

# VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

Vol. 46 No. 1

2791 24th Street Sacramento, CA 95818 • 916-452-3005 • sierra2.org/viewpoint-community-newspaper

July 2024

## Commuters give local bike lane improvements mixed reviews

### Northbound bike lane on 21st Street problematic

By Jim Miller

Curtis Park residents biking to destinations downtown, Midtown and beyond have a handful of northbound city roads to choose from: 21st, 24th or 26th streets.

Several years ago, the city expanded bike lanes along 24th Street past the Department of Motor Vehicles complex.

And in recent months, the city's Central City Mobility Project made approximately 70 blocks' worth of bike lane improvements. The work created new buffered and unbuffered bike lanes, added "turn wedges" to slow cars rounding corners, and also brought significant changes to 21st Street.

The changes have received a mixed reception from bike riders commuting to work, for recreation and other reasons. An unprotected bike lane between Broadway and W Street abruptly shifts from the east side of 21st Street to a buffered lane on the west side north of W Street.

"We really like the bike lanes," said Jeremiah Rohr of Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA). Overall, he said, the changes have helped to slow vehicles, improve bicyclists' visibility and raise motorist awareness, while noting, "There are issues with them, like anything."

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, a higher share of Curtis Park-area residents commute to work by bicycle than in the city or county overall.

Portola Way resident David Gordon is one of them. He regularly bicycles to his downtown job at the state Department of Water Resources

See *Bike Lane*, Page 4



Photo by Carlos Alcala

A driver waits to let a cyclist cross X Street on 21st Street. At times, the lane the cyclist is using is occupied by parked vehicles, leaving cyclists no lane.

## Curtis Park homes increasingly unaffordable

By Dennis Cusick

Real estate trends in Curtis Park reveal both good news and bad news.

The good news for current Curtis Park residents is living in a highly desirable neighborhood in what is now one of the most desirable cities in the country. The bad news for potential buyers is the neighborhood is becoming less and less affordable.

*Travel & Leisure* magazine recently rated Sacramento as one of the seven best places to live in the West.

"With excellent schools, many parks and green spaces, and a dining scene that's getting national recogni-

tion, Sacramento is a family-friendly, culturally rich city that attracts residents with its affordability," the magazine reported. San Jose was the only other California city mentioned.

Sacramento is also the third most competitive real estate market in the country, behind San Jose and Richmond, Va., according to a study by the real estate brokerage Redfin.

And Sacramento is the eighth least-affordable housing market in a study reported in *The Sacramento Business Journal* in May. The four least affordable were all California cities – Los Angeles, San Jose, San Diego and San Francisco. The other cities ranked as less affordable than

Sacramento were Seattle, New York and Las Vegas.

The affordability study by First American Financial Corp. calculated the average household buying power in a particular market and compared that to the average home's sale price. In Sacramento, the average sales price, \$539,125, was 26% more than the average household could afford to pay.

The affordability discrepancy is even more pronounced in Curtis Park, compared to other neighborhoods, local real estate experts say. Among nearby neighborhoods, only

See *Homes*, Page 5

### Average asking price

Land Park	\$827,331
Curtis Park	\$748,146
Midtown - Winn Park	\$676,455
Newton Booth	\$625,749
Upper Land Park	\$576,934
Hollywood Park	\$527,315
North Oak Park	\$497,998
North City Farms	\$399,558
Central Oak Park	\$390,645
South Oak Park	\$353,397

SOURCE: zillow.com/curtis-park-sacramento-ca/ (6-8-2024)

### Trains

All aboard this model train railroad of history

Page 9



### Kids' Music

Kids' Music event coming in September

Page 10

**KIDS' MUSIC IN THE PARK**

Performance by Jillian Van Ness, founder of **Grow Resilient FAMILIES**

**Sunday, Sept. 8**  
at Sierra 2 Green  
9:30-10:15 a.m.

**Free Admission!**

## Municipal services must be budget priority

The City of Sacramento is fundamentally a municipal-services organization, both in principle and practice. We deliver essential services to our residents, including police and fire protection, trash collection and park maintenance. During this year's budget discussions addressing the multimillion-dollar structural deficit, I focused on preserving these critical municipal services. I am pleased to report that we were largely successful in maintaining this focus.

Looking ahead to future budgets, we have more work to do to balance our structural deficit. My priority will remain on core municipal services that only the City of Sacramento can provide to our residents. These include public safety, park maintenance and trash collection. No other entity will provide these services if we do not. Our budgetary spending must prioritize these core services.

There are areas of non-core services where we can and should collaborate with other organizations and

### RIK JENNINGS

City Council Member  
District 7



government entities to meet the needs of our shared constituents. These services can be effectively provided through joint partnerships, with each organization contributing appropriately to achieve common goals.

A notable example of one partnership emerging from this year's budget discussions is the RYDEFree RT program. The city initially funded RT passes for school-aged children at a cost of \$1 million per year. The program yielded positive outcomes, such as improved student attendance and the ability for students

to use the passes for jobs, extracurricular activities and internships outside of school hours.

Given the city's structural deficit, we must evaluate each program thoroughly. While the RYDEFree RT program is important, it is not a core municipal service. If the city did not provide it, other entities would. Through discussions with Regional Transit (RT) and our school district partners, we reached an agreement in which RT and the school districts helped fund this program. This collaboration allowed the city to reduce its annual cost by \$750,000 and exemplified how working together benefits our mutual constituents.

By focusing on core municipal services and collaborating with other governmental and nonprofit organizations, we can enhance our service delivery. We can concentrate our efforts on public safety and park maintenance while partnering with others to address issues like homelessness and youth services.

## LETTER TO THE CITY

*On June 19, the SCNA Board of Directors sent the following letter to the City of Sacramento's Department of Public Works Department about its Urban Forestry Plan, affirming the values of Sacramento's tree canopy, particularly in the face of climate change. The letter enumerates several comments about the importance of tree conservation as Sacramento continues to develop new housing, infrastructure and businesses. Attachment A will appear in the online version of this letter @SCNA.org.*

To: Lucinda Willcox, Assistant Director  
Department of Public Works

RE: Urban Forestry Plan

Dear Ms. Willcox,

Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) and Curtis Park residents have a long history of protecting and preserving trees in our neighborhood, going back to 1993 when neighbors raised \$6,500 for an arborist evaluation of the 281 William Curtis Park trees. Since 2008 SCNA has spent over \$40,000 to protect the park's English elms from Dutch elm disease. Over the years there have been tree replacement plantings in the park to sustain its lush canopy.

SCNA played a key role in the development of the 72-acre Crocker Village site. Over 300 trees were removed for this project, of which 147 were deemed heritage trees. SCNA fought hard to save as many trees as possible. In the end, the City of Sacramento Urban Forestry section required Petrovich Development to preserve just 13 valley oaks at the north end of the site, which abuts Portola alley. However, after the homes were built, Urban Forestry approved the removal permits for two homeowners to remove a valley oak on each of the properties.

Even though SCNA was not invited to be on the Partner Advisory Committee, we still want to be involved in the Urban Forest Plan.

Listed below are comments with regards to the

Urban Forest Plan:

- SCNA supports increasing city-wide tree canopy from 19K to 35% by 2045.
- SCNA supports targeting planting efforts in neighborhoods with the lowest canopy levels and the most socio-economically vulnerable residents.
- To achieve the plan's goal of preserving existing trees, SCNA suggests a minor change in the tree ordinance that would preserve trees on development sites (attachment A).
- Goals, objectives, and strategies are not supported with specific details on how to achieve them.
- This plan does not address operational functions of maintaining the urban forest.
- There was no mention of forming a Tree Commission to review and aid in setting policy, provide program feedback, and protect the community's urban forest interests.
- This plan should address leaf surface area in addition to canopy coverage since this assessment more accurately defines how much carbon dioxide sequestration is occurring which is critical in tackling the climate crisis.

Apart from the Urban Forestry Plan SCNA has concerns about the Urban Forestry tree removal notification process. The 15-day notification period is challenging for SCNA and other neighborhood associations who meet monthly. Could it be extended to 30 days, which was the removal notification period prior to 2006? The removal notification should include species and diameter to avoid any confusion when a property has more than one private protected tree.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on Sacramento's urban forest.

Sincerely,  
John Bailey  
Board President, Sierra Curtis  
Neighborhood Association

*Stay Connected!*

For information on SCNA happenings, events and classes.

FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM AND  
FACEBOOK!

@sierra2center

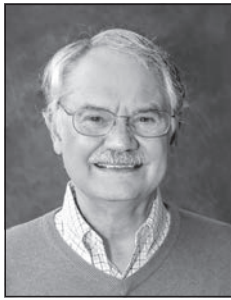
Sierra 2 Center

# Sierra 2 Center gives everyone something to celebrate

Summertime activities abound in Curtis Park. Runners get their miles in during the cool of early morning. Volleyball, children's and youth soccer, softball, pickleball, track teams, birthday parties and more make Curtis Park a vibrant place. What a joy it is to see the park filled with activity.

SCNA's Curtis Fest was a tremendous success, with 96 vendor booths, a large crowd of attendees and, thankfully, pleasant weather. Thanks to all who contributed toward its success. We look forward to presenting three Music in the Park events on the last Sunday evenings of June, July and August. Once again there will be picnics in the park as families savor both food and music presented on the stage. Thanks to Sacramento City Councilmember Rick Jennings and SMUD for their sponsorships.

## JOHN BAILEY SCNA Board President



During this time of transition between executive directors, I've spent more time at the Sierra 2 Center. Doing so refreshes my appreciation for what a jewel we have. A property once slated for demolition to make way for a parking lot continues to serve our neighborhood and the greater community. What is described in the center pages of *Viewpoint* just skims the surface of what takes place there. In addition to 10 tenants, over 30 organizations rent blocks of time for

regular schedules. Most of you know that our facility houses a children's day care provider, a senior center providing fellowship and beneficial activities, support for those recovering from addictions, and lessons and services for those practicing yoga and meditation. There are voice lessons, choral singing, instrumental music from strings to taiko drumming, dance from ballet to tap to Zumba, and theater arts for youth and adults. There's even a music program for pre-kindergarten kids.

Parkinson's disease runs in my family, so I am delighted to learn of a dance group for those suffering from this condition; an Alzheimer's support group meets here, too. Classes in martial arts from kung fu to tai chi are offered. Lessons in the visual arts range from painting to mosaics. Various clubs meet regularly, including a pioneer doll club

and one celebrating Hawaiian culture. Several faith groups meet at Sierra 2 as well.

We don't offer cooking classes, but you can come to Sierra 2 for Weight Watchers. The list above is far from comprehensive. I encourage you to check out our website at [sierra2.org](http://sierra2.org) and click on the "Activities" tab to learn more. You just might find something right for you.

The 45 years since our neighborhood fought to save the now 100-year-old Sierra School has paid off. Inside the walls of the Sierra 2 Center, a hub of activities for all ages thrives. It takes work to keep our building humming and in good order, but a capable staff, a committed board of directors and a generous neighborhood of volunteers and donors make it happen. Thank you all.

## Board Notes

### SCNA to Submit Letter on City's Urban Forest Plan

Former board member and city arborist **Dan Pskowski** urged the board to adopt a letter to the city regarding comments and concerns about the city's Urban Forest Plan. **Bruce Pierini** suggested that some of the letter's language might need revision. Ultimately, given that the city would be considering the plan before the next meeting of the full board, the board voted to authorize the Neighborhood Concerns Committee to revise the letter and present the final version to the city on the board's behalf. *See letter on page 2.*

### Search for New SCNA Executive Director

The search for a new SCNA Executive Director continues. The Personnel Committee received over 100 resumes, is actively interviewing

top candidates and hopes to conduct interviews in June.

### Theater Revenues Short of Budget

The Sierra 2 theater revenue is \$30,000 short of budget; however, the board hopes to see improvement through June. The theater lost Runaway Productions, a youth-oriented theater company with strong bookings in the past. The projector in the theater is broken, and repairs are expected to be a few thousand dollars. Many of the lightbulbs in the theater also are out; new bulbs have been ordered. The Facilities Committee and board are hoping the repairs will help increase theater revenues.

### Sierra 2 Loses Two Tenants

Warmline Family Resources Center and Diamond Light Tibetan Buddhist Group are not renewing their leases with Sierra 2. The Facilities Committee will work with staff

to rehabilitate the spaces as necessary and fill the vacancies. The board unanimously approved a 3.5% rent increase for all Sierra 2 tenants.

### Possible Mayoral Forum

The board discussed a request that SCNA host another mayoral forum at the Sierra 2 theater. The Neighborhood Concerns Committee will coordinate with other organizations on details.

### Informal Subcommittee to Discuss Membership Dissatisfaction

After **John Bailey** presented two correspondences from SCNA members expressing concern over how the board handled the issue of siting a dog park at Sierra 2 Green, **Andrea Rosen** suggested the board create an informal subcommittee to discuss how to engage with the community disaffected over the issue. Rosen agreed to bring the group together with the goal of presenting some ideas to the board on how it might

respond to those who have expressed concern.

### Nate Colley Event Postponed

The Racial Justice Committee has postponed the event celebrating Nate Colley's life to Oct. 17. Producer **Chris Lango** will speak, and the Nate Colley Coalition has agreed to sponsor the event. More details to come.

### Bylaws Committee Drafting Proposed Changes

After two more information-gathering sessions with board members, the Bylaws Committee is now working on a proposed first draft of bylaws revisions for presentation to the full board for consideration in the late summer or fall. They continue meeting regularly to revise the draft.

The next board meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on July 10 (rescheduled from July 3 because of the July 4 holiday).

— Submitted by Lily M. Harris

**West Curtis F'OKS**  
(aka 23rd St. Gang)  
We ♥ VIEWPOINT!

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES  
HOME OFFICE: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

**KEN PERRY, Agent**

2724 24th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95818 (916) 452-6668

*We specialize in insuring the older home.*

## Upcoming SCNA Events

**Music in the Park:** Last Sundays, July 28 and Aug. 25 from 6-8 p.m.

**Kids' Music Event,** Sept. 8, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

**Fall Fundraiser:** Saturday, Oct. 5, 4-7 p.m.

**Nate Colley Event,** Oct. 17, 7 p.m.

**Angel Tree:** Early November to mid-December

**SCNA Membership Meeting:** November or December (TBD)

## VIEWPOINT

Executive Editor  
Dorsey Griffith

Assistant Editors  
Lily M. Harris, Susan MacCulloch, Diana Sunseri

Production Manager  
Bonnie Rodriguez

July contributors  
Carlos Alcala, John Bailey, Dennis Cusick, Brenda Fotos, Mindy Giles, Erin Gottis, Lauren Gothard, Lily Harris, Rick Jennings, Kathy Les, Alysse Macaluso, Jim Miller, Janet Moody, Daniel Pskowski, Patti Roberts, Lindsey Sin, and Jaclyn Teofilo

Proofreaders  
Lily M. Harris, Susan MacCulloch, Diana Sunseri

Ad Manager  
Erin Gottis

Distribution Manager  
Gerre Buehler

Distributors  
Melinda Adam, Saralyn Ang-Olson, Vince & Phyllis Angel, Dick & Jeannie Balwin, Andy Bambauer, Grace Bazua, Linda Bell, Kathryn Beltrami, Nancy Blackburn & Eugene George, George & Susan Blondin, Kimberley Bond, Trudy Bourgeois, Mary Jo & Eric Brazil, Judy Brush, Rafael Burgos, Leanne Byerhoff, Andra Casas, Peggy Chisholm, Chismer/Miller Family, Ross Colburn, Fran Coletti, Annie Cook, Dustin Dyer, Ros Fallon, Janice Fitch, Robin French, Lisa Giroux, Graybill Family, Zane Gray, Lana Gregori, Bud Haubrick, Michael & Shannon Hearn, Courtney Higgins, Constance Hoover, Dawn Hoppe, Mary Hylbom, Melanie Jordanas, Susan King, Jane Knight, Bev Krikorian & Joe Shea, Jordon Lange, Catherine Lentz, Kathy Les, Linda McAtee, Menz Family, Carol Meredith, Paul & Shannon Mewton, Leah Morrissey & Jenice Thomas, Patricia Moses, Carol Mott-Binkley, Eileen Murray, Kris Olesen, Bob & Shirley Olson, Jennifer & Sahar Ozeir, Bill Patterson, Wendy Peller-Walker, Lynn Pichinino, Sally Powell, Jennifer Realmuto, Colleen Riley, Marcus & Annette Romani, Matthew Royal, Judith Ryan, Shu Sebesta, Anne Seiler Debby Senna, Tom & Jan Sheedy, Sherry Sherry, Soluri Family, Steiner Family, Susan Swanson, Mr. Szito, Linda Tennyson, Thorne Family, Frances Varela, Rafael Vergos, Marianne Waindle, Nancy Wallace, Jane White & Sally Davis, Linda White

Advertise in *Viewpoint*  
Call Erin Gottis: 916-452-3005 x200  
or [erin@sierra2.org](mailto:erin@sierra2.org)

## Bike Lane

*Continued from page 1*

about three miles each way.

Gordon gets to and from his office more quickly than if he drove, the riding helps clear his mind and saves on gas and vehicle wear-and-tear. Bicycling also makes it easy to meet up with colleagues after work.

“I just ride my bike there, and they’re still trying to find parking,” he said.

Downsides include “life logistics,” such as getting his children to sports and other activities. In those cases, he goes home first and gets the family car to carry kids and their gear.

Gordon said he generally likes the new bike lanes. The portion of 21st Street underneath the Capitol City Freeway is “probably is the most hazardous part of the ride,” he noted, with motorists hurrying to freeway onramps and racing through traffic lights.

Caltrans owns that section of 21st, which hampered planning and public comment for the bike lane changes in that area, said Rohr of SABA.

“It’s a matter of dealing with Caltrans’ rules and regulations and the city’s rules and regulations,” Rohr said.

Marshall Way resident Carlos Alcala bike-commuted for years to jobs at *The Sacramento Bee* and the state capitol. Bicycling was less expensive, and he could easily lock his bike close to work. On hot summer days when he had to wear a suit, “I just rode very slowly.”

Now retired, Alcala still regularly rides his bike and said he understands that the new buffered bike lanes could make less experienced cyclists feel more comfortable. Getting more people on bikes should increase motorists’ awareness as well as reducing the number of people driving, he added.

Yet the city’s changes reduced the number of northbound bike lanes on 21st Street north of W Street from two to one. And Alcala said motorists on 21st Street turning left may not be able to see cyclists riding quickly in the buffered bike lane because of the parked cars.

“We don’t want to have to slow down at every intersection,” Alcala said of bicyclists checking for unwitting motorists on 21st Street turning left.

Rohr said buffered bike lanes are preferable to lanes where bicyclists are next to moving traffic.

Some of the mobility project changes yielded green-painted bike lanes, but no traffic buffer. That is the case along the section of 21st Street



Photo by Carlos Alcala

Cyclist looks over her shoulder to cross two lanes of motor vehicle traffic, trying to make the instant bike lane shift on 21st Street at W.

between Broadway and W.

“Paint does not make a bike lane,” Rohr said. “It’s not a fair fight between cars and bikes. You need barriers.”

For months, an all-white “ghost bike” at the corner of 21st and X streets memorialized Johanna Kate Johnston, a Curtis Park resident. On the morning of Jan. 16, Johnston was riding her bike in the 21st Street bike lane just below X Street when a motorist driving a pickup veered into the bike lane and struck her. She died from her injuries the next day.

Jacob Glynn Payton, 64, of Sacramento has been charged with felony hit-and-run and misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter, court records show. Payton’s trial is scheduled to begin in early July.

### Correction

Board Notes in the May edition of *Viewpoint* had an incorrect figure in reporting the cost of the Egg Hunt and Parade. The SCNA board unanimously approved a budget of \$750 for the event, not all of which was spent. The event generated several hundred dollars in revenue from the professional photographs with the bunny donated by Mischa Photography. In-kind donations from organizers amounted to several thousand dollars as well.

## Congratulations CURTIS PARK GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL



Griffin Michael Barrameda Enos, son of David and Sheila Enos of 25th Street, graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. He will attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and major in business administration.

# Houses

*Continued from page 1*

Land Park is less affordable, according to the real estate website Zillow.

“Curtis Park historically has been one of Sacramento’s most desirable neighborhoods, where people tend to stay even through multiple generations,” said Tom Couzens, a Realtor with Keller Williams. “Inventory is generally very low and demand is

high, which is a key factor in increasing value.

“To live in Curtis Park, one has to be willing to accept a smaller and older home for a higher price compared to some of the suburbs, such as Roseville, Folsom and Elk Grove,” Couzens said. “What buyers pay for in Curtis Park is a way of life – established, quiet neighborhoods, with high walkability and close to downtown.”

Real estate experts tend to distin-

guish the Crocker Village development with its larger and newer homes from the older Curtis Park neighborhood, where many of the homes are more than 100 years old.

In the older neighborhood, only 12 single-family homes sold in the most recent three-month period, from March through May, for an average sale price of \$710,892. Using the First American study’s formula, the average sale price in Curtis Park was 40% more than the average Sacramento household could afford to pay.

“We’d love to live in Curtis Park, but we aren’t quite willing to downsize enough to be able to afford it,” Couzens said. “Curtis Park is no longer affordable for a moderate-income family, like it was back in the mid-’80s,” when he took a newsroom job at *The Sacramento Bee*. Couzens shifted to real estate sales several years ago. “As you can see by the average

price and average price per square foot, it’s become much more exclusive (i.e. desirable), which also drives up the price.”

Ryan Lundquist, a certified residential appraiser and housing market analyst, looked at the 2024 data for Curtis Park home sales and noted that “82% have sold above the original list price, and just over half the sales spent seven days or fewer on the market, which is lightning fast.” All but one of the homes that sold had two or more offers. And yet, Lundquist cautioned that some listings “are lingering on the market, so not everything is super hot.” At the end of May, Lundquist said, eight homes in Curtis Park had been on the market an average of 41 days.

The latest available data, from early June, showed nine homes were for sale in Curtis Park for an average asking price of \$752,989.

## Curtis Park home sales (March-May)

Price	Address	Bed/bath	Square feet
\$432,000	2018 X St.	2/1	1,068
\$500,000	2616 San Fernando Way	2/1	801
\$550,000	3032 Eighth Ave.	2/1	816
\$595,000	2546 28th St.	2/1	1,189
\$625,000	3042 Eighth Ave.	4/2	1,534
\$677,000	2245 Portola Way	3/2	1,350
\$765,000	2516 Portola Way	3/1	1,185
\$804,000	3200 Cutter Way	2/2	1,709
\$822,700	3220 24th St.	3/2	1,314
\$845,000	2721 Marshall Way	3/2	1,144
\$915,000	3336 Cutter Way	3/2	2,096
\$1,000,000	2432 Sixth Ave.	2/2	1,726

SOURCE: zillow.com/curtis-park-sacramento-ca/sold

## Crocker Village home sales (March-May)

Price	Address	Bed/bath	Square feet
\$649,000	2355 Jay King Walk	3/3	1,620
\$649,000	2383 Omaha Beach Ave.	3/2.5	1,627
\$685,000	2368 Wanser Walk	3/2.5	1,913
\$685,000	2369 Wanser Walk	3/3	1,913
\$685,000	2372 Wanser Walk	3/3	1,913
\$689,000	2363 Bastogne Walk	3/3	1,913
\$699,000	2368 Bastogne Walk	3/2.5	2,033
\$699,000	2326 Bronze Star Way	3/3	1,913
\$705,000	2364 Bastogne Walk	3/3	2,045
\$710,000	2353 McFly Walk	3/3	2,045
\$715,000	3228 Giovanni St.	3/2.5	1,913
\$739,000	3318 Ronald Reagan Way	3/2.5	2,070
\$800,000	3321 Crocker Drive	3/3	2,192
\$999,980	3225 Crocker Drive	4/3	2,781
\$1,000,000	2292 Pierce Arrow Lane	3/3	2,129
\$1,060,000	3015 Huntington Way	3/3	2,486
\$1,260,000	2237 Fifth Ave.	3/3	2,486
\$1,330,000	3193 Crocker Drive	3/3	3,031

SOURCE: zillow.com/curtis-park-sacramento-ca/sold

## WHAT'S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

### Try your hand at painting intuitively

By Erin Gottis

Sierra 2 Center is the hub for Curtis Park community and connection, meeting residents’ diverse interests with fun and creative activities.

Among the highlights this summer is the Abstract Intuitive Painting Workshop with local artist Cara Gregor. Cara’s workshop encourages students to approach the canvas with an open mind. She believes that everyone is an artist regardless of their painting experience, and everyone has the ability to connect with their creative spirit. The workshop allows students to explore at their own pace. Students also have the

option of purchasing a paint kit to start their journey. The kit includes a selection of 24 acrylic paint colors, a variety of brushes, a palette knife and a sponge. This allows students to continue their creative journey outside of workshop times. Cara and other students often also bring other art supplies to play with. Cara coaches each student through their painting explorations in an open and inclusive environment and wants people to walk away feeling relaxed and excited about making art. Painting can be a personal experience, and what better way to begin than with one of Cara’s workshops at The Learning at Sierra 2.

**At HOME in Curtis Park**  
 CaBRE #01882787  
**STEFFAN BROWN**  
 REAL ESTATE  
 steffan@steffanbrown.com  
**916-717-7217**  
*Passionate about Fine Older Homes  
 Buying or Selling... I am here to help.*  






Questions? Please contact groups directly.

**ART**

**Glass Acts Mosaics Collective**

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

**MUSIC**

**Beginning Taiko Drumming**

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

**Intermediate Taiko Drumming**

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

**MARTIAL ARTS**

**Yi family Tai Chi/Qi Gong, Shaolin Martial Arts**

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. Studio 2  
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Studio 2  
lohan36@sbcglobal.net

**Tai Chi Group Practice**

Beginner friendly  
Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 2  
mindfulbeat.com

**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

**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

**Dance for Parkinson's**

Free class sponsored by Pamela Trokanski  
Dance Theater  
Wed., 1 p.m.-2 p.m. Studio 1  
Rcarlson404@yahoo.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



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

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

**LEISURE**

**Book Club**

2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Room 12  
July 8 - "The Kunstlers in Paradise," by  
Catherine Schine  
August 12 - "Eastbound" by Maylis de  
Kerangel

**Nonfiction Book Club**

3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon  
Room 12  
July 18 - "Signs of the Shovel" by Rachel  
Morgan  
August 15 - TBD

**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**

**Pinochle**

Fridays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

**Mahjong**

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

**Fun Bridge (contract)**

Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

**Women's Friendship Group**

Meet new friends and discover new  
hobbies  
2nd and 4th Wednesdays,  
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11

**ZUMBA GOLD**

Mondays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2  
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2  
Saturdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.,  
Studio 2

**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)

**TAI CHI CHUAN**

Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1

**STRENGTH AND BALANCE**

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

**LINE DANCE CLASS**

Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 2

**GENTLE YOGA**

Tuesdays, July 2 & Aug. 20, 11 a.m.-  
noon Studio 1



Helping Dreams Come True in the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood since 1974

**COOK REALTY**

can assist with  
the purchase  
or sale of any  
property  
across the  
nation!



"For Fine Older Homes and  
Quality Newer Homes"



4305 Freeport Blvd.

www.cookrealty.net  
800 450-3148

Buying or Selling  
916 451-6702

Property Management  
916 457-4907

**SWANBERG'S on J**

Sacramento's  
**BEST & largest**  
selection of  
Hawaiian Shirts  
and Sandals,  
Retro Baseball T's  
and Tiki stuff!

Get Your Curtis Park Neighborhoody!

2316 J Street  
916 447-6284

AT SIERRA 2 CENTER  
**THE LEARNERY**  
*Cultivating Curious Minds*

**TO REGISTER FOR A CLASS**  
[sierra2.org/thelearnery](http://sierra2.org/thelearnery)

**JULY**  
**INTRO TO POETRY WORKSHOP**  
**Saturdays, July 6-27**  
**2:00 p.m.-4 p.m.**  
**\$140**

Sharpen your skills as a writer and reader and deepen your connection to our community of poets. Writer Joe Boyle leads this poetry workshop for adult and teen writers of all levels. Over four, two-hour sessions on July 6, 13, 20 and 27, students receive support in crafting and revising original work. All subject matters and styles are welcome, from sonnets to ghazals, free verse, prose poems and more. Each session includes resources and optional themes to assist in “charging the air” with language and inspiration. Students also will receive constructive criticism to benefit their revision process. Emphasis is on collaboration and discussion. Students agree to miss no more than one class. No refunds for missed classes.

Required supplies to bring:

- One personal notebook of lined paper (memo pad style, composition book or digital device).
- Several dozen sheets of unlined paper or blank printer paper if you are writing visual poetry.
- Several dozen of your favorite pens and pencils).

**VIBRANT EXPRESSIONS PAINTING**  
**Thursday, July 11: TURQUOISE**  
**Monthly: 2nd Thursdays**  
**6-7:30 p.m.**  
**\$35 per class**

**Optional paint kit: \$25**  
 This exciting class explores our intuitive personal connections with the colors of the rainbow and is not your typical color theory and mixing class. It's an artistic adventure where 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.

**BIRDS OF A FEATHER: INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING**

**Saturday, July 20**  
**10 a.m.-12 p.m.**  
**\$30**

In July, we're exploring the world of folk art, looking in our own backyards for inspiration. We'll draw pictures of our feathered friends in their natural habitat: the birdhouse. This whimsical picture can be framed or gifted. Introduction to Drawing is a series of monthly workshops ideal for beginners or those wishing to refresh their drawing skills. Local artist Marie Taylor is the instructor.

Supplies: Students should bring a pencil, eraser, 12" plastic T-square ruler, 01 black Micron pen (or similar) and a set of colored pencils, markers or watercolor pencils. Paper and other materials are supplied.

**LETTING GO: A CREATIVE PAINTING WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, July 27**  
**10 a.m.-12 p.m.**  
**\$30**

**Optional paint kit: \$25**  
 In this engaging and immersive workshop, painters can let go, relax and explore the world of art with open hearts. Each painter will work on their canvas and share canvases with everyone in the class. At the end of our two hours, each painter will have a collaborative piece, describing the collective experience of the workshop. No drawing or prior painting experience is required. This workshop is offered in a welcoming environment for all levels. Great for people new to Abstract Intuitive Painting as well as those who have taken Cara's classes before.

Supplies: An 11x14" canvas will be supplied. Since this class is open-ended, you can buy/bring your own acrylic paints & brushes. Make sure you have white in addition to the other acrylic paint colors of your choice. We recommend different sizes of paintbrushes meant for acrylic paint.

**AUGUST**  
**VIBRANT EXPRESSIONS PAINTING**

**Thursday, August 8: PURPLE**  
**Monthly: 2nd Thursdays**  
**6-7:30 p.m.**  
**\$35 per class**  
**Optional paint kit: \$25**  
 See description under July.

**ABSTRACT INTUITIVE PAINTING WORKSHOP**  
**Saturday, August 24**  
**10 a.m.-12 p.m.**  
**\$30**

**Optional paint kit: \$25**  
 In this immersive painting class, the focus is on the joy in the creative process. Whether you are a novice or an experienced artist, this class welcomes individuals from all levels of painting expertise. From mixing vibrant colors to experimenting with different brush strokes, every aspect of the artistic journey will be explored and celebrated. Instructor Cara Gregor teaches various painting techniques and approaches. The class covers composition, color theory and the use of light and shadow to create depth and dimension.

Supplies: A 8x10 canvas will be supplied. Since this class is open-ended, you can buy/bring your own acrylic paints & brushes. Make sure you have white in addition to the other acrylic paint colors of choice. We recommend paintbrushes in a few different sizes — medium to small— that are meant for acrylic paint.

**OSCAR URIBE, CPA, MST**  
 • Tax and Accounting Services  
 • Small to Midsize Business Focus  
 • Real Estate Industry Specialization

Contact us today  
 916-234-3994  
[www.uribecpa.com](http://www.uribecpa.com)  
 Email: [info@uribecpa.com](mailto:info@uribecpa.com)






**GUNTHER'S ICE CREAM**

**Sacramento's Best!**  
**Homemade Ice Cream Since 1940**

**Real Fruit Freeze • 50-50's**  
**Soups & Sandwiches • Ice Cream Cakes & Pies**  
 2801 Franklin Blvd. | 916 457-6646  
[www.gunthersicecream.com](http://www.gunthersicecream.com) | Open Daily  
**Flavor of the Month in July:**  
**KEY LIME PIE!**

Representing buyers and sellers  
 of interesting properties since 1999.



**PALOMA BEGIN**  
 FINE OLD NEIGHBORHOODS

916.628.8561 | [www.palomabegin.com](http://www.palomabegin.com)  
 Realtor® | DRE# 01254423

**Looking to upgrade your cooking experience?**

Consider an induction cooktop or range. Induction technology is safer, healthier and offers a superior cooking experience. Whether you sauté, pan fry, sear, sweat, simmer, grill or boil, induction can do it all!

The Curtis Park Electric Stars are your neighbors and can help you make the switch with information about SMUD rebates and qualified contractors. Email them at [CP.ElectricStars@gmail.com](mailto:CP.ElectricStars@gmail.com).



Scan this QR code to find the Curtis Park Electric Stars on Instagram.



Scan this code to learn more about induction or visit [smud.org/Induction](http://smud.org/Induction)




©06/24 © A trademark of Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Reg. U.S. Pat. & Tm. Off.

## LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

### July + August

#### THE SIDE DOOR

2900 Franklin Blvd.

thesidedoor.net • All shows 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$20-\$25. Advance tickets available.

**Friday, July 5:** Goldpine, assertive Nashville-based wife-husband Americana country duo

**Thursday, July 11:** Kenan Jackson, bass/synth bass and Talkbox creator from the Cosmic Roots Band

**Friday, July 12:** Jimmy Grant, champions jazz-guitar pioneer Django Reinhardt with hot jazz, swing, gypsy music

**Saturday, July 13:** Labrats, a new Sacramento phenom quartet. Funk, jazz, hip-hop synthscapes of improvisation

**Thursday, July 18:** Kimmi Bitter & The Westside Twang, sweet-voiced singer with a touch of the swinging sixties, a retro journey through their nostalgic original songs

**Friday, July 19:** WWE (Webster, Walton, Edwards) NorCal favorites and Mumbo Gumbo lush vocalists with guitarist Bill Edwards

**Friday July 26:** Antsy McClain Solo, "Nashville-adjacent," clever singer-songwriter performing without his Trailer Park Troubadours; Tommy Smothers loved him

**Thursday, Aug. 29:** Z.B. Savoy's "Songs of Willie" asongwriters

#### OLD SOUL COFFEE

3434 Broadway Ave. 95817

oldsoulco.com/cafes/40-acres-in-oak-park

Sundays, 4-6 p.m. FREE.

"Jazz @ Old Soul" 40 Acres curated by noted guitarist Ross Hammond. Different groups every week.

#### THE GUILD THEATER

2828 35th St. 95817

sthope.org/guild-theater-home

**July 15-20** G.I.R.L.S Rock Sacramento, Oak Park Camp. G.I.R.L.S. Rock Sacramento is much more than an arts and music education summer camp. Using community outreach through music and empowerment, girls ages 7 to 17 learn instruments, write songs, form a band and more. sthope.org/community-event/girls-rock-sacramento

**First Thursdays**, 7 p.m.

The Guild Theater's monthly Poetry and Hip Hop Night, POHOP, is hosted by J. Nash.

#### TWO RIVERS CIDER CO.

4311 Attawa Ave.

tworiverscider.com/events

**Saturday, June 29:** The Nipper Brothers, 6-9 p.m., \$10

**Saturday, July 13:** Confidential Source, 7-9 p.m. \$10  
Open for beverages and food plus these free events:

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

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

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

**Fridays:** "Local Sounds" acoustic showcase hosted by Four-Eyed Whale, 6-9 p.m.

**Saturdays:** Ukulele class with Gurukulele (Jim Coats), 4-5 p.m.

"Sactown Swings" 1st Saturday, 6-8 p.m.

— Mindy Giles

## Live music with a lot of boom and rhythm



On Air plays Sunday, July 28.

By Mindy Giles

The Sunday, July 28 concert in Curtis Park features a powerful returning baby-boomer favorite, the 13-piece classic rock band, On Air. Having entered their fourth decade as a band, they've lost none of their sizzle.

With seven vocalists and a six-piece cracking horn section, they take on the classics of rock, R&B and soul, giving audiences a big back-to-the-future, carefree jolt of the soundtrack of school day lives. An area fan favorite since 1985, On Air won the "Best Local Band" category of the "Sacramento A-List" in 2017 and 2018, earning honors as the top band out of more than 200 regional groups submitted.

Founding member Bob Lang shares vocal duties with Suzanne Weissenberg and Janese Powell. Garry Klein plays lead guitar, and newest member Alex Sarmiento (a member of the legendary Bay Area band Lydia Pense and Cold Blood for nine years) plays bass. Rounding out the rhythm section is Jimmy Malone on keyboards and Geno Guerere on drums.

The unique sound of On Air is found in the distinctive six-piece horn section: Craig Yamamoto on alto and tenor sax, Raul Sandoval on tenor sax, Brad Tom on baritone sax, Brian Nakagawa on trombone, and trumpeters John Williams and Greg Evans, who is also the band's arranger. When they roll out rock chestnuts like Chicago's "Saturday in the Park," Steely Dan's "Josie," Tower of Power's "You're Still a Young Man" and Stevie Wonder's "Higher Ground," their crisp, full-bodied expertise is on full display. The section has its snappy steps down, too.

Brand new this year to summer's popular Concerts in the Park live music series is the Jax Hammer Band on Sunday, Aug. 25, bringing tough blues rock



Jax Hammer Band plays Sunday, Aug. 25.

and mainstream rock to Curtis Park. The quartet led by Jack Brizek, one of Sacramento Valley's most talented and entertaining players, champions gritty and soaring, mostly guitar-forward songs where rock is really spelled RAWK. The Who, Rolling Stones, Allman Brothers, Beatles, Tom Petty, George Thorogood, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Santana, Springsteen, James Gang, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Peter Frampton, Foo Fighters, Gin Blossoms, Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Black Keys repertoire likely will have "Gramps" loaning his Ray-Ban's to his hopping, air guitar-flailing grandchildren.

Seasoned musicians all, Jack and keyboardist Kevin Whalen are both outstanding instrumentalists and lead vocalists. Bassist Carl Borden and drummer Mick Voss provide a solid and propulsive foundation for the band's sound. The band features tight vocal harmonies, and as teased last month, "more cowbell."

All concerts are free. Music is from 6-8 p.m. at the north end of Curtis Park. The SCNA suggests that audiences "bring a blanket and chairs, maybe a picnic (no alcohol please)."

## ADULT BALLET

SATURDAY MORNINGS

BALLET/BASIC ■ BALLET 1

for information, please contact:

Richard@TwoRiversDanceCenter.com

location: Sierra 2 Center

two rivers dance center

HOME OF RIVER CITY TAPS

JUNE 30  
UNSUPERVISED

JULY 28  
ON AIR

AUGUST 25  
JAX HAMMER BAND

MUSIC  
in the Park

WILLIAM CURTIS PARK  
6pm-8pm



## PARK ARTS



Ceramic art by Krystyna Taylor

Photos Courtesy Krystyna Taylor

**K**rystyna Taylor of Portola Way began working with clay in high school. Her interest continued into college where she studied cello performance. After an unintended 17-year break from the medium, she created her own ceramics studio in 2019 and now enjoys exploring the wonders of clay and its limitless techniques and applications. She shares and sells her creations at

craft fairs around Sacramento, including Curtis Fest, as well as online at her Etsy store. Krystyna is also active in the community as the founder and conductor of the K Street Orchestra, which rehearses and performs at the Sierra 2 Center.

Krystyna's work can be found on Instagram, @warewolfceramics, and on Etsy at [warewolfceramics.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/warewolfceramics).

## Model railroad village tracks Fotos family history

By Patti Roberts

**B**eneath the eaves of Brenda and Cary Fotos' 100-year-old Curtis Way home is a magical world that transports you back in time. After ascending the stairs to the attic, you're met with multi-levelled railroad tracks used by eight model railroad trains chugging through an amazing display of small villages, miniature structures and miniscule human figures.

The scene captures Cary's love for tinkering with trains and his interest in mechanics and electronics as well as his love of reproducing buildings that are touchstones of his family's history.

Altogether, the 50-foot-by-20-foot attic holds the tracks, trains and 45 structures representing his mother's hometown of Pittsburgh, Penn. and his father's history here in Sacramento.



The family linen business on Alhambra Boulevard is recreated by Cary Fotos. Photo by Brenda Fotos

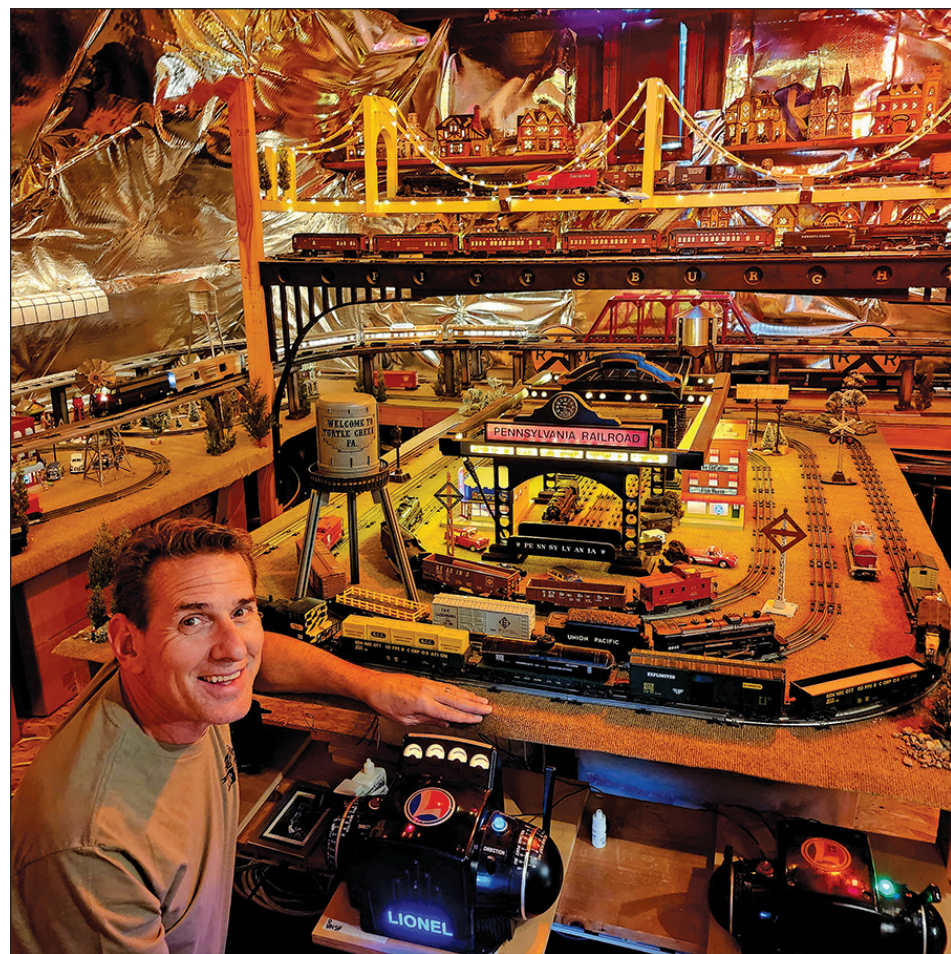
It started when Cary's Uncle John gave him his old 1949 Lionel train. Now 87, Uncle John lives in Folsom and gets pleasure from seeing his childhood train being used, as well as the iconic buildings he grew up with.

"At first, we used to display the train only at Christmas and then box it up again," said Cary. "But eventually I began to set it up in the attic. Along with the trains, I started creating items that reminded me of my mom's hometown. I also incorporated a couple of Sacramento icons from my dad's family here."

Among the reproductions of his mother's heritage are the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, Pittsburgh's Dennis Diner, the Pittsburgh Greek Orthodox Church and the Roberto Clemente Bridge. Cary has replicated his dad's family's old business – Alhambra Laundry and Fotos Linen Supply – and their Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.

"The biggest challenge was the replication of the church in Pittsburgh because it still exists, and everyone knows every detail of its inside and its outside," Cary said. "I measured everything twice, photographed every single stained glass and carefully reproduced the window's art. Everything is built to exact scale – even the pews."

Along with various buildings are miniature cars, trucks, people, signs, roads, foliage and twinkling lights



Curtis Park resident Cary Fotos with his model railroad trains.

Photo by Brenda Fotos

throughout. Cary prides himself on repurposing everyday objects – coffee cans, gift boxes, tennis balls, scrap wood, chopsticks and even an old Barbie dollhouse. He also goes to vintage model train shows and flea markets and gets donated items from people familiar with his never-end-

ing project.

"I did all of this for my uncle – not only to create memories by going to train shows together but to also capture our family history," he said.

To see a video of the train project visit [youtube.com/watch?v=kaurqA-DtH10&t=11s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaurqA-DtH10&t=11s)

# Many Curtis Park homes switching from gas to electric

By Kathy Les

An idea hatched in 2020 by several Curtis Park women concerned about climate change helped spawn a robust local interest in home electrification. The group, known as the Curtis Park Electric Stars, worked to promote home electrification in the intervening years.

Now new data by SMUD shows 116 homes in Curtis Park have installed heat pump HVAC systems since 2019. In addition, 50 homes now have heat pump water heaters, and 52 kitchens feature induction cooktops, totaling 218 individual appliance conversions using SMUD rebates. In total, 189 Curtis Park homes feature one or more of these electric appliances.

“Our old HVAC was so inefficient, especially on hot days,” said Rich Zacaroli of Markham Way. “Now our home stays cool with one system for the whole house that is silent and efficient.”

Rich, who loves to cook Italian food, and his wife, Lori, became enamored with home electrification while renting an all-electric home in Italy and cooking

on an induction cooktop. They subsequently outfitted their home with a heat pump for heating and cooling in 2022 followed by an induction cooktop in 2023. They now enjoy cooking more than ever.

“We took advantage of SMUD rebates resulting in savings of more than \$100 per month on our utility bills,” said Rich. Their PG&E bill is never more than \$13 a month, and electric bills have never exceeded \$127 in the summer or \$165 in winter, a big drop from when their old gas appliances fueled their 2,200-square-foot home. Converting an HVAC system from gas to a heat pump typically results in a steep drop in gas bills and a small rise in electric bills, with an overall net drop in costs of around 50%.

The Zacaroli’s 10 solar panels provide a bit more than 50% of their household energy, especially in summer months; they also power a hybrid electric car. All that’s left for their home to be all-electric is a heat pump water heater, which they expect to acquire after extracting a bit more use from their on-demand water heater, installed just before they got the all-electric bug.

Similarly, Dennis and Joan Cusick of Portola Way

have gone all electric with an electric heat pump water heater installed in 2022 and a new heat pump HVAC and electric kitchen range installed last year.

“When we remodeled our kitchen, we went all electric – trading our gas cooktop for induction,” said Joan. “It took some getting used to, but now we are very happy with our clean, efficient appliances.”

SMUD currently offers substantial rebates for converting from gas to electric appliances, and other rebates and tax credits may also apply. Make sure to review the rebate requirements at [smud.org/rebates](http://smud.org/rebates) and select a contractor from [SMUDContractorNetwork.org](http://SMUDContractorNetwork.org).

The Curtis Park Electric Stars are happy to share information with anyone interested in the utility and carbon savings afforded by home electrification. Their network is intended to demystify electrification by pairing interested neighbors with those who can attest to the success of their electrification. Names of contractors recommended by satisfied Curtis Park customers also are available.

You can follow the Curtis Park Electric Stars on Instagram, [@curtisparkelectricstars](https://www.instagram.com/curtisparkelectricstars), or check [smud.org/powerpartners](http://smud.org/powerpartners) for testimonials and more information. The group’s email is [CP.ElectricStars@gmail.com](mailto:CP.ElectricStars@gmail.com) or [Kathy.les321@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.les321@gmail.com).

## New event for kids scheduled for Sept. 8

Put Sunday, Sept. 8 on the calendar for the SCNA’s first Kids’ Music in the Park.

Bring your little ones, picnic blankets and instruments, and get ready to groove to the music under the trees on the Sierra 2 Green. The event, from 9:30-10:15 a.m., will feature a lively performance by Jillian Van Ness, founder of Grow Resilient Families.

With a passion for songwriting and music therapy, Jillian and her team of musicians create engaging musical experiences for families with young children weekly throughout the Sacramento/Northern California area. Listen to her children’s album “Resilience Bells” online to become familiar with some of her originals before the September event. Visit the Grow Resilient Families website at

[growresilientfamilies.com](http://growresilientfamilies.com).

Don’t miss out on the fun. We hope to see you there. If you’re interested in volunteering at the event, email [alysse.valenzuela@gmail.com](mailto:alysse.valenzuela@gmail.com).

– Alysse Macaluso

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

### Soap Refillery & Zero-Waste Shop



Refill everyday products like laundry detergent, dish liquid, hand soap



Removing single-use plastics from our community since 2016



1828 29th St., Sacramento  
916-382-4825

**REFILL**  
madness

Product & Event info at  
[RefillMadnessSacramento.com](http://RefillMadnessSacramento.com)  
Follow us @RefillMadness

### CORBIN CONSTRUCTION



**916 899-4606**

[corbinemmett@yahoo.com](mailto:corbinemmett@yahoo.com)

CSLB: 942801

With 45 years experience,  
we specialize in older homes!

**If you dream it, Emmett can build it!**

### You have Photos. We have Solutions.

Together we can preserve and tell the story of your life.

**Photo Organizing | Photo Memory Books**



[judybujold.com](http://judybujold.com)  
[photos@judybujold.com](mailto:photos@judybujold.com)  
**916 747-9236**

Digital Photo  
Manager

Judy  
**BUJOLD**  
*Captured Moments*

**Gather • Preserve • Organize • Share**

### New Home Building Supply

Family owned & operated since 1949



Competitive pricing  
Variety of deck materials  
Helpful and knowledgeable crew  
We have all the hard-to-find sidings  
Quality lumber for any size project

**916 455-3057**

5310 Franklin Blvd. | Sacramento

HOURS:

M-F 6am-5pm | Sat 7am-3:30pm | Closed Sundays

### TAP DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS

**BEGINNING TO ADVANCED CLASSES**  
mornings • evenings • saturdays

**INTRODUCTION TO TAP**  
inquire about our upcoming 'intro' series

for information, please contact:  
**richard@rivercitytaps.com**

location: sierra 2 center



**RIVER CITY TAPS**

## A Curtis Fest for the books

Everyone found something to love at the Curtis Fest Artisan Fair on June 2, whether they attended for the food, art, music or sense of community. Nearly 100 vendors showed off their infinite craftsmanship under the trees of the highly successful event. Live music was the perfect backdrop for Blossom from Pixie Tribe to provide face painting, balloon twisting and bubbles for the kids. The aromas wafting from SactoMoFo food trucks were enticing.

The festival included stained-glass pieces by artist Charne Morris, a self-taught artist originally from Australia who uses her home studio to bring her ideas to life. Swoon Studio's Erin Lane brought her animal-print bandanas crafted from illustrated and unique fabric prints. Photographer Tatiana Uriel-



Blossom of Pixie Tribe

la-Ostorga displayed her lovely photography for the first time at Curtis Fest. Many visitors were drawn to Kimberly Lim's booth, Sunkissed and Co., to sniff her sustainable scents. Artists showed off their wares, including pieces made



Cristina Arizmendi



Charne Morris



Erin Lane

by local ceramicist Cristina Arizmendi. Thank you for showing up to support these talented local artisans. Curtis Fest



Kimberly Lim

Photos by Erin Gottis

is the perfect venue to highlight Sacramento's robust art community.

— Erin Gottis

## Trees in Curtis Park Tree branches may fall in the summer heat

By Daniel Pskowski

It is late afternoon on a sweltering summer day. You're outside on the porch enjoying a cold drink. You hear a popping sound like firecrackers, then a loud crack, and a branch from a tree in your yard comes crashing down.

What's so unnerving about this branch failure is that there was no wind and the fallen limb is green and full of foliage. If you've lived in Sacramento for any length of time, you're familiar with this phenomenon, which arborists describe as summer branch drop. I became aware of this during my first summer as a Sacramento city arborist. Branch drop occurs throughout California and has been reported from New York to Texas in addition to Australia, England and

South Africa. Why does it occur?

Over the course of 33 years as an arborist, I have examined hundreds of summer branch drop failures. Temperatures above 95 degrees are a key factor. Branches that drop are usually more horizontal than vertical and extend to the edge of the tree crown. The break occurs most often out on the limb some distance from its attachment. They can be as small as 5 inches in diameter and 15 feet long or as large as 30 inches in diameter and 45 feet long.

Some branch failure patterns are species specific. Summer branch drop for American liquidambar is linked to the spikey seed balls the tree produces. When there are no defects in the wood caused by decay, weak branch attachment and/or cracks, the main cause for failure is excessive weight due to the spikey balls. This excessive amount of fruit is related to the weather. During spring when liquidambar bud out and produce a small inconspicuous flower, if there is no wind or rain to knock off the flowers, then every flower develops into a fruit. One summer, almost half the calls Urban Forestry received were for liquidambar.

Dead or decayed limbs may also fail during the summer due to hot temperatures drying out the wood fibers. Dry wood has less bending capacity and decay fungi reduces wood strength.

When healthy branches fail, I usually find internal cracks that may not be visible where the branch broke off but are present farther down the branch. Cracks near the outside of the branch develop

a rib, which is a longitudinal bulge of response wood growth. These cracks usually develop during winter storms. The summer heat dries out the wood along the crack, and the limb fails. I see crack defects on many species, but the concern is with mature native oaks. The valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) is the most prevalent native oak in Curtis Park. Some of these majestic oaks are removed because a large summer limb failure has compromised the tree's structure.

Internal cracks and other hidden defects limit the arborist's ability to predict summer branch drop. On mature valley oaks, I suggest support systems, either

steel cables or Cobra, a tree cabling system. These systems modify the wind load on the limbs, which prevents internal cracks. In extreme weather conditions, there could still be a branch failure, but the risk is reduced by having a professionally installed support system.

Enjoy the shade your trees provide, but periodically look up at the crown for any dead, broken or split limbs that may pose a problem, and call an ISA certified arborist if you have any concerns.

Dan Pskowski is a retired Sacramento City arborist and urban forester. He is an ISA-certified arborist. Questions? [danielpskowski@gmail.com](mailto:danielpskowski@gmail.com)



Recent branch failure in Curtis Park.

Photo by Daniel Pskowski

SCNA Racial Justice Committee & Nate Colley Coalition Present

# Desegregating Sacramento

Short films and a talk by Chris Lango of the Nathaniel Colley Civil Rights Coalition

Celebrating the life and work of Nate Colley, Sacramento's first Black attorney in private practice. Learn how the one-time Curtis Park resident opened doors to fair housing in Sacramento and across the U.S. beginning in the late 1940s.

FREE  
OCTOBER 17, 2024  
at 7pm  
Curtis Hall at Sierra 2 Center

# Bret Harte Elementary School welcomes new PTA president



**LAUREN  
GOTHARD  
and  
LINDSEY  
SIN**

Bret Harte PTA members elected Megan Campbell-Miller in May to serve as the president for the 2024-25 school year, beginning Aug. 19. Campbell-Miller and her husband, Tim, who live in Midtown, open-enrolled their son Jude at the school as he began first grade two years ago.

“The 2024–2025 school year will be our third year as a Bret Harte family,” Campbell-Miller said. “My husband and I joined the PTA at the new parent orientation and haven’t looked back. I have served on the Events and Yearbook committees, taught art classes, helped tend and teach in the garden and led the planning of the 100-year celebration last May. Joining the PTA gave me the ability to directly support our incredible teachers, advocate for our students and be an influential member of a dynamic team.”

She is the first new PTA president elected in five years. Outgoing president Adam Gothard of Oak Park has served in the role since fall 2019.

“Megan is a very active and involved member of our school community who advocates for the needs of all students, which is the primary focus of the PTA. She is an excellent communicator and very organized,” said Gothard. He said he is excited to continue working with her.

Under Gothard’s leadership, the PTA built a strong foundation for organizing its activities and fundraising to better support families and teachers. Key accomplishments included growing PTA memberships, expanding the school garden, school beautification projects along Ninth Avenue and building connections with families and teachers. Since returning to in-person learning in spring 2021, the PTA has hosted over 30 schoolwide events.



Pictured from left to right are new PTA President Megan Campbell-Miller, Principal Roxanne Wolfe and Past PTA President Adam Gothard.

Photo by Janet Moody

Although there are many things for Gothard to be proud of over the five years of his presidency, he is most proud of the organizational systems he put in place, something the PTA lacked when he took office.

“My goal was to create a solid foundation for the organization in terms of documentation and procedures,” he said. “Ensuring we had a well-organized board made it easier to transition roles to new people year after year and provided a lot of stability for the organization, allowing us to serve our students better.”

Campbell-Miller has several goals for the new school year and beyond. “I would like to see each student have a family member join the PTA and reap the benefits of being a part of our community. I also want to ensure an inclusive environment that allows all families to have an opportunity to contribute to our school community, regardless of their work schedules or other commitments,” she said.

Recognizing that Bret Harte Elementary is an

important fixture in the Curtis Park and Oak Park communities, Campbell-Miller hopes the PTA can continue to raise awareness about the benefits of the under-enrolled neighborhood school. “Our continued aim is to ensure Bret Harte students have a memorable and enriching educational experience,” she said.

Looking to next school year, Gothard plans to continue serving as an executive board member and member of other committees. The PTA Events Committee has been busy finalizing the calendar for the upcoming year and plans to bring back community favorites such as the Fall Festival, Holiday Lights Scavenger Hunt and Pancake Breakfast. As always, the greater Curtis Park neighborhood has an open invitation to check out the school and enjoy Bret Harte Elementary community events.

For anyone who would like to be added to the PTA email list or learn more about Bret Harte Elementary, contact [BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com](mailto:BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com).

 **BabyQuip**

**Got little ones coming to visit?**

**Rent clean and safe baby gear**

Sleep Solutions   Activity Centers   High Chairs   Toys & Games   Strollers & Wagons

**And much more!**

**Support a local Curtis Park business!**

Scan here to make a reservation 

**\$1 Delivery for Curtis Park!**

Kinsley Earl (916) 235-3386  
[babyquip.kinsley@gmail.com](mailto:babyquip.kinsley@gmail.com)  
[babyquip.com/kinsley818](http://babyquip.com/kinsley818)



**YOUR NEIGHBOR**

**LARRY EASTERLING**  
 Broker Associate

916 849-9431  
 easterling129@gmail.com

BRE #01343891  
**COOK REALTY**



**Ten Acres Pharmacy**

[www.tenacrespharmacy.com](http://www.tenacrespharmacy.com)

VITAMINS & SUPPLEMENTS,  
 HEARING TESTS, VACCINATIONS

2930 Freeport Blvd. • 916 942-9575