

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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April 2026

ACROSS THE COUNTER

A new taproom, a familiar spirit

By Greg Speck

With Pangaea's closure last month, Track 7's sudden shuttering last spring and The Hideaway disappearing only a few years earlier, Curtis Park has lost several of its local watering holes. Some might celebrate that, and others might call it a sign of the times. Perhaps they're right. But, more than anything, the changes feel like a gradual erosion of the coveted "third place" (the social space separate from home and work where neighbors can gather, connect and build community).

Backstage Brewing, which officially

opened in February at 2425 24th Street (just glance down the alley to find it), is hoping to address exactly that.

For owners Gavin Broussard, Kale Coppin, Corey Coppin and founder Dave Herrera, Backstage Brewing is the realization of a longtime dream shaped by years as touring bandmates and home brewers. Their vision is evident in the taproom's layout: communal tables, cozy couches, lounge seating and bar stools that invite people to settle in and stay awhile.

"It's the local pub mentality," Kale Coppin said while pouring a flight.

See Taproom, Page 8



Gavin Broussard and Kale Coppin of Backstage Brewing

Photos by Greg Speck

Community voices help shape SCNA's strategic plan

By Michael Oates

Following the kickoff of SCNA's strategic planning process, the association recently hosted a community forum to gather neighbors' input to help shape its future.

On Feb. 23, 12 Curtis Park neighbors joined strategic planning consultant Margo Fowkes for a facilitated discussion on the opportunities and priorities ahead for SCNA. While the group was small, the conversation was thoughtful, candid and highly engaged, reflecting a strong shared interest in the neighborhood's future.

Participants were asked three questions designed to spark reflection and dialogue: What do you value most about the neighborhood, what would you like to see improved and what role should SCNA play in supporting the community moving forward? The discussion concluded with a final question: What's the one piece of advice you would give the board as they create

See Voices, Page 9



Workers ready the playground for a shade structure.

Photo by Anne da Vigo

Shade coming to Sierra 2 Green playground

By Garrett Jensen

Upgrades by the City of Sacramento Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment (YPCE) are well underway at the Sierra 2 Green playground. Families can look forward to brand-new shade structures to cool off during the summer and a general refresh as chain-link is replaced with a sturdy, modern fence line, according to city parks director Jackie Beecham.

The need for new shade stems from the 2024 removal of a large, diseased

tree that provided an important canopy, keeping parkgoers and children cool at the playground. The 68-inch diameter valley oak fell prey to an infestation of the Mediterranean oak borer and had to be removed.

City maintenance staff are sourcing parts to repair a damaged section of the slide to ensure the equipment is in tip-top shape for the spring reopening. While wet weather caused a delay, the planning team projects a mid-April completion. SCNA will continue to monitor the park improvements.

Get your tickets now for the April 25 SCNA Home & Garden Tour

By Lori Harder

Several neighbors are getting ready to open their homes and gardens for this important fundraising event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 25. The event draws people from near and far on a lovely spring day to enjoy our vintage neighborhood, its diverse historic homes, pretty gardens and tree canopy.

This year's tour includes a period 1915 Craftsman that's been in the same family for 80 years, with a restored fireplace and woodwork, stenciling and stained-glass artwork throughout; a stately Foursquare with prairie style elements and a beautiful expanded kitchen; a Tudor celebrating its 100th anniversary, now contemporary inside with an intimate backyard ready for entertaining; a 1926 Tudor thoughtfully and artistically restored largely by the homeowners, and an expanded cottage

See Home Tour, Page 9

SCNA membership mixer April 13 at Hop Gardens

During the annual membership meeting in December, SCNA board members heard about the importance of having opportunities to connect and break bread with one another. So, let's do it.

Join fellow SCNA members on Monday, April 13 for a relaxed, family-friendly mixer between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Hop Gardens, 2904 Franklin Blvd. at Fourth Avenue. Grab a bite or drink and join us at the picnic tables out back.

Whether you're new to Curtis Park or have been involved with SCNA for years, this is a casual opportunity to meet your neighbors, support a local business and strengthen SCNA membership.

If you're not an SCNA member, visit sierra2.org/membership to join or renew today.

— SCNA board member Nicole Kite

Family-friendly Curtis Fest Artisan Fair set for Sunday, May 17

The annual Curtis Fest Artisan Festival returns to Curtis Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 17. About 100 talented local artists will display and sell their crafts under the park's beautiful tree canopy. In previous years, the event was held in June.

This free art fair is open to all, and attendees will enjoy wonderful musical performances on a stage made possible by event sponsor City Councilmember Rick Jennings. Fantastic food and fun activities for the whole family also will be offered. There will be something for everyone with artists of all kinds, including painters, sculptors, jewelry makers and crafters.

Festival goers may also purchase meals and snacks from food truck vendors Gameday Grill, Hefty Gyros and Smokin' Ewe BBQ.

Interested vendors have until 4 p.m. on April 10 to apply. Visit sierra2.org/scna-events/call-for-art/.

— Sierra 2 staff



Crowds flocked to SCNA's 2025 Curtis Fest.

Photo by Dorsey Griffith

It's time to show up for everything you love about our neighborhood

Join us in supporting Sierra 2 on the Big Day of Giving

By Shannon Motley

Curtis Park neighbors: It's time to show up for Sierra 2.

Big Day of Giving is our community's opportunity to come together and support the place where we gather, celebrate, learn and connect.

SCNA is launching the 2026 Big Day of Giving campaign — "Give Plus!" — with a goal of raising more than \$38,000 to support the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and Community, the hub that brings programs, events and opportunities to our neighborhood and helps make Curtis Park such a vibrant place to live.

Funds raised will support improvements to 24th Street Theatre, beginning with replacing outdated high-heat stage lighting with modern, energy-efficient LED fixtures. Funds will also help sustain the programs and events that bring neighbors together — from Senior Center programming to Music in the Park, Eggstravaganza and Curtis Fest.

These aren't abstract budget items. They are warm summer concerts, performances and classes, neighborhood celebrations, and the gathering spaces where friendships form and community grows.

For 102 years, Sierra 2 has stood at the center of

Curtis Park — first as a school, and now as the arts and community center we rely on. Its success has always been powered by neighbors who believe shared spaces matter.

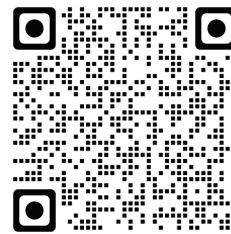
Big Day of Giving is one of the ways our neighborhood invests in that future.

If you:

- Attend Music in the Park...
- Read *Viewpoint*...
- Your family has taken a class...
- You've enjoyed a performance, Home & Garden Tour, Curtis Fest, or a community gathering...
- Believe Curtis Park is stronger when we support places that bring us together...

We hope you'll be part of this year's effort.

Consider a gift of \$102 in honor of Sierra 2's 102 years. You might also consider giving one more dollar than last year, making one more gift or inviting one more neighbor to join you in giving.



In whatever way you choose to participate, please give this year. When many neighbors take part, it makes a real difference.

Look for Big Day of Giving lawn signs throughout Curtis Park and Crocker Village as a reminder that this is a neighborhood-wide effort.

The giving period opens April 23 and ends at 12:01 a.m. on May 7.

Donate at bigdayofgiving.org/donate/sierra2 or by scanning the QR code.

You can also give in person from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 7 at the 24th Street entrance to Sierra 2.

For lawn signs, stop by the Sierra 2 office or call, and a board member will gladly deliver one to your yard.

Sierra 2 belongs to all of us, and its future is something we build together.

Shannon Motley is a member of the SCNA Board of Directors.



SIERRA CURTIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
SIERRA 2 CENTER FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY

Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association EVENT Calendar

Curtis Park Home Tour – April 25

Big Day of Giving 2026 – May 7

Curtis Fest Artisan Fair – May 17

Curtis Park Yard Sale – June 6

Sunday Music in the Park –
June 28, July 26 & August 30

Sip, Savor & Support – October 4

Pie & Pjs Breakfast – November 15

Angel Tree – November 23

Giving Tuesday – December 1

SCNA Membership Meeting – December 9

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SCNA board focused on strategy and execution

Strategy

The board greatly appreciates the neighborhood collaboration and input to our strategic plan. Our strategic planning consultant, Margo Fowkes of OnTarget Consulting, has compiled and collated the information. Your ideas will now begin transforming into SCNA's vision of the future.

To achieve that goal, I am committed to reading every bit of input. At my company, we conduct an Employee Pulse Survey twice a year, and our CEO reads every comment on 20 questions from over 400 people.

Why not just use AI?

I am a consistent user of AI in my day job and appreciate what it can do to help assess masses of information or point me in the right direction. But it isn't human. It makes mistakes, and I won't trust it to guide my future.

Our neighborhood is made up of people, and our strategic team is working hard to deliver an updated mission, vision and execution plan aligned with the neighborhood's core values.

PATRICK BAXTER

SCNA Board President



Execution:

The board is also focused on execution in many dimensions.

Our events and activities are amazing. In the next few months, you'll have the opportunity to celebrate at the Spring Fling Egg-stravaganza, participate in the Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour, make a difference for our amazing theater, help us put on great, future, no-charge events through the Big Day of Giving, and find creativity and smiles at the Curtis Fest Artisan Fair.

Each event requires significant time investments from your volunteer board members and community volunteers to make them happen. If you can possibly

volunteer, please join us: sierra2.org/about-us/get-involved/. We need your help!

Execution, part 2:

Our executive director has made significant improvements to increase the efficiency of accounting, payroll, membership, rental bookings, cash receipts and payments, and she continues to look for ways to achieve optimum performance. We continue to explore options to bring our tenants and attendees more value, expand the portfolio of classes in the Learnerly and investigate other opportunities to enhance Sierra 2 as a hub for community engagement.

Additionally, the conversion of traditional heating and cooling systems to heat pumps is almost complete, which will result in future cost savings. We also are exploring many grant opportunities to broaden our impact and revenue streams across all aspects of Sierra 2.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact info@sierra2.org, and we'll do our best to answer. Or look for me strolling around Curtis Park on the weekend; I'm happy to stop and have a chat.

Board Notes

2026 Meeting Calendar Approved

The board approved the 2026 meeting calendar, designed to accommodate major holidays and better align with financial reporting timelines.

Strategic Planning Nears Completion

The board's strategic planning process is nearing completion following a February board workshop and a community session. Consultant **Margo Fowkes** reported that community input is being compiled and will be delivered to the Strategic Planning Committee, with one remaining focus group scheduled at the Senior Center.

HVAC Work Continues

The board received an update on ongoing HVAC issues. City representatives, contractors and vendors are now coordinating directly through Executive Director **Danielle Whitmore**, with the SCNA Executive Committee continuing oversight and next steps under review.

Executive Director's Report

Whitmore reported strong progress on fundraising and events. The Senior Center campaign has reached approximately 93% of its \$800 stretch goal, with additional sponsorships pending.

The recent Mad Hatter event drew about 70 attendees and was supported entirely by donated food and beverages. The event generated a modest net positive and strong community feedback.

The theater lighting project is moving forward following a SMUD Shine Grant award. Planning is also underway for the Big Day of Giving, with a board member still needed to take a lead role.

Committee Highlights

Finance. Chair **Shannon Motley** reported that year-to-date financials are stronger than last year, with possessory interest tax identified as a key cost factor in 2026. The board will begin reviewing simplified balance sheet reports, with detailed financials available upon request.

Facilities. Chair **Gerre Buehler** reported continued work on facility requirements, including clarification

of historic building designations and ongoing maintenance responsibilities for Sierra 2 grounds.

Development. Chair **Noah Soliday Bench** reported that the Mad Hatter event was a success, both financially and in terms of attendance. Planning is underway for the Spring Fling Egg-stravaganza event, with earlier sponsorship outreach planned for future events to increase revenue.

Neighborhood Concerns. Chair **Alex Moos** reported updates on the Franklin Boulevard improvement project and noted expanded committee focus on traffic calming and neighborhood maintenance. Upcoming meetings will include discussions on homelessness policy, local education issues and proposed development projects.

Principal Committee Reports

Senior Center. Vice President **Janet Hecsh** reported ongoing coordination among committee members and noted that a full calendar of senior programming and events will be available soon.

Viewpoint. Chair **Michael Oates** reported continued progress on

strengthening the newspaper's operations, including clear distinctions between the board's Publication Committee and *Viewpoint* staff functions, improved production scheduling and exploration of long-term financial sustainability strategies. Expanded use of social media and digital distribution is also under development.

Membership and Community Engagement. Chair **Nicole Kite** reported plans for a spring membership drive and a community "membership mingle" event. Ideas under consideration include visible ways for members to show support, such as signage or branded materials.

New Business

The board discussed expanding the Senior Center's small lending library into a broader literacy resource, potentially including an outdoor book-sharing component to increase community engagement.

Next Board Meeting

The next SCNA board meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29.

— Submitted by *Matthew Royal*,
Board Secretary

VIEWPOINT

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WHAT'S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

Lights, Conservation, Action

Sierra 2 Staff

On March 19, SMUD announced that the Sierra 2 Center's 24th Street Theatre received a Shine Award for \$49,604 to replace its aging, high-heat stage lighting with modern, energy-efficient LED fixtures. Sierra 2 Center was honored alongside 25 other nonprofit organizations through SMUD's Shine Awards Program, which supports community-based organizations working toward an equitable transition to a clean energy future. This award represents a significant investment in the longterm sustainability of one of Sacramento's most cherished cultural spaces.

The 24th Street Theatre, built in 1929 by renowned architects Dean & Dean, is the jewel of the Sierra 2 Center for Arts & Community. Its historic charm and central role in community arts make maintaining the facility in a way that honors its past essential while preparing for the future. Improving the theatre's energy efficiency is a critical step that will allow Sierra 2 to continue offering below-market rental and performance fees — a commitment central to our mission of ensuring theatre arts remain accessible to all.

Working closely with Musson Theatrical, we have developed a thoughtful, tiered upgrade plan that includes installing modern ETC LED lighting and updated dimming systems. These enhancements will significantly improve the functionality, flexibility and quality of lighting available to performers, giving them access to contemporary tools that enhance artistic expression while reducing technical limitations.

Beyond performance quality, the transition to LED lighting is vital to our sustainability and safety goals. The existing high-heat fixtures frequently trigger fire alarms and require unplanned visits from the fire department, disrupting events and creating unnecessary safety concerns. LEDs emit far less heat, dramatically reducing this risk while supporting SMUD's broader

Zero Carbon Plan. This upgrade will help us reduce our overall energy consumption and lower ongoing utility costs.

The investment also strengthens our role as an inclusive cultural hub. A more efficient, professional-grade lighting system opens the door to new and diverse performance groups that may not otherwise have access to a state-of-the-art venue. Our goal is to welcome at least 25 new theater, dance music and community-arts organizations — expanding opportunities for creative expression and supporting the neighborhood's cultural vibrancy.

Installation is scheduled to begin in July, with guided energy-upgrade tours to follow. Our focus for this year's Big Day of Giving will be to secure much-needed matching funds for this project. Stay tuned and get ready to help us re-light the theatre!

We look forward to sharing the transformation of this historic space and celebrating a brighter, more sustainable future for the 24th Street Theatre and the communities it serves.



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Trees in Curtis Park

Trees are an important habitat for wildlife

By Daniel Pskowski

An often-overlooked benefit of trees is the habitat they provide for birds and other wildlife, and Curtis Park has plenty of it. Habitat loss due to development makes urban natural landscapes more vital than ever for wildlife. Birds, mammals and reptiles rely on trees and landscapes for food, shelter, roosting and nesting sites to reproduce. Wildlife controls insects, provides food for other wildlife, pollinates plants, distributes seeds and is a good indicator of environmental health. The Garden Club of America reports that a swallow can devour 1,000 insects every 12 hours.

Each tree has a different food value. The privet tree



Tree cavities serve as homes for birds, owls, bees and other animals.

(Ligustrum lucidum), an evergreen, produces a small drupe (fleshy fruit) that matures in the winter and provides food for migrating cedar waxwings. Certain deciduous trees like maples and elms emerge from winter dormancy and immediately produce a samara (seed) after flowering. While oaks produce acorns in the fall, other trees provide food for wildlife year-round.

Cover is essential to attract wildlife. It provides protection for breeding, nesting, sleeping and hiding from enemies. In an urban setting, evergreens like the deodar cedar (Cedrus deodara), coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia) and upright juniper (Juniperus sp.) render that important cover.

Cavities in mature trees offer habitat for a wide range of wildlife. During my more than 29-year career as a Sacramento city arborist, inspections of canopy cavities were routinely performed to determine whether the tree had sufficient structural integrity, also called holding wood. Squirrels, pigeons, various bird species, barn owls, rats, bees and an occasional raccoon or possum were encountered during the inspections.

When a tree removal was required due to structural issues, the California Department of Fish and Game would be consulted if there was an active nest in the canopy. There are federal and state laws about wildlife pertinent to the tree care and landscape industry in California. Local regulations and policies also may exist. But most importantly, nests cannot be disturbed during the breeding season.

With its mature trees, the Curtis Park neighborhood provides the perfect environment for birds and other wildlife. Recently, when inspecting trees for a neighbor, a hummingbird nest was discovered in the fork of a tree. When walking through the neighborhood or relaxing in your backyard, look up into the canopy. You may be surprised by what is living up there.

Dan Pskowski is a retired Sacramento City arborist and urban forester. He is an ISA-certified arborist. Questions? danielpskowski@gmail.com



A Cooper's hawk nest in a Curtis park tree. Photos by Daniel Pskowski

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Warmer weather means honeybee swarms may land in trees, eaves, or other structures on your property. Swarms are usually docile—but don't ignore them. They often settle into walls, chimneys, or roofs, leading to costly removals later.

Call or text Paul: (916) 813-2937

Thank you to our **EGG-STRA** sweet sponsor (and crackin' parade marshal...)

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Questions? Please contact groups directly.

S2 Special Events
SCNA Membership Mixer
Monday, April 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Hop Gardens, 2904 Franklin Blvd. (at Fourth Ave)
Free to attend – no-host event.
Questions? Contact kinsley@sierra2.org

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Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 1
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Intermediate Taiko Drumming
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MARTIAL ARTS
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Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2
lohan36@sbcglobal.net

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Wednesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Studio 2
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Filipino and Chinese Martial Arts
Saturdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 3
Maurice Gatdula: 209-688-2593

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Wednesdays, 3-4:30 p.m.

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Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m.

Adult/Teen Ballet from the Beginning
(no experience required)
dancingwithheidi@gmail.com

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glassactmosaics.org

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Artclubsacramento@gmail.com

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Sundays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 3
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800-374-9191, weightwatchers.com



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

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

LEISURE
Monthly Senior Luncheon – Free
Enjoy a complimentary lunch while connecting with others in the community.
Friday, April 24
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Room 10

Women's Friendship Group
Gathering together for friendship, fun and laughter
Wednesday, April 8 and 22 (2nd and 4th Wednesdays)
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11
Debbie Self 916-494-4230

Open Art Studio
A relaxed space where you can bring your own art projects and enjoy creating alongside others. Connect with friends while working at your own pace.
Fridays, noon-3 p.m.
Room 11

BOOK CLUBS
Book Club (2nd Mondays)
Monday, April 13
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11
April Book: "The Muralist," by BA Shapiro

Monday, May 11
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11
May Book: "The Mighty Red" by Louise Erdrich

Nonfiction Book Club (3rd Thursdays)
Thursday, April 16
11 a.m.-noon
Room 11
April Book: "The Last American Road Trip" by Sarah Kendzior
Thursday, May 21
11 a.m.-noon Room 11
May Book: "Homelessness in America" by Stephen Eide

AUTOBIOGRAPHY GROUP
Life History Writing
No writing experience needed
Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.
Room 12

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

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

Intermediate Bridge (Contract)
Thursdays, 12:30–1 p.m.
Room 12
Beginners welcome

Fun Bridge (Contract)
Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12
Fridays, 1-3 p.m. Room 9
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sierra2.org/thelearnery

Watercolor Art: Hawaiian Wave Landscape

Wednesday, April 1

5:30-7:30 p.m.

\$35

Blooming Cake Workshop

Sunday, April 5

5-6:30 p.m.

\$95

Heart to Art: Abstract Watercolor Workshop

Wednesday, April 8

5:30-7:30 p.m.

\$35

Cutting Boards 101

Two-day class

Friday, April 10; 5-7 p.m.

Sunday, April 12; 4-5:30 p.m.

\$115

Introduction to Basket Coiling

Saturday, April 11

2-5 p.m.

\$65

Date Night Workshop: Create a Collage Together

Wednesday, April 15

5:30-7:30 p.m.

\$55/ pair

Cake in Bloom Workshop

Saturday, April 25

6-7:30 p.m.

\$95

Intuitive Painting at Sierra 2 Center

Sunday, April 26

10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

\$40; Optional \$25 Paint Kit

Details for all classes are available on the website or by scanning this QR code.





SCNA Board President Patrick Baxter enjoyed his March *Viewpoint* at Major League Baseball’s spring training in Arizona.

SIERRA 2 CENTER

THEATER

24th Street THEATRE

EST. 1929



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Saturday, April 4: Caltucky, innovative jamgrass/
bluegrunge denizens who occasionally find garage
and metal as inspiration.

Friday, April 10: Richard Shindell, a rare visit out
west by the acclaimed New York folkster, now living
in Buenos Aires. Joan Baez recorded several of his
songs.

Saturday April 11: Chris Webster & Nina Gerber, a
recording has finally been birthed after 25 years of
making beautiful soul/folk music together.

Sunday, April 12: Guitar workshop with Nina
Gerber, a legacy folk guitarist, "demystifies the fret-
board." \$120. Bring your own guitar.

Saturday, April 18: Vivian Lee, Sacramento's
elegant classic jazz stylist with a brilliant band: Joe
Gilman or Brenden Lowe on piano, Buca Necak on
bass and Jeff Minniweather on drums.

Sunday, April 24: Justin Farren w/ Amber Rubarth,
Sacramento and New York singer-songwriters. De-
scribed as "a storyteller with an impeccable voice, a
guitar and a head full of funny, tender and engaging
observation." Think Dan Bern, Greg Brown, Paul
Simon, Jack Johnson.

Saturday, May 2: Cantara Loop, a barn-burning
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by beloved bluegrass grand dame Kathy Barwick
who passed in 2025.

THE GUILD THEATER

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2nd Wednesdays: "Amateur Night @ The Guild"
hosted by Tristan Johnson, 7 p.m.

First Thursdays: "POHOP: Poetry and Hip-Hop
Night" hosted by J. Nash & C West, 7 p.m.

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Saturday, April 11: Our Yonder, classic rock, pop,
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Saturday, April 25: Draw Pinky, the 1990s band
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"Keep Sacramento Janky!" A rare appearance of a
wholly/holy eclectic rock troupe of musicians, song-
writers, performers, poets, artists, actors, anarchists
and iconoclasts who refuse to go away. IYKYK. 4-7
p.m.

Thursdays: "Jazz Night" is back! 7-9 p.m.

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

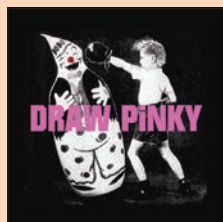
Saturdays: "Group Line Dancing," 2-3 p.m. (2nd &
4th Saturdays)

Sundays: Open Acoustic Jam, 1-4 p.m. (1st & 3rd
Sundays)

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

— Mindy Giles

Support live music!
#SaveOurStages!



Backstage Brewing has opened on 24th Street.

Photos by Greg Speck

Taproom

Continued from page 1

The space is thoughtfully arranged to encourage conversation while still leaving room for live performances and fully functioning as a working brewery. All brewing happens on-site, with large fermenters, kettles and mash tuns providing the industrial backdrop you would expect in a production facility.

Backstage offers staples such as a Mexican lager, blonde ale, rotating IPAs and an assortment of hard seltzers. Several of the beers are intentionally low ABV—"Brewed with Sacramento's climate in mind," Coppin jokingly remarked. Prices are palatable, too, with most pints in the \$6 to \$7 range, and an inflation-proof \$3 "Red Solo Special" always on draft.

"We even carry some non-alcoholic options for the sober curious," Coppin added.

Backstage is also leaning into the idea that a neighborhood taproom should function as a true third place, welcoming more than just beer drinkers. There are sno-cones and a vintage Super Nintendo for kids, Food Truck Fridays, a daily food cart with a rotating menu and even a vintage Chevy C10 stocked with nearly every board game imaginable.

"Most of these are from our own personal collec-
tions," Broussard said.

Music, naturally, is central to the concept. Backstage hosts live acts across genres, from country and rock to Irish music. The stage also doubles as the setting



The new brewery on 24th Street also features live music, food trucks and games.

for weekly themed trivia nights hosted by brewer-turned-trivia-master, Broussard, centered on topics like video games, sports and even The Lord of the Rings.

"A Simpsons-themed trivia night may be coming soon," added Gavin. Upcoming events are posted on the brewery's Instagram.

At a time when breweries and taprooms are closing, Backstage Brewing offers something Curtis Park has reason to value: a local gathering place with an unpretentious, neighborhood feel. It does not replace the establishments the community has lost, but may help carry forward the sense of connection those spaces made possible. If Backstage can do that, Curtis Park may have found not just another place to grab a beer, but another place to belong.

Backstage is currently open Friday through Sunday, with Thursdays expected to be added soon.

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!

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Funds raised will support the school garden, library, and student academics.

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Home Tour

Continued from page 1

with a colorful, modern Spanish design.

The variety of homes on tour reflects the styles that characterized Curtis Park when it was established and continue to shape it today.

The tour encompasses a 2.5-mile loop. Bicycle racks will be provided for those who opt to cycle the route.

Classic Model A automobiles will once again parade our streets and park alongside this year's lineup of homes.

Event goers can picnic at the north end of Curtis Park. Food trucks will be on site and picnic tables provided, as well as restrooms and handwashing facilities.

SCNA members receive a discount on tickets, making it 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. Docents and volunteers will receive instructions on purchasing their discount tickets.

Volunteers are needed to help monitor the homes and gardens and set up or take down equipment in the park. Volunteers can go on tour for just \$10. If you can help, please contact Lori Harder at lorikoi@sbcglobal.net, lorikoi95818@gmail.com or call/text



Step into 1915 in this Craftsman Bungalow, one of five homes on the April 25 home and garden tour.

Photo by Rudy Calpo

916-801-7189.

SCNA is grateful to have these sponsors on board: Rick Jennings, Councilmember, District 7; Steffan

Brown, Realtor, Coldwell Banker; and Paloma Begin, Realtor, Compass.

See SCNA's website and social media for updates.

Voices

Continued from page 1

SCNA's new strategic plan?

The forum was designed to encourage both small-group dialogue and broader community input. Participants worked in table groups, discussing each question and capturing ideas on color-coded sticky notes. After 30 minutes, the group reconvened to share themes and insights.

Several consistent themes emerged.

First, neighbors expressed a strong desire for more opportunities to connect with one another. As Gerre Buehler said, "Involve the neighbors," adding that "we need more participation from neighbors." That sentiment carried across the discussion, with ideas focused on creating more ways for residents to gather, volunteer and build relationships. One sticky note read simply: "Get people out of their houses and get to know each other."

Participants also highlighted specific ideas to bring the community together, including "bring back First Fridays," "more opportunities for dancing, music and events" and even smaller-scale gatherings like "open mic nights (poetry)."

Second, neighbors emphasized the Sierra 2 Center's importance as a central community asset and encouraged SCNA to explore creative ways to activate and use the space. One idea described the opportunity clearly: "Provide a space and place for people in this community." Others suggested new programming concepts, such as a used bookstore, expanded events and partnerships to bring more consistent activity to the center.

Several participants also pointed to opportunities for broader collaboration. Kristin Zellhart suggested involving local businesses more directly, including asking businesses to support community efforts.



Margo Fowkes addresses neighbors at the strategic planning forum.

Photo by Michael Oates

Additional ideas included partnering with universities for career development and collaborating with local publications such as *Inside Sacramento*.

When asked to offer advice to the board as it develops the new strategic plan, participants encouraged both creativity and forward thinking. Valerie Spake urged leaders to "think outside the box," while Terrance Murray emphasized the importance of direction, noting the plan should "focus on where you want to go rather than where you've been." Ashley Oates added that applying a clear, structured approach would be important, suggesting the board "use a business case methodology to work toward solutions."

While the forum represented just one input point in the broader strategic planning process, it reflects SCNA's commitment to listening first. Insights gathered from this discussion, along with ongoing interviews and outreach, will help inform the development of a refreshed strategic plan as the organization looks toward its 50th anniversary.

If you were unable to attend the community forum, Fowkes welcomes your input. She can be reached at margo@ontargetconsulting.net.

Michael Oates is a member of the SCNA Strategic Planning Committee.

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Let's make our streets in Curtis Park safer for pedestrians and bicyclists

As your elected representative on the Sacramento City Council, I have the good fortune to work with neighborhood associations from throughout the 7th District. Working in partnership on issues that impact our communities enables us to address concerns together. For Curtis Park, that involves working with your Neighborhood Concerns Committee (NCC) and your co-chairs, Alex Moos and Garrett Jensen. I am excited that your neighborhood has such a dedicated and enthusiastic group of residents who want to improve bike and pedestrian mobility.

During the last NCC meeting, my office requested that we work in partnership with the NCC to identify intersections and parts of the transportation network in Curtis Park where we could implement improvements to increase bike and pedestrian safety. This working relationship is important for achieving our shared goal of safer walking and biking.

I am modeling this effort on a successful partnership that I had with the Land Park Community Association's (LPCA) Traffic Safety Committee. LPCA's Traffic Safety Committee worked with the community to identify four intersections where there were community concerns. The committee and city traffic engineers developed a strong working relationship and plans for each of those intersections, all of which were implemented. I believe that the prioritization through the LPCA helped tremendously with securing approval for the projects and their implementation.

RICK JENNINGS

City Council
Member District 7



The significance of this process was that the community prioritized a manageable number of intersections and worked cooperatively to address them. This allows for targeted advocacy, focusing our efforts on achievable outcomes. The goal is to work through the same process here in Curtis Park, with your Neighborhood Concerns Committee helping to prioritize the identified list into a manageable number. This allows my office to advocate on your behalf and to use programs like our Quick Build Program to implement effective, affordable improvements that increase bike and pedestrian safety.

Working with neighborhood associations provides a great process for partnering to address community concerns. I am grateful for this partnership on traffic safety improvements. I am also grateful to host my monthly office hours from 5-6 p.m. every second Wednesday in Room 12 of the Sierra 2 Center. This way, you do not need to come to City Hall; we are coming to you. These happen every month, and I look forward to seeing you.

PARK ARTS

Micah Lancara, 11, submitted this fictional story after seeing a notice in *Viewpoint*. "Every now and then I'll get the *Viewpoint* at home," he said. After reading a bit of the paper one day, I thought to myself, "I could make my own story." Then he turned the page and saw a call for volunteer writers. This story was inspired by his favorite show, "Stranger Things." Micah, who lives on Markham Way, is a basketball player, a skateboarder and a pupil at St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School.

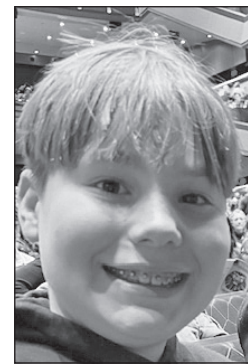


Photo courtesy of Matt Lancara

Curtis Park Strange Sightings

by Micah Lancara

There have been several reports of strange sightings in Curtis Park. The first report is the sighting of a tall, skinny, shadowy monster. The person who reported it said that this strange occurrence took place around 8:45 to 9:00 p.m. He made this report:

"It was the end of my shift when I was walking out of Backstage Brewing, where I work. I heard a clatter, which sounded like glass breaking and possibly garbage cans getting knocked over. I thought it was probably just a homeless man looking for cans, but when I looked around the corner into the alley, I saw a dark, skinny figure that looked like it stood 9 to 10 feet tall. I thought I was crazy. I watched it eat a cat that looked like my neighbor's cat, Jesus.

"I knew it couldn't be real so I yelled at it to get out of there, and then it looked up at me. There I was, standing in an alley at night, shocked and all alone, looking straight up at a monster. It took two slow steps and yelled this horrendous shriek. It was so loud, at first I couldn't move. I then ran to my car and got out of there as soon as I could. On my way home I thought to myself that in all my days working at Backstage Brewing, I never even dreamed of seeing a monster."

Our second sighting was more interesting, but somewhat gross. This sighting includes a victim.

Editor's note: There is more to this story, but interested readers will have to wait until Micah publishes it in complete form. Viewpoint regrets that it does not have sufficient space.

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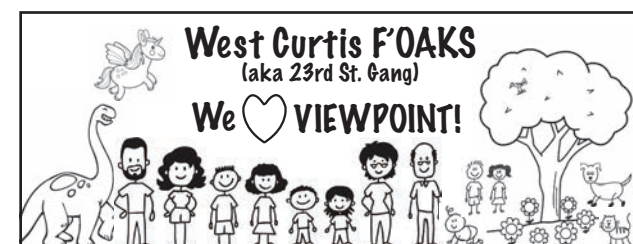
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RIVER CITY TAPS





Stephen Cipot, Alex Crawford and Callum

Photo by Nancee Murray

Couple welcomes new baby boy

On Jan. 12, Callum Crawford was born to Coleman Way residents Alex Crawford and Stephen Cipot. Callum weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 inches long.

The couple moved to Curtis Park in 2016 after living in the Pocket area for several years. Alex is originally from Modesto, and Cipot is from Long Island, New York. Crawford is an attorney practicing law in Sacramento, and Cipot is an emergency medicine physician at Kaiser Permanente, South Sacramento.

The couple look forward to taking Callum to Gunther's one day and love walking with him in the neighborhood. They chose Curtis Park as their home for the community events and the nearby park.

"We've had many life changes while living in Curtis Park, and this neighborhood is so perfect for our next chapter," said Crawford.

Added Cipot: "We're so happy to be in the neighborhood and have another young baby nearby on 11th Avenue."

— Nancee Murray

Lemonade for a cause

Four-year-old August Wraithwall had an idea: Hold a sale in front of his house to raise money for Loaves & Fishes.

Why that charity?

"People don't have money and are hungry," he explained.

August made necklaces with wooden beads, like ones he had made at preschool. He also sold his drawings and glasses of lemonade.

Parents Joey and Kristen Wraithwall spread the word among their Portola Way neighbors that August would have a fundraiser for Loaves & Fishes from 2 to 4 p.m. on March 8.

Kristen built a stand like Lucy's psychiatrist's office in *Peanuts*. The sale turned into an impromptu block party, with neighbors wearing beaded necklaces standing around, talking and drinking lemonade.

August was clearly in charge, shouting: "Refills on lemonade!"

The total raised for Loaves & Fishes -- \$151.

"We couldn't have done it without our neighbors," Kristen said. "They bought out August's entire inventory."

— Dennis Cusick



Alison, Ryan and Calvin De Anda

Photo by Nancee Murray

11th Avenue welcomes newest resident

On Feb. 3, Calvin Martin De Anda was born two and a half weeks early to 11th Avenue residents Alison and Ryan De Anda. Calvin weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Feb. 3 is also the couple's wedding anniversary.

Alison and Ryan moved to Curtis Park from San Francisco in January 2020 so they could buy a house and be closer to family in the area. After an extensive kitchen remodel, their home was on the 2025 Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour.

The couple said they love the community feel of Curtis Park, noting that neighbors on the block coordinated a baby shower in January to welcome Calvin to the neighborhood.

"That just doesn't happen in every neighborhood, and that is part of what makes Curtis Park special," said Ryan.

— Nancee Murray



Lynda White and Alan Wade

Photo courtesy Lynda White

Curtis Park loses longtime resident Alan Wade

Alan D. Wade of 25th Street passed away on Feb. 22 at the age of 98. For more than 30 years, Alan was a familiar and cherished presence in the Curtis Park neighborhood, where he lived with his loving life partner, Lynda White.

Alan could be seen on his daily walks through our neighborhood's beautiful tree-lined streets, always ready with a friendly hello and a moment of conversation. He delighted in meeting neighbors from all walks of life — and getting to know their dogs and cats, who quickly became his four-legged friends.

He also enjoyed giving back to the community he loved, including helping deliver *Viewpoint* to nearby homes. His intellectual spirit and genuine interest in others made him a reliable and unmistakable neighborhood fixture.

Alan came to Sacramento in 1967 as dean of the new school of social work at CSUS. He was president of Save the American River Association for 10 years and continued his work on the executive committee until his death. He was on the faculty of the University of Chicago for eight years. He was active in the civil rights and welfare rights movements in Chicago in the 1960s and 70s where he once shared a speaker's platform with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

He participated in Eppie's Great Race many times, some in the Iron Man division. Alan loved skiing at Sugar Bowl and skied for the last time at age 90. He also played handball until age 90. For the past 30 years, he could report all the statistics for the University of Wisconsin football games.

Alan's life will be celebrated on Saturday, May 2 at 11 a.m. in Curtis Hall at the Sierra 2 Community Center. Neighbors who shared in his daily life are warmly invited to join in remembering a man who helped make Curtis Park feel like home.

— Submitted by Lynda White



August Wraithwall runs a charity on Portola Way.

Photo by Kristen Wraithwall

Sixth-grade students get winter wonderland and more at Sly Park

The annual field trip to Sly Park in Pollock Pines is the most anticipated activity of the year for Michael Rule's sixth-grade class, but this year's trip turned into an unforgettable adventure after a powerful winter storm blanketed the camp in record snowfall. The Sly Park Outdoor Education Program hosts fifth and sixth-grade students throughout the school year, teaching biology, astronomy, conservation and other topics in both outdoor and indoor classrooms during a four- or five-day stay. The trip allows students to disconnect from electronic devices and experience nature. For many campers, it's their first time away from home. Students stay in cabins, go on daily hikes and learn outdoor survival skills such as shelter building.

For the past several years, Bret Harte students have attended the camp in January or February, usually experiencing mild weather conditions or light snow. This year, however, conditions were far different.

Even with some winter conditions expected, sixth graders were looking forward to the week. "I'm most excited for hiking in the mountains. I love nature, so camping in the cabin is going to be awesome," said student Kaiya Cortes before the trip.

Other students said they were looking forward to the legendary meals served in the dining hall, especially the tasty nighttime cookies. Several sixth graders went to Sly Park the previous year in a fifth-sixth-grade split class, which only heightened anticipation and excitement for this year.

Students and chaperones departed by bus on Tuesday, Feb. 17, expecting a normal winter trip. As



LAUREN GOTHARD and LINDSEY SIN

the bus headed up Highway 50, weather reports grew increasingly severe. Out of caution, the class changed buses in Placerville to ensure an experienced driver could manage the rest of the trip in snowy conditions. When they arrived, students were greeted by a winter wonderland. But as the week continued, a historic storm in the Sierra Nevada brought heavy snowfall to the Pollock Pines area. On Wednesday around 8 p.m., a tree fell on a power line, cutting electricity and heat to the cabins.

Students wore extra layers of clothing and stayed inside their sleeping bags and blankets to stay warm. Parent chaperones checked cabins throughout the night to ensure every student was safe and warm. Teachers spent the evening updating school officials on developments.

"It was a long night, but the students handled it really well," said parent chaperone Adam Gothard. "Our priority was making sure everyone stayed safe and warm."

By early Thursday morning, it was clear that power could not be restored to the camp and officials decided to send students home a day early.

Leaving camp proved difficult. Two attempts to depart failed due to fallen trees and heavy snow along roadways. Students, teachers and parent chaperones waited in the dining hall, the only building with power, until crews cleared the roads. Later that day, under escort of snowplows and maintenance vehicles, the school buses were able to safely make the return trip back to Sacramento.

Although students were exhausted and disappointed the trip ended early, many said the experience was one they will never forget. Despite this year's snowstorm, the current fifth-grade class is still looking



A snowy path into Sly Park for Bret Harte students. Photo by Adam Gothard

forward to making the trip to Sly Park next February. Trips like Sly Park are supported by Bret Harte's annual pancake breakfast fundraiser, which will take place from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 25. Funds raised will help support the school garden, library and student field trips, including the Sly Park Outdoor Education Program. Tickets can be purchased online at: bit.ly/bhpancake.



Student Maxwell Sin climbing the rock wall at Sly Park. Photo by Michael Rule



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