

SCNA welcomes donations on Big Day of Giving, May 7

By S2 Staff

SCNA will participate in Big Day of Giving (BDOG) to benefit SCNA/Sierra 2 Center. Our “Give Plus” campaign aims to raise more than \$38,000 this year to support Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community, the heart of our neighborhood. Funds raised will support the 24th Street Theatre lighting project, essential electrical upgrades for our new, modern, energy-efficient LED fixtures paid for with our SMUD Shine Grant, and help sustain beloved programs and events, including the Senior Center, Music in the Park and more.

This year’s campaign, “Give Plus,” is a vision for all Curtis Park residents and neighbors to give one more dollar than last year, one more gift and invite one more neighbor to join in giving. The giving is open now and ends at 12:01 a.m. on May 7. We welcome you to give in person on May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sierra 2’s 24th Street entrance.

“More than ever this year, we are counting on your support. The majority of funds for managing and maintaining the building come from room rentals, but these do not cover all programming costs,” said Noah Soliday Bench, SCNA Development Committee chair. “Please give generously on May 7.”

Lawns signs showing your support are available at the Sierra 2 office or contact a board member; they will be

See BDOG, Page 9

A spring tradition: Egg-stravaganza brings neighbors together

By Mercy Collier

The Easter Bunny hopped into Curtis Park on a sunny spring Saturday for the annual Spring Fling Egg-stravaganza. Hundreds of children, along with their parents, grandparents and neighbors came together on March 21 for a pajama parade and a fun-filled egg hunt on the Sierra 2 Green.

Neighbors showed up bright and early at 9:30 a.m. for the sold-out event. Sacramento City Councilmember Rick Jennings (District 7) kicked off the parade. After the children marched around the park, they rushed to line

up for the egg hunt, eager with anticipation. Kids were divided into three age groups, each on the hunt for a Golden Egg.

SCNA President Patrick Baxter gave the countdown and the kids took off, collecting 3,000 eggs hidden across the grass. Hundreds of brightly colored eggs were quickly scooped up and tucked into baskets for children to take home. Three lucky egg hunters discovered the “golden eggs,” one of which included passes to Fairytale Town.

After the egg hunt, the morning shifted into a more relaxed pace. Families



Neighborhood kids by the hundreds enjoy the annual egg hunt.

Photos by Misha Photography

enjoyed crafts, including decorating bunny-ear headbands and face painting. Donuts were a hit with everyone, and

Qisa Coffee’s delicious coffee was especially popular with

See Egg-stravaganza, Page 4

After a break-in, Curtis Park’s Qisa Coffee finds strength in community

By Jay Mejia

When Qisa Coffee owner Abdul Aziz arrived at his Curtis Park café before opening the morning of March 17, he found shattered glass, a boarded-up window and a costly setback for his small business.

Security footage later showed three people breaking in sometime between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m., damaging the point-of-sale system, stealing the cash register and taking additional cash from the back of the shop.

Aziz said the incident appeared to be part of a string of break-ins affecting other nearby businesses around the



Qisa owner Abdul Aziz at Qisa Coffee.

same time. As of press time, no arrests had been announced in connection with the Qisa incident.

But Aziz said the hardest part was not financial.

“It’s not just a financial thing,” he said. “It’s emotional too. This is my only business. This is everything.”

For a neighborhood café built around storytelling and connection, the break-in was especially painful. Yet the response from Curtis Park has reinforced why Aziz chose the neighborhood in the first place.

See Qisa, Page 4

Tour-goers get peeks inside Curtis Park homes and gardens

Page 5



Curtis Fest: Get ready for a day of arts in the park

Page 2





Sue Hida and Jimmy Getz at the SCNA mixer.

Photo by Mindy Giles

SCNA mixer a small but lively affair

A small but lively group of SCNA members commandeered two picnic tables on Monday, April 13 at Hop Gardens, an essential gathering spot for pizza, salads, curated beers and copious conversations on the economy, music, travel, vintage-house repairs, new baby anecdotes and that time when Bobby “Blue” Bland showed up in his tour bus at 2 a.m. at Marie’s Donuts.

– Mindy Giles

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Legado Vivo
Tickets: calidanza.com/event-details/legado-vivo-cali-danzas-academy-spring-recital

Curtis Fest Artisan Fair returns for its 18th year of family fun and art

Sierra 2 Staff

The annual Curtis Fest Artisan Fair is returning to Curtis Park a little earlier this year. Previously in June, the event is set in cooler weather for Sunday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Under the canopy of park trees, roughly 100 unique vendor booths featuring talented local artists will display and sell one-of-a-kind creations. There will be something for everyone, with an eclectic collection of vendors offering hand-made paintings, sculptures, jewelry and more.

This free art fair, sponsored by the Sierra Curtis

Neighborhood Association and Sierra 2 Center, welcomes people of all ages. Throughout the afternoon, artists and musicians who teach at Sierra 2 will perform on the big stage, graciously provided by Councilmember Rick Jennings and his team.

Grab a bite to eat amid plenty of choices from local food trucks from SactoMoFo, including Gameday Grill, Hefty Gyros and Smokin’ Ewe BBQ.

Walk, cycle or stroll over to this year’s Curtis Fest and discover the joy of gathering around local arts, good food and community. We look forward to seeing you this year!

Neighborhood Yard Sale set for June 6

SCNA will host its 18th Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale from approximately 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, and invites neighbors to join one of Curtis Park’s most popular annual traditions.

Each year, more than 70 homes participate in the neighborhood-wide event, offering everything from household goods and décor to unexpected treasures. The sale gives residents a chance to declutter, reuse and recycle while drawing shoppers from throughout the area.

To register for the sale, scan the QR code accompanying this article. Registration is \$5 for SCNA members and \$10 for non-members. Fees help cover



marketing and outreach costs, including print and online promotion. Participants should submit their address and a list of sale items for inclusion on a neighborhood map that will be published in Viewpoint, posted on the Sierra 2 website and shared through online marketing.

A map of the addresses participating in this year’s sale will be available on SCNA’s website in

advance of the sale.

For neighbors ready to clean out garages, closets and spare rooms, the message is simple: one person’s unused item may be another’s great find.

– Michael Oates

WHAT’S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

Introducing our new conference room for rent

Sierra 2 Staff

Sierra 2 Center is pleased to offer a newly refurbished, spacious, 424-square-foot conference room for your next meeting or event. The room features:

- A 10-foot conference table with comfortable chairs
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- An HDMI-compatible TV for seamless presentations
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- A private entrance with direct, hassle-free access to the parking lot
- A dedicated conference restroom for your convenience

Formerly part of the daycare center and later used as our bookkeeper’s office, this updated space is perfect for team meetings, client presentations, workshops and more.

We are ready to help you reserve this meeting space or just show you around. Feel free to call us at 916-452-3005 or email Rent@sierra2.org for rental rates and availability.



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

Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association EVENT Calendar

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

Bringing art to the neighborhood

As a veteran arts administrator, I am always looking for ways to infuse art in the work we do. Here at Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community, we are surrounded by creatives, which brightens our day.

From cartoonist Eben Burgeon to the K Street Orchestra, Ka Hula O Manuarii (dance) to Two Rivers Dance, along with Musical Mayhem Productions in our theatre, there is a wealth of creativity happening all around us.

This year, we expanded our art offerings to the Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour. Funded by the city's 2025-2027 Cultural Arts Award Grant, we issued a request for proposals to artists, then commissioned five of them to create a piece of art depicting a home or garden for the tour. The digitized images were used in the Home & Garden Tour program and displayed at Sierra 2 on the day of the tour. Finally, the original works of art were given to this year's homeowners as

DANIELLE WHITMORE

Sierra 2 Executive Director



a thank you. We hope to continue this approach next year and expand to other events.

Curtis Fest Artisan Fair is another chance to connect the neighborhood with the region's creatives. This year, the event takes place in Curtis Park on Sunday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. When you join us, you can chat with up to 100 local artists and craftspeople displaying and selling their unique creations. The Pixie Tribe will offer face painting and, thanks to Council Member Rick

Jennings and his team, our block partners will perform on stage throughout the day. Don't miss out — mark your calendar, bring your family and join us for a memorable experience!

We continue to be grateful to our event sponsors including Rick Jennings, (Egg-stravaganza, Home & Garden Tour and Curtis Fest), along with Curtis Park Home Tour Sponsors, Realtors Steffan Brown and Paloma Begin and New Home Building Supply — we value their partnership and enthusiasm. Their financial support offsets event costs, enabling us to continue to present community events at no or low cost. We are always on the lookout for additional sponsors and donors to further our mission. We hope you will join other supportive neighbors and businesses and consider helping fund our efforts.

There are lots of ways to get involved creatively and contribute to SCNA/Sierra 2 Center. You can find out more on our website sierra2.org/.

Board Notes

Advocacy and Committee Renaming

The board voted to rename the Neighborhood Concerns Committee the Neighborhood Advocacy Committee to better reflect a proactive, solution-oriented approach. This change will be formalized upon updating the organization's bylaws. In legislative advocacy, the association approved a letter supporting Senate Bill 802, which mandates a Joint Powers Authority to unify homelessness and housing services in the region. The board also formally opposed a proposed storage facility at the old drugstore site on Alhambra Boulevard, citing concerns that such "dead zones" harm walkable retail areas.

Senator Ashby Outlines Homelessness Reform

Special guest Senator **Angelique Ashby** discussed the critical need for regional cooperation on homelessness. Ashby noted that, although Sacramento has received \$400 million in state funding, the lack of a centralized governance structure has led to inefficient, siloed efforts. Senate Bill 802 aims to create a mandatory Joint Powers Authority to provide a transparent, accountable clearinghouse for services and funding.

Facilities and Energy Efficiency

President **Patrick Baxter** reported that new heat pump installations are already yielding significant reductions in gas and electrical consumption.

While a prior preservation proposal for the project was rejected by the city, staff is working with contractors on a revised plan that meets historical standards. The final strategic plan input has been distributed to the board following productive community and senior focus groups.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director **Danielle Whitmore** shared updates on administrative improvements, including a switch to Relevantful venue software that will save approximately \$1,400 per month. The association also moved to QuickBooks GoPayment for payment processing to decrease transaction fees. Recent events included an egg hunt that welcomed over 200 participants. *Viewpoint* advertising revenue is currently holding steady at \$2,000 per month.

Committee and Community Highlights

The Neighborhood Advocacy Committee is reviewing intersection safety and the potential removal of unnecessary stoplights in favor of 4-way stops to improve traffic calming. The Senior Center is exploring ways to expand its library into a broader literacy center.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27.

— Submitted by *Matthew Royal*,
board secretary

SCNA board weighs in on homelessness response, nearby storage facility proposal

By *Garrett Jensen*

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) Board held a productive March meeting and meet-and-greet with State Sen. Angelique Ashby and her team. The senator, representing much of the city and county of Sacramento, spoke on a range of topics that impact the community. Afterward, the board moved to take formal positions on two critical issues affecting both the Curtis Park neighborhood and the greater Sacramento region.

Support for SB 802: Coordinating Homelessness Response

The SCNA submitted an official letter of support for Senate Bill 802, authored by Ashby. The legislation seeks to create a regional agency dedicated to bring accountability and measurable outcomes to Sacramento's housing and homelessness response. The proposal was endorsed in two separate Sacramento County Grand Jury reports.

For decades, efforts have been fragmented despite significant funding. By establishing a unified regional structure, SB 802 aims to enforce accountability and trans-

parency across local jurisdictions, align funding and data around a shared, outcome-driven plan and focus resources on building various housing types and provide effective services. Constituents across jurisdictions would be able to visit one agency to engage on homelessness-related issues, increasing the ability to participate in the democratic process.

Opposition to Alhambra Boulevard Storage Proposal

Additionally, the board voted to formally oppose the proposed development of a storage unit facility at 1125 Alhambra Boulevard. The letter of opposition, sent to the mayor and city council, outlined several concerns:

- 1) It is inconsistent with the 2040 General Plan, which calls for active, pedestrian-oriented uses rather than economic dead space.
- 2) It is unnecessary since there are currently five other storage facilities within a two-mile radius.
- 3) It runs counter to the goals of a connected and vibrant neighborhood and creates new public safety risks. The board strongly believes that Sacramento should focus on housing people, not stuff.

Garrett Jensen is a member of the SCNA Board of Directors.

VIEWPOINT

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Egg-stravaganza

Continued from page 1

adults.

One of the highlights of the Egg-stravaganza was the opportunity for families to take pictures with the Easter Bunny. Local photographer Mischa of Mischa Photography volunteered his services to capture the special moments.

"It was a really fun day. I love it, and the kids do, too," the Easter Bunny told *Viewpoint*. "They wave and smile and give me high fives and hugs. This year, one little girl even gave me a card — it was so sweet!"

With nearly 300 neighbors attending last year and tickets selling out this year, the annual event is one of Curtis Park's favorite traditions — a much-anticipated opportunity for neighbors to gather, celebrate and catch up.

"It's always such a wonderful experience seeing so many families and familiar faces come out and have fun together," said SCNA board member Noah Soliday Bench.

SCNA's annual Spring Fling Egg-stravaganza was



Egg-stravaganza coordinators include: Back row, SCNA President Patrick Baxter, SCNA Executive Director Danielle Whitmore, SCNA At-large Director Michael Oates; front row, SCNA Treasurer Shannon Motley, SCNA Treasurer Bunny Rabbit, (aka SCNA Director Noah Soliday Bench) and SCNA Director Alex Moos

made possible thanks to the hard work of SCNA staff and volunteers, and the generous support of Fairytale Town, Qisa Coffee and Mischa Photography, as well as SCNA members and the Curtis Park community. If you're not an SCNA member yet or would like to donate to support future SCNA events, visit sierra2.org.

Qisa

Continued from page 1

"This place feels special for me," he said. "It feels like home."

The coffeehouse, which will celebrate its second anniversary in August, has become a neighborhood favorite known for its Peshawari-style chai, pistachio lattes, single-origin beans and a growing matcha menu.

The shop's name reflects that sense of connection.

Aziz said Qisa was inspired by a historic storytellers' bazaar in Peshawar, Pakistan, where travelers would stop for tea and exchange stories with locals.

"That's where the name comes from," he said. "It took me almost four years to find the right name."

That spirit now extends to Curtis Park, where neighbors responded to the break-in by stopping in, offering support and continuing to buy drinks.

"People came by, shared kind words, bought drinks and supported us," Aziz said. "The best support is when people keep coming back."

Since the incident, the shop has shifted to a cashless model, a decision Aziz said was made to better protect staff and the business.

"Most people understand it's about the safety



Qisa Coffee customers keep coffee shop buzzing after break-in.

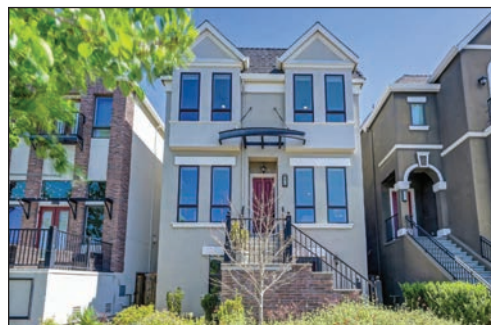
of our staff, the business and the community," he said.

Even with the setback, Qisa continues looking ahead.

The café held a "Matcha Land" event on April 25 that brought vendors and matcha-themed offerings to the neighborhood.

For Aziz, the goal remains unchanged: creating a place where people gather, connect and feel at home. At Qisa Coffee, even resilience becomes a chapter. As the shop's guiding phrase puts it, "Every cup has a story."

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Curtis Park homeowners warmly welcome tour-goers on a chilly day



First arrivals line up for the 2026 Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour.

Photos by Steve Martarano



Visitors enter 2509 Tenth Avenue during the home tour.

Photos by Steve Martarano



On the hunt for another house on the home tour.



Checking out the front door flower arrangement at 2781 21st St.



Arriving at the 2616 Rochon Way home on the home tour.



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Wednesdays, 3-4:30 p.m.



Adult/Teen Basic Ballet

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Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m.

Adult/Teen Ballet from the Beginning

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Dancing for Parkinsons

Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 1
(no experience required)
danceforparkinsons.org/

Pasitos Dance and Music Academy

Sundays
(no experience required) Ages 1-17
Class schedules:
pasitosacademysacramento.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. and 10 a.m. Room 10
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, May 29
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Room 10

Women's Friendship Group

Gathering together for friendship, fun and laughter.
Wednesday, May 13 and 27 (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, May 11
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11
May Book: "The Mighty Red" by Louise Erdrich
Monday, June 8
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11
June Book: "The Power of One" by Bryce Courtenay
Nonfiction Book Club (3rd Thursdays)
Thursday, May 21
11 a.m.-noon
Room 11
May Book: "Homelessness in America" by Stephen Eide
Thursday, June 18
11 a.m.-noon Room 11
June Book: "Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life" by William Finnegan

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.

Chinese Mahjong

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

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Room 12
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Room 9
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Cutting Boards 101

Two-Day class

Friday, May 1, 5-7 p.m.

Sunday, May 3, 4-5:30 p.m.

\$115

First Draft in 4 Weeks: Playwriting Workshop

Tuesdays, May 5-26, 6-8 p.m.

\$100

Gouache Painting Workshop

Saturday, May 9, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$55

Polymer Clay for Beginners: Clay Creature Creations

Saturday, May 9, 2-4 p.m.

\$55

Accordion Book Making and Collage

Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.-noon

\$50

Introduction to American Mah Jongg

Monday, May 18, 5-8 p.m.

\$20

Cutting Boards 101

Two-Day class

Friday, May 22; 5-7 p.m.

Sunday, May 23 4-5:30 p.m.

\$115

Introduction to American Mah Jongg

Monday, May 28, 5-8 p.m.

\$20

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



Coleman Way's Caroline Carroll still a Senior Center champion

By Patti Roberts

It's been 22 years since Caroline Carroll helped create Sierra 2's Senior Center with other volunteers. Today, the Coleman Way resident still enjoys her time there as a participant in the My Story project, a program designed to help seniors preserve their life stories and memories through professionally crafted video recordings.

"Volunteers have learned how to operate the camera, the lights, the editing and the production," she said. "It's really been a learning opportunity."

From its modest beginnings when the center opened just two days a week with a tiny handful of programs, Carroll, who has lived in the neighborhood for 30 years, helped the center grow, becoming its first official coordinator in 2004.

"The center started out in Curtis Hall, but with more offerings, we moved to classrooms 9, 10 and 12, with the little coat closet in Room 12 as my office," she said.

In the early days, the classes included yoga, tai chi, arts and crafts and writing groups, but have since expanded to include games such as bridge, pinochle and mahjong, as well as groups that share books, writing, arts and crafts and wellness classes including strength and balance. The center is open daily.

"Once we had classrooms available five days a week, we could explore adding things that people wanted to do," said Carroll. "We planted the seeds and saw what grew."

Carroll stepped down from Senior Center leadership in 2005 because of failing eyesight. With the progressive eye disorder of retinitis pigmentosa, Carroll has lost all of her vision. But she is grateful to still be able to participate in My Story project.

"I joined the writing class and have continued to go every Wednesday afternoon," she said. "Although I can no longer see to write, they allow me to tell a story, which I appreciate."



Caroline Carroll with Valerie Moore at the Senior Center.

Photo by Patti Roberts

According to its mission statement, the Senior Center is a welcoming space that provides opportunities for older adults to participate in "lifelong learning, social engagement and community involvement."

Upon entering a class, the camaraderie is palpable as regulars greet each other, catch up or welcome new members. Under the leadership of current Senior Center Coordinator Valerie Moore, these gatherings are designed to foster community and recreation among seniors.

Carroll said knowing the center continues to create community has been very rewarding.

"That's the foundation of the Senior Center. It's an opportunity for people to get out, not be isolated, meet friends and neighbors and make new friends," she said. "And it keeps going because people find something there that's meaningful to them – they find friends, or an activity they like, or something to learn instead of just staying at home."

For more Senior Center information, visit sierra2.org/programs/the-senior-center.

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Friday, May 1: Chris Jones & The Night Drivers, his fabulous lyric baritone voice is beloved by Steve Martin and Jim Lauderdale; his songwriting and band have racked up scores of top awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association.

Saturday, May 2: Cantara Loop, a barn-burning NorCal bluegrass quintet introduced to one another by beloved bluegrass grand dame Kathy Barwick, who passed in 2025.

Friday, May 8: Geoffrey Miller, lauded Americana/country & western heartbreaker of a singer-songwriter who packs the mysterious and plaintive B-bender Fender Telecaster in his kit bag.

Saturday, May 16: Ali Tod, young Scottish finger-picker, looper, tapped by both international stars Brandi Carlile and Rodrigo y Gabriela.

Friday, May 22: Bill Kirchen, an Americana and Rock LEGEND. Perpetrator of the "Dieselbilly Sound." A Titan of the Telecaster. The co-founder of Commander Cody & His Lost Planet Airmen. Remember "Hot Rod Lincoln"? There's so much more, too.

Friday, May 29: Salinas Road, seasoned acoustic singer-songwriter duo from Julian, Calif. Interior, lovely guitar and vocal interplay.

Saturday, May 30: Richard March + Nat Lefkoff, two exceptional singer-songwriters, return in a double bill. Abundant joy and ache, perfect for the times...think Jackson Browne, Kris Kristofferson, Jason Isbell, Nils Lofgren.

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May 7: David Thomas' Ambient Taco. 7-9 p.m.

May 14 and 21: Anime Aliens. 7-9 p.m.

May 28: A regular end-of-the-month open JAZZ JAM. Bring your instrument. 7-9 p.m.

Fridays: "Local Sounds" acoustic showcase hosted 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.



Bill Kirchen

Photo courtesy of the artist



Uprooted, created by CK McClatchy students, was featured at the No Kings rally in Sacramento. Photo by Jen Cook

Student-built "Uprooted" makes an impact at No Kings Rally

By Nancee Murray

C.K. McClatchy students, including Louis Russell of Portola Way, showed up in a big way for the March 28 No Kings Rally in downtown Sacramento. Two student groups, SPARC (Student Political Advocacy and Resistance Collective) and Studio A art club, collaborated to create a large art piece titled "Uprooted." The shiny red sculpture stands 8 feet tall and 10 feet wide.

According to the written description drafted by the students that accompanies the piece, the sculpture represents collective community and growth. It is painted red, "the color of blood, serving as a reminder of the losses we've suffered." The child figure speaks to the role of the younger generation and "... our responsibility to create change in the world we've inherited." Cards hanging from the sculpture had photos of people who've died in ICE custody on one side and their personal stories on the flip side. Rally attendees viewing the cards were visually moved by the content.

SPARC, a growing organization of 31 members, also had two student musical performers on the small stage for No Kings Day, including Keith Ali of Curtis Park. In addition to Russell, who is SPARC president, the group had three student speakers on the Main Stage later in the day, including Vice President Michael Heffron.

Besides helping build the sculpture, Studio A designed SPARC's logo and assisted with social media outreach.



SPARC's Louis Russell speaking during an event to promote the student organization. Photo courtesy of Louis Russell

The students said they hope to feature Uprooted at an Art Immersion event at McClatchy and find it a permanent home at the school.

What can Curtis Park residents can do to help SPARC in its advocacy work? "Refer students to SPARC to help grow the community. Your children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren — any high school students across the Sacramento area — not just C.K. McClatchy," said Russell.

SPARC will host an event in late April to reach out to other Sacramento schools and encourage them to join its growing movement.

For information about future SPARC events, follow the group on Instagram at @CKMSPARC.

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– Mindy Giles

Trees in Curtis Park

Sacramento's street tree canopy is under attack

By Daniel Pskowski

The city of Sacramento's Urban Forestry section is destroying the tree canopy that provides shade over our streets and sidewalks. The recent pruning strategy is to raise the canopy as high as possible to avoid any low-hanging limbs.

In February, I received a call from an Elmhurst neighborhood tree activist, distraught over how the Urban Forestry contractor was pruning the city street trees on T Street between 39th and 52nd streets. I was out of town, but I advised my friend to email her city councilmember after she had spoken to the tree contractor foreman and the Urban Forestry city arborist, who explained the pruning approach was fine.

When I inspected the pruned tree, I was shocked to see how high they'd raised the trees' canopy. Previously



The 20-foot street tree canopy at 16th and I streets typical of Urban Forestry's traditional pruning approach.

Photos by Daniel Pskowski

a tunnel of trees, it was now a wide-open view down T Street for at least 10 blocks.

The Urban Forestry's written response to the Elmhurst residents was that this type of pruning has been the city standard for the past decade. Rest assured, Curtis Park residents would never allow this excessive removal of low limbs in our neighborhood.

Street trees are typically pruned to maintain a 14-foot clearance over the street and an 8-foot clearance over the sidewalk. Why raise the canopy from 20 to 29 feet? It appears the objective on T Street was to raise the canopies high enough to ensure there would be no calls to remove low limbs over the street, sidewalk or roof before the next pruning cycle in five to seven years. Why? Several residents told me there is an

unmanageable backlog of two years of pruning requests for low limbs. A strategy was needed to address this.

The low limbs shade the street and sidewalk, and slow traffic, creating the "tunnel effect." When drivers approach a tunnel, they tend to slow down because of the narrow space. The street tree canopy has the same effect. Neither the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association nor the public in general was notified of this shift in pruning practices.

Where is the transparency? What took 25 to 50 years to achieve is being needlessly destroyed. If you are concerned about this trend, contact the mayor and city council members and request that this pruning approach be stopped and the prior practices be resumed. Urban Forestry previously had low-limb crews that went block by block, raising low limbs. This needs to be reinstituted. With rising summer temperatures due to climate change, every leaf helps.

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

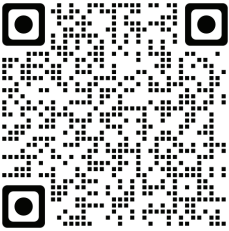
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Continued from page 1

happy to deliver one.

The Sierra 2 Center has been part of Curtis Park for generations — bringing neighbors together through events, classes and community. We are proud to continue our legacy as the heart of Curtis Park and need your help. Consider giving \$102 to celebrate the 102 years the building that houses Sierra 2 Center has been thriving as a centerpiece of our neighborhood and remember to "Give Plus" with your gift.

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POINT OF VIEW

That highway between Curtis, Oak Parks

By Sue Hida

Imagine when one could walk from Curtis Park eastward into Oak Park without having to think about which street to take. Destinations included up-scale shopping, the state fairgrounds and Joyland. That was about a century ago. This year marks 100 years since U.S. Highway 99 was commissioned, and 67 years since the Fifth Avenue, Eighth Avenue and 12th Avenue overpasses were built.

Today, the waiting time to turn left from Franklin Boulevard onto 12th Avenue seems to be increasing. Indeed, more than 29,000 vehicles per day use 12th Avenue at 30th Street, while more than 170,000 travel under the bridge on U.S. 99. Increasingly, our neighborhood will need improved public transportation and infrastructure for pedestrians, scooters and bicyclists — in addition to good roads to help us all get around.

Push-button cross signals are provided on 12th Avenue over U.S. 99, but walking and waiting for four signals is tedious, noisy and scary. A cyclist or scooter must choose between illegally using the sidewalk to take advantage of these cross signals or sandwiching between two vehicles in a traffic lane.

The Eighth Avenue pedestrian bridge, which connects Curtis Park and Oak Park, is a viable alternative. Caltrans' repair of the lighting and aqua-marine aesthetic treatment has brightened the bridge and made it more visible. But the entryways to either side of the bridge are uninviting breaks in the sound walls.

The entryway on the Curtis Park side has some nice succulents, but the masonry wall is still prominent.

Oak Park has bicycle signage leading to its end of the pedestrian bridge. Similar signage is needed in Curtis Park for continuation to the pedestrian bridge in Crocker Village. Imagine driving and being diverted due to road construction, only for the signage to stop before you reach your intended route. Sacramento City College and the Sacramento Regional Transit light rail station are important destinations.

Could use of Sacramento Regional Transit help reduce congestion at the Franklin Boulevard and 12th Avenue intersection? From Curtis Park, bus and light rail are within reasonable walking distance for many residents. However, if a McClatchy High School student lives near the 12th Avenue intersection and wants to use public transportation to get to and from school, they will have to walk a fair distance. There is no public transportation on Sutterville Road between Franklin Boulevard and Sacramento City College.

Will the completion of the "Capital Southeast Connector," a corridor connecting Elk Grove to Folsom, reduce traffic on U.S. 99 between Oak and Curtis parks, making it easier to merge onto the highway at 12th Avenue? There are too many variables to make a good prediction.

Curtis Park's southern edge lacks both public transportation and design elements to facilitate non-motorized transportation. Widening 12th Avenue doesn't seem feasible given how close buildings are to the roadway. A truly multimodal transportation system is needed not just for Curtis Park, but for all of us to reach our destinations.

Sue Hida lives on Curtis Way and is a retired Caltrans bridge engineer.

RICK JENNINGS

City Council Member
District 7



Pedestrian and cyclist safety the focus of efforts for Curtis Park residents

I want to report back on the joint efforts of my office and the SCNA's Neighborhood Concerns Committee (NCC) to identify and address pedestrian and cyclist safety at several Curtis Park intersections. I am grateful to the NCC for its hard work and dedication to your neighborhood.

The NCC met on April 14 to discuss prioritizing four intersections in Curtis Park and working with the city's traffic division to focus on improvements to slow traffic and increase bike and pedestrian safety. In attendance at this meeting was Sacramento Transportation Division Manager Megan Carter and Phillip Vulliet, traffic investigator for the Curtis Park neighborhood.

Megan and Philip are transportation engineers with years of experience focusing on traffic-safety improvements. Their guidance and expertise were helpful in working with the NCC to prioritize intersections for the city to address.

The two intersections identified are on Franklin Boulevard between Castro Way and Fourth Avenue near Gunther's Ice Cream, and at Franklin Boulevard and Ninth Avenue in front of Bret Harte Elementary School.

As Franklin Boulevard is the dividing line between Council Districts 5 & 7, we will be working with Councilmember Caity Maple on these projects. We also will work with Bret Harte's school site administration and PTA for the project at Ninth Avenue and Franklin Boulevard. For the area around Gunther's, we also will work with local businesses and residents. The 24th Street corridor through Crocker Drive also was identified by the NCC as an area of focus.

This is the first group of intersections and will not be the last. Please reach out to my office or the NCC with ideas on other intersections to address.

I look forward to working with NCC and city staff to make each of these intersections safer.

I also wanted to remind you of my office hours on the second Wednesday of every month from 5 to 6 p.m. at Sierra 2 in room 12. This month, several people came by. Two individuals, one from Curtis Park and one from Pocket Greenhaven, dropped in to discuss their concerns about electric bikes. In particular, the proliferation of electric bikes that operate more like electric motorcycles than e-bikes. My office will be working with them and city staff to propose bike trail regulations to address this issue. I would really appreciate any thoughts that you might have on this issue.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at rjennings@cityofsacramento.org or 916-808-7007. It is an honor to serve you.

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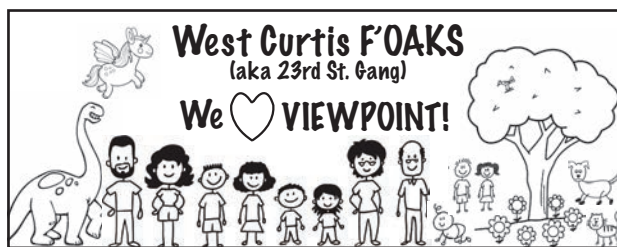
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Jude with her parents Kadra and Aaron Vaccaro

Photo by Nancee Murray

Baby Jude, a new addition to Donner Way

By Nancee Murray

New Curtis Park resident Jude Sandra Vaccaro was born on Feb. 27 to Donner Way residents Kadra and Aaron Vaccaro. Jude was born two weeks early at Sutter Hospital, weighing 6 pounds, 2 ounces. Kadra and Aaron bought their house, built in 1928, in December 2022 and began remodeling it in early 2023 to better reflect its original style. Aaron has done almost all of the interior remodel himself and reports that the final stage of the renovation, the exterior landscaping, is almost finished. Kadra is a physician assistant working in family medicine in Sacramento, and Aaron is the CEO of Singularity University, an educational institution based in the Bay Area. Kadra and Aaron both grew up in Placer County and were high school sweethearts. The couple attended universities in different states and later reunited. They have family and friends in the greater Sacramento area and in Curtis Park. “With the remodel finally done, we are looking forward to spending less time building our house and more time building our community,” Aaron said.

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Calling all 2026 graduates

Viewpoint will once again be running photos of students graduating this spring from high school, college or graduate programs. Please send your student’s graduation photo with the following information:

- Name of student
- Student’s parent(s) name(s) and their street
- School/program from which the student graduated
- Student’s educational or career plans

Please keep biographical information brief. Photos and bios are due to Susan MacCulloch at susan56ayr@sbcglobal.net no later than May 15 for inclusion in the June issue.

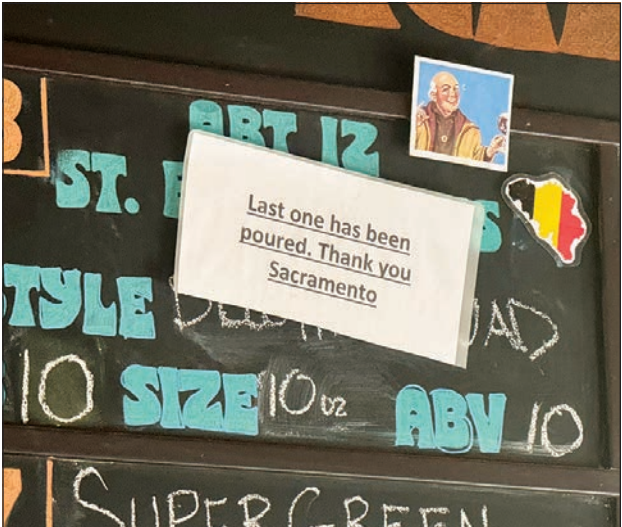
Volunteer crossing guards needed at C.K. McClatchy High School

The McClatchy High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is launching a pilot crossing guard program for the 2026-27 school year and is seeking adult community volunteers. Volunteers would take occasional shifts monitoring crossings from 3:15 to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 2:15 to 3 p.m. on Thursdays. The Sacramento Police Department will provide training for all participants. To volunteer or learn more, contact the McClatchy PTSA, ptsackm@gmail.com.

Pangaea says a final farewell



Owner Rob Archie toasts a patron on his last day in business at the venerable Curtis Park brewery and restaurant.



Pangaea taps out on March 22.

Photos by Mindy Giles

Families return to enjoy the Sierra 2 Green playground

The Sierra 2 Green playground officially reopened on April 2 after the installation of two shade structures. The city made the improvements to cover the play equipment after removing a large oak tree in 2024 infested with the Mediterranean oak borer. “It was such a bummer,” said Sammy Rudman, the mother of twin girls, June and Nora, who live on Donner Way. “The shade from that tree made a huge difference. We loved having it at the center of the playground. We miss the feel of being able to sit under the tree.” Rudman said the playground is a regular part of the family’s weekly routine; the girls play there after leaving Great Beginnings at Sierra 2 and had their second birthday celebration there. But without shade, the play structures can become too hot to touch, she said, so she’s grateful for the city’s efforts to make the playground more comfortable. “It will be really nice when the weather starts getting warmer.”

– Gerre Buehler and Dorsey Griffith



Sammy Rudman with her girls, Nora and June, at Sierra 2 Green playground.

Photo by Dorsey Griffith

Bret Harte families give advice about how to keep students entertained and engaged over summer

There's a familiar pattern this time of year. School-aged children know summer is just around the corner, and their anticipation grows until it becomes the main topic of conversation around the dinner table, during homework and every Sunday night before the school week begins. When is summer break? What are we doing? Will I be able to see my friends? Where are we going over the summer? The list goes on: the pool, the ocean, the movies, camping, sleepovers.

For those of us who were simply told to go outside and be home at dinner growing up, this level of expectation can be anxiety-inducing. Sometimes modern parenting means planning our children's lives within an inch of our sanity. But families don't have to navigate it alone. Thankfully, there are a range of affordable, engaging options, from local day camps to summer school, to keep kids engaged and entertained. While the search can be challenging, many families focus on practical, reliable solutions that keep kids safe, active and connected throughout the summer months.

For most K-12 schools in the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD), this year's last day of school is Thursday, June 12. The first day of school for the 2026-27 school year is Tuesday, Aug. 11. That means most families need a full two months of childcare. A few Bret Harte parents shared affordable options for the long summer days. SCUSD has



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expanded its free Summer Matters program to new school sites in recent years. Last summer, it was offered at Bret Harte for the first time and will be offered again this year.

"The Summer Matters program worked really well for our family last summer," said parent Janet Moody. "There are before and after school programs, and the kids had fun. Plus, they still had a few weeks free." The program runs all day and includes meals, much like during the school year.

Meg de Courcy also sent her daughter to Summer Matters at Bret Harte last year and plans to send her again this year, along with her younger son.

"There were some special programs that were held by Summer Matters. One day, someone brought animals for the kids to see and learn about. The younger kids went to Funderland, and the older kids went to Sac State for a program, to MOSAC (SMUD's Museum of Science and Curiosity), and to Great America," she said. The program generally runs from the third week of June until the last week of July, but it's important to check the specific dates for each site. Families have until May 8 to enroll their students for this summer.

For students who are less enthusiastic about summer school, there are other recommended camps and activities available. Bret Harte parent Merrill Lavezzo sends her daughter to the YMCA summer camp.

"Our incoming second-grader will be attending the YMCA Summer Camp for six week-long sessions and a combination of camping and trips for the other weeks. She loves the Y and is excited to get swim-certified this summer," said Lavezzo.

There are numerous YMCA sites to choose from in the Sacramento area, and cancellations are flexible if plans change. However, some slots fill up quickly and registration for camps can begin as early as February.

Another low-cost option that offers multiple sites is the Summer Oasis program through the City of Sac-



Bret Harte student Elizabeth Moody enjoying a field trip organized by the Summer Matters program.
Photos by Janet Moody

ramento. Camps run for four-week sessions and cost a fraction of the cost of most week-long private camps. Enrichment and educational activities are offered around weekly themes, along with physical activity. Parents have also signed up for different camps over the years based on their children's age, interests and schedule. Popular options include MOSAC, Young Actors Stage, Adventure Playground, Sacramento State Aquatic Center and the Sacramento Zoo. For easy indoor activities during summer, families can sign up for Cinemark's Movie Club, which provides free and discount tickets for a low monthly fee and the Kids Bowl Free program at local bowling alleys like Country Club Lanes. Whatever the activity, parents shared it's always best to make a plan and sign up early. With so many options, families can tailor summer plans to fit their needs, budgets and children's interests.

One thing is clear: there's no "right" way to fill those long, sunny days. Whatever they choose, Bret Harte families agree that a balance of planning and flexibility goes a long way. With a little preparation, summer can be less stressful for parents and more memorable for kids. After all, beyond the schedules and sign-ups, children most often remember the simple moments: time with friends, new experiences and the freedom that makes summer feel like summer.



Bret Harte student Nathan Moody climbing the ropes course at Sacramento State.

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