In 2021, rental revenue fell to only 25% of the 2019 total.

Note the increase in Dues, Donations and Fundraising Proceeds in 2023 as compared to 2019. The community stepped up to support SCNA and Sierra 2.

Former executive director Terri Shettle did a great job of controlling expenses and secured \$200,000 in Payroll Protection Program funds and over \$50,000 in other grants.

Our most recent year of 2023 was nearly back to normal but for the effects of inflation.

Components of 2023 "Other Expenses" include: utilities, repairs and other occupancy expenses; information technology, telecommunications and credit card fees; printing and professional fees (most, but not all, for Viewpoint printing); accounting; class instruction fees and insurance.

During COVID, SCNA couldn't make deposits into the investment portfolio for funding long-term building maintenance, but costs to repair and replace major building components increased to over \$110,000 per year. The portfolio balance now barely covers three years' worth of such costs and needs to be strengthened to five years' worth. The board is working to repair the shortfall.

SCNA Historical Performance - Surviving the COVID Years					
	Fiscal Year ending:				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sierra 2 Room Rentals	\$713,442	\$583,238	\$181,001	\$532,216	\$715,774
Dues, Donations and Fundraising Proceeds	\$113,496	\$171,171	\$144,992	\$150,520	\$130,719
Payroll Protection Program			\$93,190	\$106,572	
Other	\$74,185	\$67,337	\$60,840	\$36,590	\$72,339
Total Revenue	\$901,123	\$821,746	\$480,023	\$825,898	\$918,832
Personnel Expenses	\$494,153	\$463,697	\$262,381	\$371,344	\$438,103
Depreciation	\$89,701	\$112,040	\$81,190	\$64,047	\$66,726
Other Expenses	\$355,161	\$349,206	\$220,325	\$309,189	\$382,909
Total Expenses	\$939,015	\$924,943	\$563,896	\$744,580	\$887,738
Net from Operations	(\$37,892)	(\$103,197)	(\$83,873)	\$81,318	\$31,094
Investment Gain (loss)	\$22,579	\$12,661	\$65,248	(\$57,967)	\$15,324
Net Surplus (loss)	(\$15,313)	(\$90,536)	(\$18,625)	\$23,351	\$46,418

Upcoming SCNA Events

- Egg Hunt:** Saturday, March 30, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.
- Home Tour:** Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Big Day of Giving:** Thursday, May 2, 24 hours
- Yard Sale:** Saturday, May 18, 8 a.m.-noon
- Curtis Fest:** Sunday, June 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Music in the Park:** Last Sundays, June 30, July 28 and Aug. 25 from 6-8 p.m.
- Fall Fundraiser:** Sat. Oct. 5, 4-7 p.m.
- Angel Tree:** Early November to mid-December
- SCNA Membership Meeting:** November or December (TBD)



Sierra 2 weathers the storms but maintenance projects persist

In like a lion, out like a lamb. Folklore and superstition around weather based on ancestral beliefs abound, but in the case of Sierra 2, the beginning of March certainly lived up to its feline reputation. Between flying roof tiles and falling trees, rogue raccoons and window repairs, life at Sierra 2 Center is far from boring.

Each year around this time, the SCNA Board, led by the Facilities Committee, and in partnership with the executive director, starts to develop the organization's budget for the upcoming fiscal year. A key component of this important financial process is the Capital Projects budget; each year, the majority of the SCNA facilities budget goes toward the frequent repairs and improvements of the Sierra 2 Center, the heart and soul of our Curtis Park community.

What many people don't realize is the amount of work, coordination and effort that goes into maintaining and improving such a large and historic facility. Ensuring that the facility remains in tip-top shape

KENT ANDERSON

Sierra 2 Executive Director



requires a whole array of staff, volunteers and partners who help to maintain and improve the facility daily, even as it is being used by thousands of visitors each year. Beyond cleaning and normal maintenance, the facility often requires work on doors and windows, updates to internal systems such as heating and air conditioning, and even major work on the grounds,

such as the removal of the very large and very old oak tree that recently fell near the front entrance of the main building.

Sierra 2 staff and the SCNA board work in close collaboration with the City of Sacramento to continually improve the buildings and grounds and plan for the future.

One exciting upcoming improvement is the "Zero Carbon Project," through which SCNA hopes to eliminate the use of gas throughout the facility and modernize several internal electrical systems to help conserve energy, a goal of both the City of Sacramento and the SCNA. This is just one fantastic example among many of how the association is taking the lead on important initiatives and continuing to provide a wonderful place for the community to gather, learn, recreate and socialize. And, with Big Day of Giving right around the corner on May 2, this is a great time to donate and help support SCNA and our center-piece, Sierra 2.

Board Notes

Board to Adopt Code of Ethics

The board is considering adopting a code of ethics policy. **John Bailey** introduced a proposed code for review. **Matthew Royal** suggested some modifications and the board agreed to table approval of the policy until recommended revisions are discussed. The board hopes to incorporate those revisions and approve the policy at its next meeting.

Downed Tree SCNA Responsibility

Kent Anderson reported that after much back and forth with the city about the tree that fell over in front of Sierra 2, the city determined it would be SCNA's responsibility to remove it, including the costs associated with its removal. The board discussed different options for the tree's removal including companies that might be able to resell the wood.

Board Agrees to Increase Savings

As activities at the Sierra 2 Center pick up after the COVID pandemic, revenues are increasing. The board voted unanimously to add \$10,000 a month to its reserve for the replacement fund for February through June of 2024 (the end of the current fiscal year). This will begin to replenish the reserve for funds used during the pandemic. The board hopes to continue this funding into the future to boost the reserve.

Board Developing Unified Marketing Calendar

The Development Committee is working on a proposal to create an internal marketing calendar that will capture all events the board plans each year in one place. Working with Sierra 2 staff, the committee will use the calendar to ensure marketing deadlines are not missed and to determine the optimal time

to promote events on social media and other sources.

Neighborhoods Discuss Traffic Issues

Noah Bench discussed the Land Park traffic event he recently attended at which organizers discussed adopting tactical urbanism – prototyping ways of diverting and slowing traffic through temporary measures like hay bales or traffic circles – to decrease injuries and fatalities. According to event organizers, Sacramento has the state's highest traffic-fatality rate. Organizers are looking for support from other organizations and associations in the city. **Andrea Rosen** suggested that Bench discuss with the organization an immediate fix at 21st and X streets where a neighbor was recently killed in a traffic-related accident while riding her bicycle.

– Submitted by Lily Harris

ADULT BALLET

SATURDAY MORNINGS

BALLET/BASIC ■ BALLET 1

for information, please contact:

Richard@TwoRiversDanceCenter.com

location: Sierra 2 Center

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Assistant Editors

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Production Manager

Bonnie Rodriguez

April contributors

Kent Anderson, John Bailey, Valerie Burrows, Janice Calpo, Rudy Calpo, Will Carlton, Anne da Vigo, Mindy Giles, Lauren Gothard, Lori Harder, Lily Harris, Judy Harper, Heather Hogan, Allison Joe, Kathy Les, Susan MacCulloch, Steve Martarano, Jim Miller, Dan Murphy, Patrice Norris, Daniel Pskowski, Patti Roberts, Lindsey Sin

Proofreaders

Lily M. Harris, Susan MacCulloch, Diana Sunseri

Ad Manager

Stacy Gray

Distribution Manager

Gerre Buehler

Distributors

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or stacy@sierra2.org

Birds in Curtis Park

The Northern mockingbird is a true composer and crooner

By Dan Murphy

The Northern mockingbird puts the song in the term “songbird.” Both genders sing, sometimes even at night, particularly around the full moon. Males often can be seen in treetops singing conspicuously and persistently. They begin to sing quietly a month or so after they’re born. Male mockingbirds sing more frequently than females and often have more than 150 distinct song patterns that change over time. Indeed, their spring and fall song repertoires have very little overlap. Songs are acquired through imitating other birds, sounds of non-avian species and even mechanical sounds in the environment.

It appears that the male’s song attracts and stimulates females; they even sing while mating. Males that sing with the greatest versatility and variation are the first to attract mates and begin nesting. Northern mockingbirds typically pair monogamously. They produce up to four broods each season. Both genders feed nestlings, but only females develop bare patches on their chests that can warm their eggs, and they do the great majority of brooding.

Mockingbirds eat a wide variety of insects and even earthworms. Occasionally they eat small lizards and flowers. Fruit is important in the fall and winter throughout their range. The birds are found in suburban and urban habitats such as gardens and cemeteries, favoring open



Northern mockingbird

Photos by: Dan Murphy

areas with access to shrubs or hedges for cover and nesting.

Mockingbirds are year-round residents throughout most of their range, which includes all of the United States except Alaska, a few areas along the Canadian border and the northern half of Mexico. That range has expanded northward, including along the west coast. In California, mockingbirds were originally restricted to southeastern parts of the state, but by the 1970s were common in most counties statewide. This range expansion is mostly due to changes in habitat caused by human land use, but a contributing factor is that people stopped capturing mockingbirds for the pet trade and killing them as agricultural pests. They are partly migratory in the northern reaches of their range in winter.



Mockingbirds are highly territorial. Both mates vigorously drive off intruders of their own gender. Based on capture histories, the estimated annual survivorship of adults is about 30%. Mockingbirds can live up to 20 years.

more money to keep *Viewpoint* coming to your doorstep.

The old school building in which the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and Community is housed turned 100 years old last year. The cost and care of an aging building add up. Not a week goes by that some repair or another is necessary. Your contributions through BDOG will help fund necessary repairs and upgrades to the building.

We’ve set a goal of raising \$50,000 this year. No donation is too small or too large. Watch for more details on BDOG at sierra2.org.

Giving

Continued from page 1

continue health and wellness programs, craft gatherings and the opportunity for local seniors to meet and socialize together.

The *Viewpoint* newspaper is one of a kind among neighborhoods in Sacramento. For nearly 40 years, a fleet of over 90 volunteers including writers, editors and distributors get the newspaper to your doorstep monthly. *Viewpoint* provides the neighborhood with valuable information about our events, programs at Sierra 2 and news about residents in the neighborhood.

This access to news, activities and events builds a sense of community. We keep advertising costs affordable so local businesses can promote themselves, but rising costs of printing require us to raise

Happy Lemon open again

Happy Lemon, a boba shop in Crocker Village, is open again after closing abruptly and briefly in March after Sacramento County cited the establishment with nine violations. According to a story in *The Sacramento Bee*, Happy Lemon had no hot water in any of its sinks, had “dried residue” on a shelf in the preparation area and dusty particles on vent covers on the ice machine. Part of a chain that originated in Taiwan, Happy Lemon corrected the violations and passed a subsequent inspection. Efforts to reach a manager or corporate spokesperson were unsuccessful.

— *Viewpoint staff*

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Tour

Continued from page 1

retained its historic exterior features a thoroughly modern interior of art and furnishings.

A Spanish Revival home with arched ceilings and lighted niches captures the Romantic era, and the owners have followed the cues of the architecture to aim for an authentic experience.

The “tiki hut” that now fills an original 1920s garage is full of fun and references to adventures overseas.

Classic Model A automobiles once again will parade our streets and tourgoers can picnic at the north end of Curtis Park while listening to live music by Midtown Jazz. Food trucks, picnic tables and chairs will be provided, as well as restroom and handwashing facilities.

If you are not an SCNA member, a tour ticket discount is a great reason to join. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at Sierra2.org, or at the Sierra 2 Center. Advance tickets are \$25 (\$20 for SCNA members), and day-of-tour tickets are \$30 (\$25 for SCNA members). On the day of the tour, tickets can be purchased at the north end of Curtis Park at 26th Street and Donner Way. Do-



Arches and niches surround the front room of this Spanish Revival home on tour April 27.

Photo by Rudy Calpo

cents and volunteers are asked to purchase their discount tickets in advance at the Sierra 2 Center,

call Sierra 2, or purchase on tour day. See SCNA’s website and social media for updates.

Voter

Continued from page 1

As of the March 22 update, Krell will face Republican Nikki Ellis in the fall. In 2022, McCarty carried the district by more than 30 points.

In statewide contests, Rep. Adam Schiff, a Democrat, was the top vote-getter in the U.S. Senate contest, carrying Sacramento County and every Curtis Park precinct. He will face former baseball star Steve Garvey, a Republican, in the fall.

Either Rep. Katie Porter or Rep. Barbara Lee, both Democrats, finished second to Schiff in Curtis Park-area precincts.

Neighborhood voters, meanwhile, were much more supportive of Proposition 1 than the state as a whole. The measure authorizes \$6.4 billion in borrowing to build mental-health treatment facilities.

Proposition 1 received almost two-thirds of the vote in Curtis Park-area precincts but barely passed statewide, with just 50.2 percent of the vote as of March 22.

Turnout stood at about 60.4% in the Curtis Park area, significantly better than the 34.8% statewide turnout and 39.9% countywide turnout.

Older voters represented a disproportionate share of the March 5 electorate in Curtis Park as well as statewide, according to preliminary data from voter data firm Political Data, Inc.

Leading candidates in Curtis Park-area precincts


Results as of March 22, 2024

Share of total vote (%)		
Assembly District 6	Curtis Park-area precincts	Districtwide
Maggie Krell (D)	25.2	25.1
Rosanna Herber (D)	21.5	9
Paula Villescaz (D)	16.8	13.3
Carlos Marquez III (D)	9.4	9
Sean Frame (D)	4.2	6.8
Other candidates	22.9	36.8
Sacramento Mayor	Curtis Park-area precincts	Citywide
Flojaune “Flo” Cofer	38.1	28.3
Kevin McCarty	23.9	21.8
Steve Hansen	21	21.2
Richard Pan	14.4	21.6
Other candidates	2.6	7.1
U.S. Senate	Curtis Park-area precincts	Statewide
Rep. Adam Schiff (D)	40.4	31.6
Rep. Katie Porter (D)	25.8	15.3
Rep. Barbara Lee (D)	19.3	9.8
Steve Garvey (R)	9.9	31.5
Eric Early (R)	0.7	3.3
Other candidates	3.9	8.5
Proposition 1	Curtis Park-area precincts	Statewide
Yes	65.1	50.2
No	34.9	49.8

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DEREK GRIPPER: MUSIC FROM THE STRINGS OF MALI
April 27
Prices: \$30-\$40
Tickets: derekgripper.com
Not just a concert but an immersive musical exploration that bridges continents and genres. As a globally renowned South African guitarist, Gripper has rewritten the narrative of classical guitar by infusing it with the captivating sounds of the West African kora. “Music from the Strings of Mali” promises a raw, authentic experience, a musical expedition that embodies the human spirit in its highs and lows, its mastery and its quest for learning. It’s about embracing the beauty of imperfection and transformation that makes music – and life – so compelling.



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lohan36@sbcglobal.net

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Wednesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Studio 2
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FITNESS

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pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

Zumba Gold

Mondays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2
Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. Studio 2

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
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LEISURE

Book Club

2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 12
April 8 – "The Daughter of Time," by Josephine Tey

Nonfiction Book Club

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

Life History Writing

Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

Open Art Studio

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

CARDS & GAMES

Pinoche

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 Wednesdays,
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11

EDUCATION

My Story Project

2nd Monday, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

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

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Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1

STRENGTH AND BALANCE

Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1

GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-noon Studio 1

LINE DANCE CLASS

Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 2

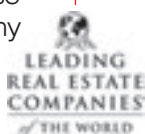


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Thursday, April 11: YELLOW
Monthly: 2nd Thursdays
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Optional paint kit: \$25

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

SACSEWS: QUILTING BASICS

Saturday & Sunday, April 13 & 14
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
\$120/two classes

Embark on a creative journey where the art of quilting comes to life. This two-day comprehensive introduction is perfect for beginners and those with some sewing experience, offering a deep dive into the essential skills needed to craft cozy quilts. From learning about quilting tools and precision cutting to exploring various quilting stitches and binding techniques, participants will gain the confidence to create a personalized piece. Uncover the principles of quilt design, explore color theory and bring your unique vision to fruition. Materials are included in the cost and will

be provided. All experience levels are welcome.

INTRO TO DRAWING

Saturday, April 20: The Tiger Lily
10 a.m.-noon
\$30

Spring is here, and flowers are everywhere. In this month's class, we'll create a showy tiger lily. This bright orange bloom commands attention and is an ideal subject to study form and color. Because of the color variations, this dramatic design is most suited for colored pencils. Your completed pictures can be framed and hung or gifted. 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.

SKETCHING THE HEAD

Sunday, April 28
1-3 p.m.
\$30

This class studies the head, its proportions, poses and expressions in simple line sketching with pencil and pen as a preparation for the May 5 class "Drawing the Face." Prior art experience is helpful but not required. This informal, educational class is a great way to develop your artistic confidence and to meet others with similar interests in a welcoming environment. Local artist and teacher Marie Taylor is the instructor.

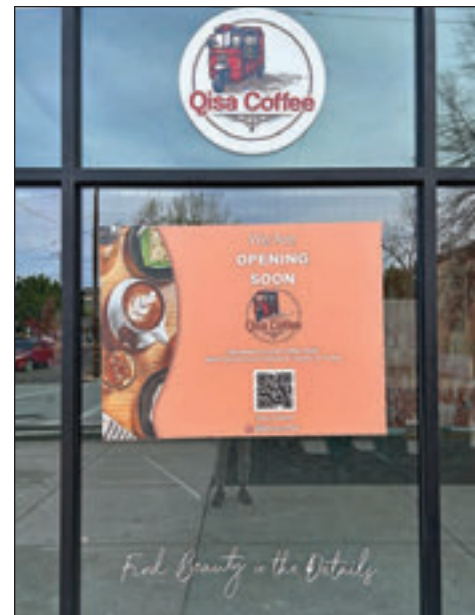
Qisa Coffee brews blend of culture and community in Curtis Park

By Matthew Royal

Curtis Park is set to welcome a unique newcomer to its coffee scene with the opening of Qisa Coffee (pronounced KISS-uh), a venture that promises to blend rich cultural heritage with a strong sense of community. Owned by local resident Abdul Aziz, Qisa Coffee aims to be more than just a coffee shop. It's envisioned as a gathering place where stories are shared and connections are made over cups of carefully crafted coffee. Inspired by the storied Qisa Khwani Bazaar in Peshawar, Pakistan, the name "Qisa" translates to "story," reflecting the shop's focus on creating a vibrant, storytelling atmosphere.

After a three-year search for the perfect location, Aziz found a home for Qisa Coffee in the Amalia Development on 24th Street, across from the Sierra 2 Theater. This eagerly anticipated addition to the Curtis Park neighborhood promises outdoor seating on a dog-friendly patio. Qisa Coffee's espresso drinks will introduce a distinct flavor profile, incorporating Yemeni and Armenian beans with a secret ingredient that pays homage to the shop's Pakistani roots. This unique approach is complemented by a selection of desserts and savory items, continuing the tradition of Aziz's previous venture, Baklava and Coffee, which will continue its presence at Sacramento farmers markets.

R Cubed Lifestyle, a clothing, gift and home goods store, previously had leased the space in the Amalia building, but



Qisa Coffee is coming to Curtis Park in June.

Photo by Dorsey Griffith

shop owner Shannon Gilley said it didn't work out. "The space wasn't what we were told it would be and, so, it didn't make sense for us to be there," she explained. R Cubed Lifestyle has an existing business on Riverside Boulevard in Land Park.

Scheduled to open in June, Qisa Coffee is poised to become a cherished Curtis Park establishment. Aziz's journey from a coffee shop in Peshawar to a beloved fixture at local farmers' markets, and now to a permanent location in Sacramento, is a testament to his passion for coffee and community. Aziz's dedication to building a space where community, culture and coffee converge is evident, where each visit is an opportunity to forge connections and create lasting memories. For updates on their progress and opening announcements, follow @qisacoffee on Instagram.

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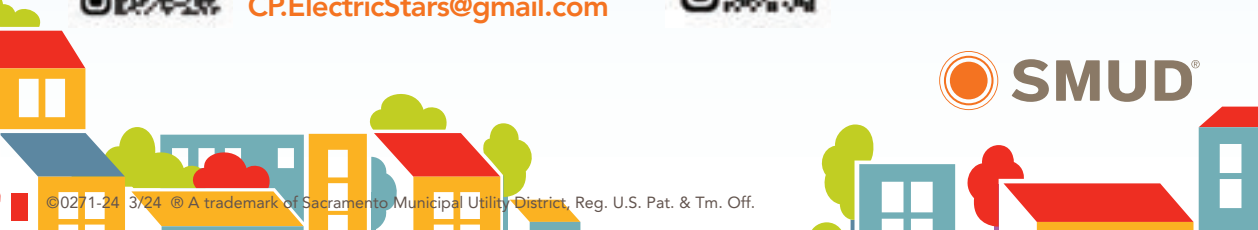
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Here's your handy guide

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Friday, April 5: Kevin Seconds/Hutch Harris/Kepi Ghoulie, round-robin extravaganza from three well-known purveyors of heart and mirth

Saturday, April 6: Richard March and Justin Farren, top-notch, Sacramento-based singer-songwriters. Deep, intuitive storytelling in song

Friday, April 12: The Coffis Brothers, acoustic, Santa Cruz-based rootsy rock/folk band

Friday, April 13: John Reischman and The Jaybirds, Grammy-winning, mandolin-led stylish bluegrass quintet.

Saturday, April 19: The Slocan Ramblers, masterful, young, award-winning bluegrass group from Toronto

Saturday, April 20: Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash, country/Americana band led by Nashville songwriter/singer Mark Stuart and featuring dazzling Sacramento guitarist Steve Randall

Saturday, April 27: Cary Morin & Ghost Dog, high-energy, roots-infused Native Americana with hints of bluegrass, folk, blues and rock

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Fridays: "Local Sounds" acoustic showcase hosted by Four-Eyed Whale, 6-9 p.m.
Saturdays: Ukulele class with Gurukulele (Jim Coats), 4-5 p.m.

— Mindy Giles

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Slocan Ramblers at The Side Door Photo Courtesy of the Artist

SCNA Racial Justice Committee announces book club choice

Police Review Commission also speaks on deadly force

By Kathy Les

SCNA's Racial Justice Committee welcomes all Curtis Park residents in a neighborhood-wide reading of "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The committee hopes this first-ever community reading will enable in-depth exploration and discussion of various race-related issues.

Coates's memoir is written as a letter to his then-15-year-old son. The letter explores his relationship with his father and his son in the context of growing up facing racial inequality. In beautiful prose, the book addresses the psychological and physical trauma experienced by Blacks through generations.

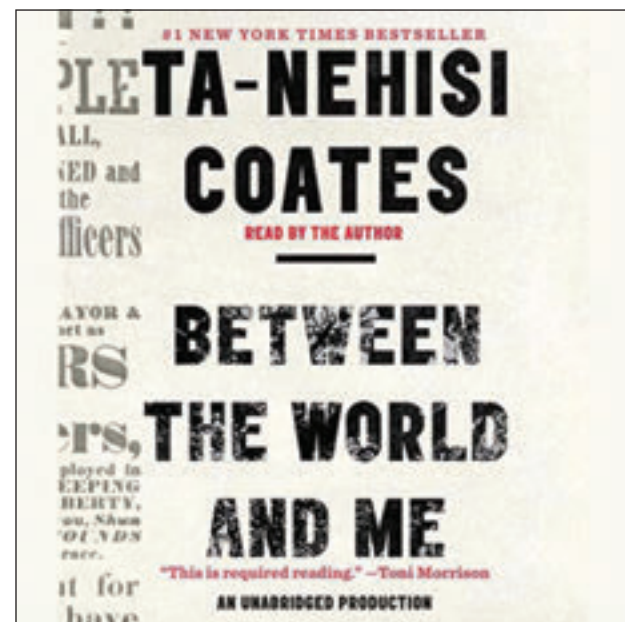
Published in 2015, "Between the World and Me" won the National Book Award for nonfiction as well as the NAACP Image Award in 2016 for Outstanding Literary Work in the Biography/Autobiography genre. The book remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for months following publication. Coates went on to win a Genius Award from the MacArthur Foundation and currently teaches at Howard University.

The book club meeting will be held at Sierra 2 in early June (exact date to be announced). To participate, email info@sierra2.org indicating your interest in the book club or to ask questions. Obtain a copy of "Between the World and Me" at a local bookstore, either Underground Books or The Avid Reader. The book club meeting will include a guided discussion with an opportunity for attendees to share their thoughts.

Police Review Commission and deadly force

The March meeting of the Racial Justice Committee featured guest speakers Keyan Bliss and Manuel Buenrostro, chair and vice chair respectively of the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission. They spoke on the commission's relationship to the Sacramento Police Department as well as the department's acquisition of military equipment and their use of deadly force standards.

AB 481, adopted three years ago by the state legislature, requires police departments to assess their military equipment and how it impacts civilians. Studies show marginalized communities with high Black and brown populations are more likely to experience police use of



this equipment. Last year for the first time, the City Council directed the police department to work with the commission to gather demographic information on any use of military equipment, including when and where it was used and who it was used against.

Similarly, AB 392, adopted in 2019 by the state legislature, requires police departments to train officers in the use of deadly force, but Chair Bliss emphasized officers still have a lot of leeway before exhausting all other possibilities.

The commission has made 155 recommendations on how police officers might better handle deadly force interactions. The commission's community forums have demonstrated that citizens have a keen interest in working with the police department to prevent unnecessary deaths at the hands of police officers.

For those interested in the police review commission's work, the public is welcome at their meetings on the second Monday of each month in City Council chambers at 5:30 p.m.

"We do this work because we care about it and want to help make changes," said Commissioner Bliss. "We seek to reflect our shared values and interest in public safety."

The full meeting was recorded and can be viewed at sierra2.org/neighborhood-scna/racial-justice.

At HOME in Curtis Park



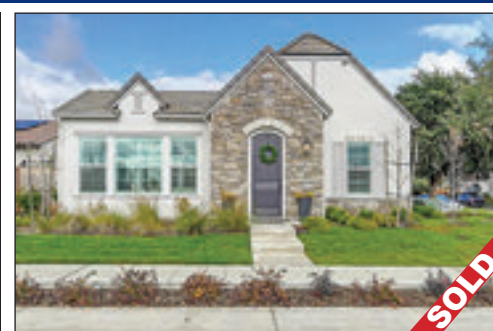
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Workers cut and begin to remove fallen oak tree at Sierra 2 on March 22.

Photo by Anne da Vigo



Fallen California coast live oak at Sierra 2 Center

Photo by Will Carlton

Trees in Curtis Park

Sierra 2 oak tree the victim of a sinkhole

By Daniel Pskowski

As first reported by Sierra 2 staff, the large California coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) in front of the Sierra 2 Center fell over during the predawn hours of Thursday, Feb. 22. Fortunately, no one was hurt, and the building was unscathed. However, some of the branches came to rest on an above-ground SMUD transformer, and a few limbs blocking the public sidewalk had to be immediately cleared.

It was breezy that morning but not the stormy 50-mph winds that Sacramento experienced on Feb. 4 that felled three large trees in the neighborhood. When the 41-inch diameter oak in front of Sierra 2 fell over, it pulled up a small amount of the surrounding soil, which could indicate extensive decay in the anchoring roots. However, minor excavation and examination of 10 roots,

measuring up to 12 inches in diameter, found them all to be healthy. I estimate the tree to be 40 to 60 years old.

So why did this oak suddenly fall over? Additional probing and digging uncovered a large void in the ground. After ruling out decay organisms, roots damaged by trenching, excessive moisture or hardpan soils, I concluded that this was a sinkhole failure. Sinkholes are cavities in the ground that form when water erodes an underlying rock layer.

This type of failure is rare in Sacramento but can occur because the city lies in a flood plain. In my nearly 30-year tenure as the city arborist, I came across sinkhole failures fewer than a dozen times, one of them also in Curtis Park. In that case, it was the loss of a 44-inch diameter valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) in Bruce Pierini's 25th Street backyard during last year's New Year's Eve storm.



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Burglars hit neighborhood market

By Patti Roberts

An alarm went off at Taylor's Market on Freeport Boulevard in the early morning hours last month. But when the police arrived, nothing seemed amiss – no broken windows or doors, nothing trashed. They figured it was a false alarm.

Staff arriving for work the next morning discovered otherwise.

"That's when we realized the door had been jimmed, and the safe was gone," said Taylor's Assistant Manager Casey Shideler. "Someone had used our dolly to move the heavy safe and take it out the back door. We all stood around at the empty space where the safe had been and just stared at each other out of confusion. Nothing else was out of place or missing – just the safe.

"We were all shocked and a little freaked out," Shideler added. "We still have the feeling of being violated and disappointed that it happened."

Taylor's wasn't the only locally owned

small business hit during that one-week period in a similar fashion.

Taylor's was burglarized on March 7, the same night thieves broke into Compton's Market on McKinley Boulevard and the night after V. Miller Meats on Folsom Boulevard was burglarized. Selland's Market on Broadway and Orphan Breakfast House on 35th and C streets were burglarized in a similar way a week earlier on Feb. 27.

"It seems like all the break-ins were done quickly while the alarms were going off," said Taylor's Assistant Manager Jason Chapman. "That's the reason we feel like they had already cased our store – they knew where the safe was, where our dolly was, how to jimmy the door."

Though the Sacramento Police Department can't confirm the break-ins were linked, the similarities are obvious.

"These are all open and active investigations. In order to protect the integrity of the investigations, we do not have any further information to release at this time," the police department said in a statement.



Taylor's Market

Photo by Steve Martarano

At Taylor's Market, neighbors have expressed condolences to the staff, said Chapman, which means a lot to the owner and employees. The store has installed new security methods.

Local representatives also have expressed their concerns about the Taylor's Market burglary, as well as the other locally owned businesses hit.

"I'm concerned about the recent break-ins at our community's small businesses like Taylor's Market," said Councilman Rick Jennings. "Small businesses are the lifeblood of our

community. I'm working directly with our area police captain to make sure that the resources necessary are provided to the Sacramento Police Department to support our neighborhoods and small businesses."

"As mayor, it's disheartening to see small businesses such as Taylor's Market targeted by break-ins," said Mayor Darrell Steinberg. "I want to assure our community that our dedicated police department is actively investigating these crimes to hold those responsible accountable."

POINT OF VIEW

Tree removal for development hurts the environment

By Daniel Pskowski

At its Feb. 27 meeting, the Sacramento City Council adopted the 2040 General Plan and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, which aim to reflect current conditions and new legal requirements. The plans include sections on Tree Canopy Expansion, Tree List, Urban Forest Maintenance and Planting but no mention of preserving existing trees.

Trees are our first line of defense in combatting climate change yet more Sacramento trees have been removed in the past decade than in the 20 years prior. Why? A paradigm shift occurred in Sacramento's urban forest management philosophy. It went from the protection and preservation of trees to removing them on development sites. Curtis Park residents witnessed

this firsthand on the 72-acre Crocker Village site, where more than 300 trees were removed including 147 that are classified as heritage trees (now called private protected trees). Only 12 heritage trees were preserved along the northern property line. However, two of the 12 were removed after Urban Forestry approved removal permits submitted by new homeowners and after appeals to preserve the trees were denied.

The downtown Sacramento Commons project removed 199 trees. The Sacramento Convention Center project removed 79 trees. These are just a few examples of trees lost to development projects. Furthermore, Urban Forestry is approving the removal of offsite trees so developers can maximize building square footage. So many large trees in Sacramento have been removed during this paradigm shift that the

Sacramento Tree Foundation initiated an Urban Wood Rescue Program to process the wood from all the trees being removed.

The section of the city code that protects trees on development sites has not changed. But Urban Forestry no longer requires developers to incorporate existing trees into their project design, so sites are routinely clear-cut.

Tree removal offsets gains made from efforts to sequester carbon. The city does not calculate these losses when measuring carbon reduction gains in other areas like transportation.

An example: Developers wanted to cut down 10, 100-foot coast redwoods on the perimeter of a development site near Sacramento State University. A forest ecologist determined that the 10 trees captured 8,056 pounds of carbon dioxide annually. The city's 2040 General Plan and Climate Action Adaptation Plan should have addressed this and all the other trees that are being removed.

Planet Earth does not have time to wait 50 years for the replacement trees to sequester the carbon dioxide that the now-removed trees were storing so well.

Daniel Pskowski lives on Castro Way.

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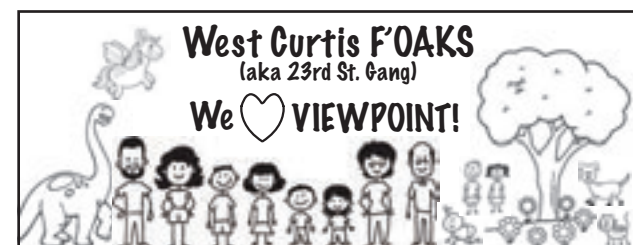


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Curtis Park native produces untold Oppenheimer story

Faith Bernstein, the daughter of Dan Bernstein and Jill Estroff of Sixth Avenue, recently directed, produced and edited a 9-minute video story for “Good Morning America” about the impact of radiation exposure on area residents as a result of the atomic bomb test in Los Alamos, New Mexico in 1945. The piece, which appears on the show’s digital platform, is called “Forgotten collateral damage: The stories you didn’t see in Oppenheimer.” It features interviews with a group of radiation exposure victims called “Trinity Downwinders” fighting to be recognized and compensated under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) before it expires this June. One of the members says that in her family alone, cancer diagnoses run five generations deep, including 31 radiogenic cases on her mother’s side.

The group has received more attention recently because of the success of the 2024 Academy Award “Best Picture” winner “Oppenheimer.” On March 7, the U.S. Senate passed a bill to extend and expand RECA; the bill now awaits a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bernstein, 32, has been at ABC News



Faith Bernstein Courtesy of Faith Bernstein

for five years. Her work focuses on humanizing communities that have endured discrimination and hardship. Her recent video series on the Club Q shooting and surviving LGBTQIA+ community in Colorado Springs has been nominated for a GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Online Journalism.

To view the story of the Trinity Downwinders, visit goodmorningamerica.com/news/story/untold-oppenheimer-story-female-activists-fighting-justice-after-107849537.

– Viewpoint staff



Pepper Photo by Patrice Norris

Neighborhood grieves friendly feline’s passing

Neighbors who walk by Fourth Avenue and 22nd Street will note the absence of the unofficial sidewalk greeter, Pepper. For 19 years, Pepper the cat welcomed all passersby and enjoyed sharing her affection and receiving pets and belly rubs in return. Pepper took her journey over the rainbow to join all her dearly departed cat buddies on March 4.

Pepper lived at the home of my neighbor, Adelaide Owens. Owens’ son originally brought Pepper home as a kitten after finding her on a friend’s farm. Pepper visited me frequently and, after Adelaide moved away, Pepper stayed

with the woman who rented her home; our neighborhood helped care for her.

I agreed to take charge of Pepper’s medical care, which involved monthly arthritis shots and refills on thyroid medications. She also needed surgery to remove a benign tumor but was otherwise healthy. That changed recently when she stopped eating and was moving much slower. I decided to let her go, and she passed gently on my lap. I keep her ashes in her special art box.

I miss her greatly and so do my neighbors.

– Patrice Norris



Photo by Rudy Calpo

Oak Park Farmers Market opens April 6

By Judy Green Scheible

Fresh produce and free cooking demonstrations will be offered Saturday, April 6 when the Oak Park Farmers Market opens at 9 a.m. in McClatchy Park. Market Manager Gerine Williams plans to start the season with 20 vendors, telling *Viewpoint* that she expects additional vendors as harvests develop. Williams works through the Food Literacy Center, which runs the market. Former longtime manager Joany Titherington has stepped aside for

health reasons.

Williams said she expects customers to enjoy cooking demonstrations by Sacramento chef Mike Thiemann at 10 a.m., chef Patrick Mulvaney at 11 a.m. and chef Byron Hugs at noon. Each demonstration will include free samples.

Williams has worked at the market as a volunteer and staff member since 2014. Starting on April 6, she will offer a recipe kit for children that includes coupons that can be used toward certain produce ingredients to make the recipes in the kit.

Graduates to appear in June Viewpoint

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

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

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

The deadline is May 10.

Calling all Curtis Park Artists

Are you a painter, printmaker, poet, photographer, weaver or sculptor? *Viewpoint* wants to share your creations with the community in our periodic Park Arts column. Send high-resolution photos of your work, a brief artist statement and contact information to Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com.

Bret Harte pancake breakfast and native garden tour set for April 27

Bret Harte Elementary will host a pancake breakfast during the annual Home & Garden Tour on Saturday, April 27. Proceeds from the breakfast will support next year's class trip to Sly Park. Bret Harte grandparent Monica Hyde of Ninth Avenue is organizing the fundraiser.

"The pancake breakfast is a Bret Harte tradition and a good fundraising tool," she said.

Since the school district no longer covers the cost of the Sly Park trip, it's up to students to raise the money. The breakfast will be available from 8-10 a.m. and includes pancakes, bacon, eggs, fruit and coffee. Tickets may be pre-purchased on Thursday, April 11 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in front of the school for \$8 or on the day of the event for \$10.

Fifth-grade teacher Ted Richardson, who has been teaching at the school for 35 years, said the pancake breakfast predates him.

"The pancake breakfast would have lines coming out of the campus and down Franklin Boulevard," he said of breakfasts he witnessed during his first teaching years. "People were excited to come. It was a great opportunity for alumni to gather."

In addition to the pancake breakfast, the California Native Plant Society's Gardens Gone Native Tour will include tours of the school's native plant garden on the corner of Ninth Avenue and Franklin Boulevard. Dennis Gunvalson of Sixth Avenue, a self-described garden addict, has managed the garden since its creation in 2015. The native garden project is an example of the neighborly collaboration that happens in Curtis Park.

"In 2015, a few neighbors including Daniel Thompson and Ruby Bailey met with Bret Harte's [former] principal James Tucker," Gunvalson said.



LAUREN GOTHARD and LINDSEY SIN

"They offered to provide funding to transform a very unsightly trash and weed-infested busy street corner into an appealing landscape."

Multiple volunteers prepped the area, mulched, installed a drip irrigation system and planted the original nine varieties of native plants. Of the 50 varieties of plants currently featured in the garden, all but four are native. Volunteers will be available to answer questions about the garden on April 27. Tickets are not required, and the tour is free. For anyone interested in viewing all the gardens on the tour, registration is required to receive the tour map. More information is on the Sacramento Valley California Native Plants Society website: sacvalleycnps.org/gardens-gone-native-tour/.

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating supplies for the pancake breakfast should contact the Bret Harte PTA at BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com.



Native garden at Bret Harte


Photos by Lindsey Sin



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