

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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June 2026

Keep Curtis Park connected by becoming a *Viewpoint* booster

By Michael Oates

Dennis Renault, *Viewpoint's* first editor, once described it as “a truly neighborhood newspaper.” Nearly 50 years later, that description still fits.

For almost half a century, *Viewpoint* has been delivered to more than 2,500 Curtis Park doorsteps. It is not merely a calendar of events or a collection of neighborhood updates, but a living, community record. The people, schools, businesses, artists, volunteers, gatherings and civic issues that make Curtis Park feel connected have found a home in these pages. No other publication, news outlet or social media platform tells these

stories in the same way, and none delivers them directly to your door.

Viewpoint is free to readers, but it is not free to produce. Each issue costs approximately \$2.50 per copy to publish, not including the countless volunteer hours that go into writing, editing, organizing and distributing the paper. The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association, dedicated volunteers and loyal advertisers have kept *Viewpoint* in print through careful stewardship. Since the pandemic, however, printing, editorial and operational costs all have risen significantly.

As the SCNA committee responsible for *Viewpoint* oversight, we continue to



look for ways to streamline operations, manage expenses and increase advertising revenue. But cutting expenses alone cannot protect what makes *Viewpoint* valuable.

Reducing circulation, number of pages or issues would mean reducing the neighborhood connection the paper has faithfully provided for decades.

That is why we are inviting readers to become “*Viewpoint* Boosters.”

Beginning with this issue, you'll find a QR code that lets you support *Viewpoint* directly. Our request is simple: consider a monthly contribution of \$10, \$20 or whatever amount is meaningful and affordable for you. Our goal is to reach

500 unique donors, neighbors, readers, businesses and friends of Curtis Park — people like you who believe our little paper is worth preserving.

With your support, we can keep *Viewpoint* in print, delivered to every home in Curtis Park, publish 10 issues each year, and carry forward the mix of hyperlocal news, Sierra 2 updates, community events and personal stories that readers have come to expect.

Viewpoint has always been one way Curtis Park sees itself, builds community and records its own history. We hope you will help us keep the tradition alive.

Michael Oates is the SCNA Board of Directors' chair of the Viewpoint Publication Committee.

Neighbors rally to surpass Sierra 2 fundraising goal

By Shannon Motley

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated during last month's Big Day of Giving (BDOG). With your help, SCNA raised \$38,103, surpassing its \$38,000 goal.

Funds raised will support upgrades to the 24th Street Theatre lighting at the Sierra 2 Center, while also helping sustain beloved events, programming and the historic Sierra 2 Center building itself — keeping the community connected to the arts year round.

“We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support shown by our neighbors. Exceeding our goal is a testament to how deeply this community values the Sierra 2 Center and the

programs and connections it provides,” said Board President Patrick Baxter.

Board members helped lead the fundraising effort, each working toward a goal of raising \$1,000 by reaching out to neighborhood residents, encouraging donations of any amount and inviting participation through the hosting of lawn signs. Kathy Les, former board member and Big Day of Giving lead emeritus, attended the April board meeting and provided sage advice and inspiration, helping SCNA achieve 100% board participation in the campaign.

Contributions ranged from \$25 to more than \$3,000, with 178 donors participating overall.

See Neighbors, Page 10



“The BlowBacks” are the first of three bands to perform in Curtis Park this summer.

Courtesy of the artists

SCNA's Music in the Park Concert Series 2026 brings an exciting new lineup

Sierra 2 Staff

There's no better way to spend a summer evening than getting outdoors to enjoy local live music, food and community at Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association's Music in the Park Concert Series. Gather with neighbors at Curtis Park for this free,

family-friendly event on the last Sunday in June, July and August, and stay cool with the bands making their Curtis Park debut. Special thanks to City Council Member Rick Jennings for providing the stage to showcase these incredible performances.

See Concert, Page 10

Local Graduates
Meet the Curtis Park graduates



Page 5

Eighth Avenue Book
Celebrating 100-year-old homes with a commemorative book



Page 9

POINT OF VIEW

Safer Sac Streets: a measure worth supporting

By Greg Speck

The Sacramento Safe Streets and Affordable Transit Measure of 2026 (aka “Safer Sac Streets”) is a proposed half-cent transportation sales tax that would generate \$75 million annually to address three of our city’s most pressing infrastructure challenges: pedestrian fatalities, crumbling streets and an underfunded transit system.

Sacramento has underinvested in its streets and transit for too long. This November, Safer Sac Streets offers a transparent, practical, locally controlled path forward. Our neighborhood and our city deserve it.

As the central hub of a 2.5-million-person region projected to grow to 3 million or more in the coming decades, Sacramento carries a disproportionate share of regional traffic. Yet compared to other major California cities, Sacramento invests far less in local transportation infrastructure. Less local funding means fewer matching dollars from state and federal sources, leaving Sacramento perpetually behind.

Safer Sac Streets would split revenue evenly: half dedicated to repairing and improving the city’s 1,530-mile network of streets, sidewalks and bike lanes; the other half is directed toward bus and rail service improvements. Practical benefits include reduced pedestrian fatalities, safer routes to school, faster emergency response times and more reliable transit.

What makes Safer Sac Streets especially worth our support is its built-in accountability. Every dollar stays in Sacramento. An independent citizens’ oversight committee will monitor spending, annual audits are required by law and all funded projects must be publicly disclosed. Crucially, existing transit funding is legally protected from being raided to pay for new improvements under the measure.

The SCNA Board of Directors voted to endorse this effort. As a citizens’ initiative, it only needs a simple majority to pass, but it must first get on the ballot. Safer Sac Streets depends entirely on registered city voters signing a petition to earn its place on the November 2026 ballot. No signatures, no vote. If you support safer streets and transit in Sacramento, the time to act is now. Sign the petition and read the FAQs on saferbastreets.com.

Greg Speck is a member of the SCNA Board of Directors.

Treasures to be found at Curtis Park Yard Sale on Saturday, June 6

SCNA will host the 18th annual Neighborhood Yard Sale from approximately 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 6. We invite neighbors and visitors to take part in one of Curtis Park’s most popular annual traditions.

A mobile-friendly map of registered sales and descriptions of available items will be posted on the Sierra 2 website in advance of the sale and promoted through SCNA and Sierra 2 online channels. Shoppers are encouraged to use the map to plan their route through the neighborhood.

Sellers who registered for the sale can download and print wayfinding signs to help promote their yard sales. Sales typically begin between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. and wind down between noon and 1 p.m.

For neighbors ready to clean out garages, closets and spare rooms, or for shoppers looking for a bargain, the message is simple: One person’s unused item may be another’s great find.

SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center welcome donations of yard-sale earnings, though donations are not required. Neighbors with leftover items are encouraged to donate usable goods to local organizations, clothing closets or thrift programs rather than sending them to the landfill.

— Michael Oates

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

Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association EVENT Calendar

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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Giving back

I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy the Curtis Park Home Tour. We had a great turnout of more than 740 ticket holders who enjoyed beautiful weather as everyone viewed the gorgeous homes throughout our neighborhood. The amazing event coordinators, docents and homeowners are all volunteers — this is a huge gift of time. Thank you all!

We'd love to have the gift of your time for any of our upcoming events, including Music in the Park in June, July, and August. Just click the Volunteer link on our Events site: sierra2.org/scna-events.

As a frequent volunteer, I can guarantee some laughs, and the best part is you'll get a chance to meet other interesting neighbors. From those who grew up in Curtis Park to those who are just moving in this week, there are many common threads. Get to know someone you haven't met yet as you're walking around the neighborhood or during one of the Music in the Park events.

Thanks also to those who helped us reach our Big Day of Giving goal of over \$38,000. The funds will support upgrades to theater lighting at the 24th Street Theatre and provide support for beloved SCNA events

PATRICK BAXTER SCNA Board President



and programming. This is greatly appreciated as we enter the final months of our fiscal year.

SCNA board initiatives

We've also collaborated with our strategic planning consultant, Margo Fowkes of OnTarget Consulting, to organize and analyze the input she gathered and ensure we preserve the greatness of the past while enriching the present and shaping the future of SCNA. There have been many hours of thoughtful discussion and healthy debate among the Strategic Planning Committee. We look forward to sharing the details in the next couple of months.

Education should never end. In recent days, my

learning has included how SCNA can support organizations and initiatives of many types, as long as certain rules are followed and the goal or initiative is well aligned with the SCNA articles of incorporation.

Board members and community members have raised concerns about vehicle speeds on many of Curtis Park's main and side streets. The SCNA articles of incorporation include "promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Sierra Curtis neighborhood in Sacramento, California."

The board has voted to endorse a nonpartisan citizens' initiative to help fund safer streets and improve transit throughout Sacramento, including right here in Curtis Park. We have also verified through a pro-bono discussion with counsel that this action is well aligned with our organizational purpose, both for "health, safety and welfare," as well as the educational focus of SCNA. For more information, please check out their website: safersacstreets.com.

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

Fundraising and the Big Day of Giving

The board focused heavily on preparations for the May 7 Big Day of Giving (BDOG). Former board member **Kathy Les** outlined a strategy for individual board members to donate or raise \$1,000 toward the association's \$38,000 goal. New donation tools were available this year, including a "text-to-give" option and a dedicated entry structure for donors who wish to make donor-restricted gifts to *Viewpoint*. An in-person event was held in front of the Sierra 2 Center on May 7 to collect checks and engage neighbors.

Public Safety and Volunteerism

The association formally en-

dorsed the Safe Streets initiative, a half-cent transportation sales tax measure aimed at improving neighborhood intersection safety. In a coordinated effort with McClatchy High School, the board approved adding a volunteer registration portal for community members to serve as crossing guards starting this fall. Staff also will begin identifying specific event needs to ensure board members and neighbors can provide volunteer time, reducing the organization's reliance on paid staff for routine tasks.

Strategic Planning and Legacy Giving

President **Patrick Baxter** reported significant progress on the strategic planning update following a productive whiteboarding session. The board is now moving toward

task-tracking software for the organization's long-term strategy. Additionally, the executive team is developing a framework to accelerate the association's ability to accept major "legacy" gifts, responding to community interest in six-figure, long-term donations.

Facilities and Executive Director's Report

Executive Director **Danielle Whitmore** announced that the "transformation space," a new conference room featuring a kitchenette and back patio, is now open for public rentals. Administrative updates include the final implementation of venue rental software and the closure of March financials. The board also is working with the city's preservation department to repair or replace the theater sign.

Community Highlights and Upcoming Events

Curtis Fest, which was rescheduled to May 31, had 89 vendors signed up, with spaces specifically reserved for local non-profit partners. It was postponed due to high winds. The association also has selected bands for the upcoming Music in the Park series. A grant application currently in progress highlights the facility's role in supporting a wide array of culturally diverse groups, from the Sacramento Gay Men's Choir to various martial arts and dance academies.

Next: The board was scheduled to review capital expenditure requests and fiscal-year tenant increases at the May 27 meeting.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on June 24.

— Submitted by SCNA Board Secretary **Matthew Royal**

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VIEWPOINT

Executive Editor
Dorsey Griffith

Assistant Editors
Susan MacCulloch, Diana Sunseri

Production Manager
Bonnie Rodriguez

Contributors
Carlos Alcala, Patrick Baxter, Mindy Giles, Suzanne Giorgi, Lauren Gothard, Rick Jennings, Janet Moody, Sharon Motley, Michael Oates, Susan MacCulloch, Carla Meyers, Claudia Moun, Matthew Royal, Matt Lancara, Jake Sahl, Michael Sicilia, Lindsey Sin, Sierra 2 Staff, Greg Speck, Sara Sturtevant and Danielle Whitmore

Ad Manager
Kinsley Earl

Distribution Manager
Gerre Buehler

Distributors
Melinda Adam, Saralyn Ang-Olson, Vince & Phyllis Angel, Alice Ault-Richie, Kathleen Ave, Dick & Jeannie Balwin, Andy Bambauer, Grace Bazua, Linda Bell, Kathryn Beltrami, Nancy Blackburn & Eugene George, Susan Blondin, Trudy Bourgeois, Mary Jo Brazil, Judy Brush, Rafael Burgos, Leanne Byerhoff, Andra Casas, Peggy Chisholm, Chismer/Miller Family, Ross Colburn, Fran Coletti, Annie Cook, Claudia & Mateo Curiel, Sally Davis, Dustin Dyer, Ros Fallon, Janice Fitch, Robin French, Lisa Giroux, Zane Gray, Lana Gregori, Bud Haubrick, Meg Heede, Courtney Higgins, Constance Hoover, Dawn Hoppe, Mary Hylbom, Garrett Jensen, Melanie Jordanas, Susan King, Nicole Kite, Kelly Lawrence, Jane Knight, Bev Krikorian & Joe Shea, Jordan Lang, Catherine Lentz, Kathy Les, Anne Mazur, Linda McAtee, Menz Family, Carol Meredith, Paul & Shannon Mewton, Leah Morrissey & Jenice Thomas, Patricia Moses, Carol Mott-Binkley, Eileen Murray, Bob & Shirley Olson, Jennifer & Sahar Ozeir, Bill Patterson, Wendy Peller-Walker, Lynn Pichinino, Sally Powell, Colleen Riley, Marcus & Annette Romani, Matthew Royal, Nicki Ruszczycky, Shu Sebesta, Anne Seiler, Debby Senna, Tom & Jan Sheedy, Sherry Sherry, Soluri Family, Steiner Family, Sarah Steimer, Susan Swanson, Linda Tennyson, Thorne Family, Rafael Vergos, Marianne Waindle, Nancy Wallace, Lynda White, Kristin Zellhart

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WHAT'S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

Spectrum Stage discovers new magic in Castro Cottage at Sierra 2 Center

By Sara Sturtevant

If you've wandered past the little cottage next to Sierra 2 Center's north parking lot lately and heard theatrical laughter through the windows or noticed colorful lights glowing through the blinds, we'd like to introduce ourselves.

Formerly known as Empire Arts Collective, Spectrum Stage is a Sacramento performing-arts nonprofit creating immersive theatre, experimental performance, workshops, community events and opportunities for local artists to grow their craft and tell meaningful stories. Our work especially focuses on creating a welcoming space for adult creatives who have often felt overlooked or underserved by traditional performing-arts environments.

For years, we operated out of Room 13 and later Room 14 inside the main Sierra 2 building. Late last year, we made the exciting move into the Castro Cottage, giving us room to grow creatively and dream a little bigger. The space has an incredible

warmth and charm, with a cozy front parlor and, most excitingly, a larger room perfectly suited to becoming an intimate little black-box theater.

The cottage immediately felt special to us. Sierra 2 Center is deeply community-centered, creative, welcoming and full of life, and we're incredibly grateful to continue growing here. We've approached the space with a strong sense of care for its character and history while slowly settling in with fresh paint, stage lighting, theatrical oddities and a whole lot of heart.

Our recent production of "Stop Kiss" by Diana Son was the first fully staged show in the new space. Seeing audiences gather together in our new home confirmed what we already hoped: This place has the potential to become something truly magical.

We're excited to continue welcoming the community into the space for performances, workshops and events in the months ahead.

Learn more about upcoming events at spectrumstage.org.

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Congratulations

Congratulations to our 2026 graduates!

High School

College



Cara Combrink, daughter of Karen & Scott Combrink of Fourth Avenue, graduated from McClatchy High School’s HISP program. She will major in psychology at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall.



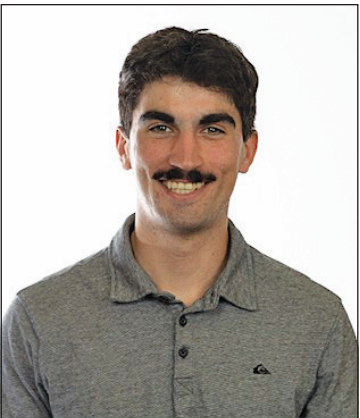
Apollo Gonsalves, daughter of Eileen Cubanski and David Gonsalves of Highland Avenue, graduated from West Campus High School. She will attend American River College in the fall, majoring in fashion design and plans to transfer after a year to the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.



Chance Johnson, son of Eric and Lara Johnson of 26th Street, graduated from John F. Kennedy High School’s Manufacturing and Design (MaD) program. He will study for a B.S. in manufacturing engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall.



Cedeira Dawson, daughter of Chris Dawson and Gwynnae Byrd of Coleman Way, graduated from the University of Oregon with a B.S. in political science and a minor in ethnic studies. She plans to attend law school.



Lucas Dawson, son of Chris Dawson and Gwynnae Byrd of Coleman Way, graduated from Oregon State University with a double major in mechanical engineering and sustainability.



Robert Shields Jr. (“RJ”), son of Robert and Michelle Shields of Crocker Drive, graduated from McClatchy High School’s Law and Public Policy Academy. He will play tennis at American River College and will transfer to a university to complete his kinesiology degree.



Miles Legowik, son of Ron Legowik of Franklin Boulevard, and Rayna and Greg Mitchell of 11th Avenue, graduated from McClatchy High School. He will attend Chico State in the fall.



Theo Strauss, son of Sarah Steinheimer and Liz Strauss of Third Avenue, graduated from McClatchy High School. He will study mechanical engineering at Gonzaga University in the fall.



Reyna Vallejo, daughter of Arturo and Marisa Vallejo of Fourth Avenue, graduated with a B.S. in communication sciences and disorders from CSU Sacramento. She will study for a master’s in speech and hearing sciences at the University of Washington in the fall.



Tessa Easterling, daughter of Lori and Larry Easterling of Fifth Avenue, graduated with a B.A. in art practice from St. Mary’s College of California. She will study for an M.S. in medical visualization and human anatomy at the University of Glasgow/ The Glasgow School of Art Glasgow, Scotland.



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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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Maurice Gatdula: 209-688-2593

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Wednesdays, 3-4:30 p.m.

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(some experience required)
Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m.

Adult/Teen Ballet from the Beginning

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dancingwithheidi@gmail.com

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tworiversdancecenter.com and
rivercitytaps.com

Dancing for Parkinsons

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(no experience required)
danceforparkinsons.org

Pasitos Dance and Music Academy

Sundays
(no experience required) Ages 1-17
Class schedules:
pasitosacademysacramento.com

ART

Glass Acts Mosaics Collective

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

Art Club

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Last Thursday, 6-8 p.m., Garden Room
Artclubsacramento@gmail.com

FITNESS

Dance Fit

Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 2
Sundays, 9-10 a.m. Studio 2
(no experience required)
app.classfit.com/studio/dancefitsac

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, June 26
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Room 10

Women's Friendship Group

Gathering together for friendship, fun and laughter
Wednesday, June 10 and 24 (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, June 8
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 11
June Book: "The Power of One" by Bryce Courtenay
Monday, July 13

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 11
July Book: "Season of the Witch" by David Talbot

Nonfiction Book Club (3rd Thursdays)

Thursday, June 18
11 a.m.-noon
Room 11
June Book: "Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life" by William Finnegan
Thursday, July 16
11 a.m.-noon
Room 11
July Book: "The Light Eaters: how the unseen world of plant intelligence offers a new understanding of life on earth" by Zoe Schlanger

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
Contract Bridge
Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m.

Room 12
Fridays, noon-3 p.m.
Room 9
Beginners welcome

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Saturday, June 13

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\$35

My Story: Memoir Writing Workshop

Saturday, June 20

1-3 p.m.

\$35

First Draft in 4 Weeks: Playwriting Workshop

Thursdays, July 2-23

6-8 p.m.

\$100

QR code to The Learnery Website Calendar

Home and Garden Tour delights hundreds

The Curtis Park Home and Garden Tour on April 25 delighted over 740 ticket holders who strolled through the neighborhood, toured five Curtis Park homes and sampled food truck offerings. Many also visited the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community. Thanks to our homeowners, volunteers and sponsors, including Steffan Brown, Coldwell Banker Realtor; Paloma Begin, Compass Realtor; and New Home Building Supply, who make this amazing day possible. Funded by the Sacramento Cultural Arts Awards program, five artists created works to depict the tour's homes and gardens, which were presented to the homeowners as thank-you gifts.



3240 24th St.
"Special Shelter from 1923" by Nancy Paterson



2509 Tenth Ave.
"A Japanese Portal" by Larry Ramos



2264 Portola Way
"Portola Way" by Deborah N. Rich



2616 Rochon Way
"Geno and Lani's House" by Gregory Shilling



2781 21st St.
"Soulful" by Aashi Labana

Submit your creations for Park Arts

Viewpoint wants to feature your creative work on its occasional Park Arts page. Submit short written pieces or reproducible photos of your creative work to Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com. Works should be accompanied by the creator's name, email address, phone number and short bio. Submissions will be curated and run as space permits.

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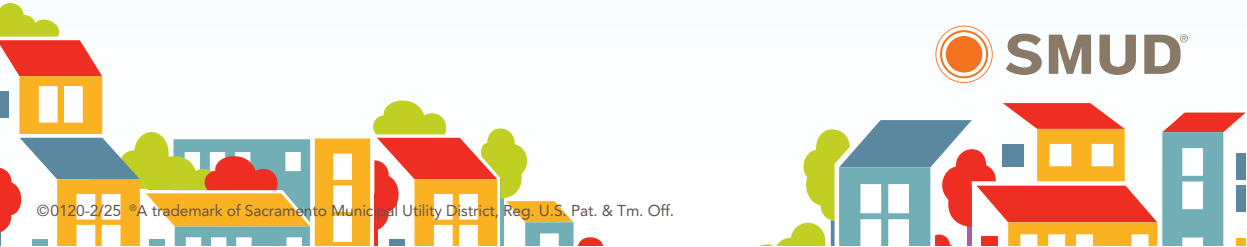
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Are you ready to upgrade to an electric heat pump water heater, heat pump HVAC system or an induction cooktop? Going electric not only saves on energy costs, it's also safer, healthier and better for the environment. The Curtis Park Electric Stars are your neighbors and can help you make the switch with information about upgrades, SMUD rebates and access to qualified contractors.

 Scan this QR code to see how you can become an Electric Star, too. Or visit smud.org/PowerPartners

 To learn more, email the Electric Stars by scanning this QR code or at CP.ElectricStars@gmail.com





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Seán Gavin and Colm Gamon

Thursday, June 4: Richard Smith, award-winning British fingerpicking/thumb-picking guitarist who formed The Hot Club of Nashville will add gypsy jazz, swing and classical to his already vast repertoire.

Saturday, June 6: Silas Lowe Trio, an astute Austin, Texas songwriter and observer of smaller town vibes with zingers like “brown gravy kitchen, football religion – what good is Jesus when you lose your division?” and “Martha’s at the hair place, knows everybody’s business... spreads it around like manure in the field.”

Friday, June 12: Seán Gavin and Colm Gamon; master uilleann piper/flute player Gavin (music director of PBS’ “This is Ireland”) is one of the most highly regarded young Irish musicians worldwide. His musical cohort, Gamon, is equally evocative on accordion.

Thursday, June 18: Minor Gold, an Australian/Canadian duo; the UK’s UNCUT praised their “trippy folk wonderment... the pair have an alluring telepathy to the way the voices curl around each other, rarely heard since Emmylou Harris rode shotgun with Gram Parsons.”

Friday, June 26: Bob Woods’ Western Swing Trio with John Gorton, dazzling Western Swing Society Hall of Famers: Bob Woods on guitar, Olen Dillingham on fiddle, Brett Cole, plus jazz guitarist John Gorton (Dan Hicks, Maria Muldaur).

Saturday, June 27: Double D’s, fun-loving, Reno-based Doug Sandall and Dale Poune on guitar and harmonica, pulling from boomer, radio-friendly rootsy repertoire.

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Saturday, June 20: Annual Juneteenth Block Party at 40 Acres, 4-9 p.m.

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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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Wednesdays: “Bad Karaoke!” 7-9 p.m.

Thursdays: “Jazz Night,” curated by Charlie Passarrell! 7-9 p.m.

June 4: Ross Hammond, 7-9 p.m.

June 11: Anime Aliens, 7-9 p.m.

June 18: Bafus/Hale/Raskin Trio, 7-9 p.m.

June 25: A regular, end-of-month, open JAZZ JAM w/Anime Aliens. 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.

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– Mindy Giles

ACROSS THE COUNTER

Crocker Village dumpling spot featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives

By Jake Sahl

What do the cities of Sacramento and Qingian, China have in common? Besides being situated on major rivers at the foot of large mountain ranges and not far from the sea, they share handmade xiao long bao, soup-filled dumplings prepared according to a Chou family recipe dating back to the 1940s.

When Mark Chou left China at 17, he carried a sense of tradition rooted in his grandfather’s small restaurant and a belief that California was the land of opportunity. His journey to Sacramento included stops in Georgia and Oklahoma, where he worked in restaurants while putting himself through community college. When the stars finally aligned, Chou decided that the Crocker Village Shopping Center was as good a place as any to bring his dream of owning a restaurant to life.



Mark Chou and his wife Helen Zhang own Tasty Dumpling.

On the surface, Tasty Dumpling blends in with its neighboring establishments, but stay awhile and you might begin to see why the restaurant was featured on the April 10th episode of “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives,” a popular Food

Network show where host Guy Fieri explores less glamorous, yet notably delicious, local eateries.

Much like Chou, Tasty Dumpling exudes humble authenticity. Diners are greeted by the sounds of crackling oil and sizzling vegetables on a hot griddle. Peer into the kitchen, and you’ll see an assembly line of cooks rolling out dough and shaping xiao long bao and pork buns — two of the eatery’s must-try menu items. This is a no-frills restaurant, and Chou has focused on keeping the menu affordable even as ingredient and labor costs continue to climb.

Asked what his favorite part of owning a restaurant is, Chou said, “interacting with customers.” Chou explained his belief in donating to local charitable causes, big and small, reflecting his Chinese culture, which places a high value on informal social-support structures.

“It’s important to support the community that supports us,” he said, a sentiment we would all do well to reflect on, perhaps while enjoying a plate of handmade food from our local dumpling spot.



Dumpling-making is underway at Tasty Dumpling.

Photos by Claudia Moun

History book celebrates Eighth Avenue's 100 years

By Susan MacCulloch

Many Curtis Park homes built in the 1920s have or will soon reach 100 years old. Eighth Avenue resident Suzanne Giorgi celebrated this timeline by publishing “Celebrating 100 Years Eighth Avenue,” a nostalgic and informative history book for her neighbors.

Giorgi’s initial effort, with research help from neighbors, was profiled in the March 2025 *Viewpoint*. She began the project in November 2024 and completed it in time for the book’s distribution to 20 households along Eighth Avenue last Christmas. A side benefit of her research was developing closer relationships with her neighbors.

Giorgi shared with *Viewpoint* how to research your home’s history from the first building permit to a history of prior occupants and photographic research.

An active interest in genealogy fueled her research. She began by looking for building permits through the City of Sacramento’s records website (records.cityofsacramento.org). Once she assembled a collection of Eighth Avenue building permits to establish the age of each house, Giorgi continued her research with visits to the Sacramento Room at the public library’s downtown location (saclibrary.org/visit-us/sacramento-room).

The Sacramento Room houses decades of the city’s reverse telephone directories, which contain a wealth of information about a home’s prior occupants. To do this, start by locating your street address, which will link to the resident at the time, often with their occupation and place of employment. Take a photo of the page for further research about your street’s history.

Of course, the key part of Giorgi’s project was seeking help from her neighbors on Eighth Avenue. Long-term residents shared histories of former neighbors and their own family and neighborhood photos. Giorgi noted that over the years, many residents had been divorced or widowed. “This was a street that was very good to widows,” she said. As elders needed more support, neighbors assisted, whether helping with pets or shopping for groceries.

For the book’s preparation, Giorgi compiled photos of each home’s exterior facade and maintained a spreadsheet with each home’s history, balancing content and photos. She then produced a rough PDF for neighbors to review for accuracy before submitting the final product to blurb.com, the company that produced the book.



The Eighth Avenue commemorative book celebrates the street’s 100-year-old homes and its residents through the years.

Giorgi acknowledged the efforts of Highland Avenue’s centennial homes research, profiled in the March 2023 *Viewpoint*. “I really like what Nancy Shea did on Highland. It was very inspiring,” she said. Giorgi acknowledged that the Eighth Avenue book is “a slice in time” of a record that may be updated in years to come.

With Giorgi’s assistance, this writer began researching her home’s history, starting with the first building permit. Following Giorgi’s advice, I knew to start with street address or lot number at records.cityofsacramento.org. If your address does not match, use the lot number on your property tax bill.

I was curious about my home’s construction. The deed listed 1930, but I know the house was constructed a few years earlier. It took a bit of research, but I learned from the permit that the original owner, E.M. Joseph, obtained the building permit on May 2, 1927, with a valuation of \$6,000. Subsequent permits in 1976 included one for the swimming pool construction. Adult children of several neighbors confirmed they recall pool time in my backyard in the late 1970s-early 1980s.

Additional resources for historic street photographs and information about the original building contractors can be found at the Center for Sacramento History at sacramento.pastperfectonline.com. Giorgi notes

Nettie Mrs ant arnabas Com- munity House e of the Merc- avours for ppled Children U intersects V intersects W intersects ten Herman ten Aug X intersects Y intersects way intersects Frank leton W E e H R en H K es W R a G C Sac)-From Del d to city limits ges Wm rds J L n Glenn A O radios A O	749 Nutting B F 805 Eckstrom Hilda Mrs 815 Bagwill C B Koch Antone 830 Kripp N B 849 Wilson I S 901 Brett G C 919 Ikl G S 925 Reimer John 1011 Desmaris Hubert 2280 Vacant Franklin blvd intersects 2401 Frye Etelka Mrs 2410 Woodard C R 2411 Anderson G E 2418 Hales W S radios 2419 McCarthy E J 2500 Dobbins G C 2501 Weber J N 2508 Bingham R A 2509 Morris Mary Mrs 2516 Hayes O B 2517 Dudley C V 2524 Vacant 2525 Mack D M 2532 Anderson E R 2533 Haworth Luther 2541 Clover V D	Public Account- ants — Systems Audits Income Tax — 718
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Eighth Avenue listings from the 1920s in a reverse telephone directory located in the Central Library Sacramento Room.

Photo by Suzanne Giorgi

that with patience and time, much of this research can be conducted online. Spend time scrolling through the center’s website, and you might discover a photo of your street and even your home.

To learn more about your home and street’s history, start with your longtime neighbors, who may surprise you with stories and photos that offer a snapshot in time. Gather them, then celebrate the compilation of your neighborhood’s history.

Giorgi recommends the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a resource for a deep dive into a family’s history (familysearch.org/en/centers/sacramento_california). Information and photographs may be scanned at no cost.

For more information about researching your home’s history, contact Suzanne Giorgi through the *Viewpoint* by emailing Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com.



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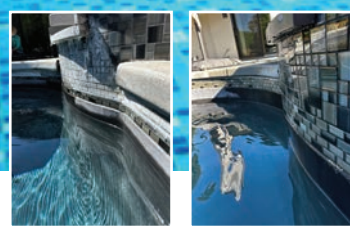
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Concerts

Continued from page 1

Concert dates and featured bands:

June 28: The BlowBacks

The series kicks off with a dynamic, horn-driven dance band. The BlowBacks are a group of talented and passionate musicians from Amador and Calaveras counties that have been groovin' together for nearly a decade. Their sound blends classic rock (think Chicago), Motown, soul, funk, classic big band and retro swing. There is something for everyone to enjoy with The BlowBacks, and a good time is guaranteed to be had.

Kids intermission: The Sultan of Silly

Adam Gottstein, aka "The Sultan of Silly," was born and raised in San Francisco and got his start as a kid's entertainer with premier children's entertainment company, "The Buddy Club," both as a producer and performer. Today, the Sultan of Silly continues to delight family audiences with silly interactive songs and goofball antics. He frequently brings young volunteers up on stage to add to the hilarity.

July 26: Steph Cali

Experience country, soul and a little rock 'n' roll with singer-songwriter Steph Cali. She is from Northern California, but her Southern grit and passion for music bring out a classic California country sound that leaves an audience wanting more. The summer-

time calls for country music, and Steph Cali, accompanied by her 6-piece band, is sure to satisfy.

Kids intermission: Jahri's World

The entire family will enjoy the rhythmic melodies and pop and hip-hop style of Jahri's World (Jerry Turner). His educational songs tell imaginative stories that stimulate the participants' imagination, bring smiles and laughter and inspire movement to flow.

August 30: It's About Time Band

Last, but certainly not least, the Music in the Park series is going out swingin' with the "It's About Time Band." In addition to playing many of the stock, swing arrangements of the Big Band Era, this 13-piece band's repertoire has expanded to include more Latin tunes and contemporary pieces. Originally formed in Davis in September of 1996, amazingly, several of the original members are still playing with the band today, and they're sure to get your feet tapping.

Kids intermission: Jahri's World

SCNA would like to wish a happy retirement and special thanks to Music in the Park Concert Series legend Ken Cooper, also known as the beloved "Mr. Cooper," for his dedication and years as the children's performer.

All these bands pair harmoniously with the food trucks brought by SacTo Mofo:

Sunday, June 28: The Mini Donut Shack, Taco Girl & Hefty Gyros

Sunday, July 26: Bangin' Bowls, Gameday Grill & Build A Sundae



"The Sultan of Silly" will perform for kids of all ages during intermission. Courtesy of the artist

Sunday, August 30: La Bangin' Tacos, Allen BBQ & Bangin' Churro Bar

Bring your picnic blankets, lawn chairs and dancing shoes for three festive evenings of live entertainment, great food and summer fun.

Neighbors

Continued from page 1

This achievement reflects the community's enduring passion and commitment for the Sierra 2 Center and the programs, events and connections it supports. Every donation, shared post, conversation and word of encouragement helped make this success possible. Each contribution, no matter the size, helps ensure the Sierra 2 Center remains a vibrant gathering place for generations to come.

It's never too late to give. To learn more or donate, visit sierra2.org.

Shannon Motley chairs SCNA's Fundraising Committee.

Point-in-time count reveals higher homelessness rates – and progress in sheltering unhoused people

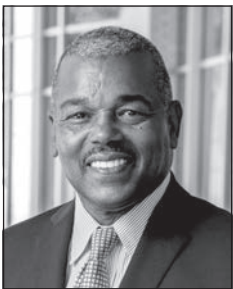
The number of unsheltered homeless in the City of Sacramento is still unacceptable. The city continues to invest in additional shelter beds, increasing our shelter capacity. This strategic investment is important and will be maintained even in this challenging budget year.

Sacramento Steps Forward recently released the 2026 Point in Time (PIT) count for Sacramento County. While the 2026 PIT showed that overall homelessness in Sacramento County increased from 2024, it also highlighted two important changes. The first is that the number of homeless people who were in shelters rather than on the street increased by 22% in 2026 compared to 2024. We are sheltering more people now than we were in 2024. The second is that the number of unsheltered homeless people living on the streets decreased by 19.3% in the City of Sacramento in 2026 compared to 2024.

Through investments in additional shelter beds by the city and county of Sacramento, we were able to get more people into shelter, reducing the number of unsheltered homeless in the city. While the city used to account for 78% of the unsheltered homeless, we now account for 58.6%. This reflects the investments we have made in new shelter beds and additional outreach and enforcement staff.

I want to be direct. The number of home-

RICK JENNINGS
City Council Member
District 7



less in our neighborhoods and our city is too high. What these numbers tell us is that the path the city is on, building additional shelter beds and offering those shelter beds to unhoused individuals, is making a difference. We are heading in the right direction. While we have a long way to go, and there are still too many homeless people living on the street, we are beginning to see the impact of our investment in shelter space and outreach and enforcement efforts. The PIT count will now be held every year, giving our community an annual indicator of our progress. I am hopeful that with continued investments, we will see more people moving from the streets into shelter.

I continue to hold office hours on the second Wednesday of each month from 5 to 6 p.m. in room 12 at the Sierra 2 Center.

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Marissa Meyers, Jon Cedercruetz and baby Andrew

Photo courtesy Carla Meyers

PARK ARTS

Editor's note: In our last installment of "Strange Sightings," by St. Francis Elementary School student Micah Lancara, a worker at Backstage Brewing spied a monster in the alley after work. Our writer noted that the "second sighting is even more gross but somewhat more interesting. This report has a victim." Here's the continuation of his horror fiction:

A man named Larry who lives on Markham Way told us the time and location, thankfully. Larry's report goes like this:

"It was around 6:30 p.m. when I was taking my dog Peanut on a walk. We were almost back home, because we were on my street. Peanut randomly starts running straight into my neighbor's driveway. This certain house was already abandoned and I had thought he had smelled old food or something in the driveway, you know.

"I yelled at Peanut, 'Come back here!' I could still hear him sniffing when suddenly he just stopped. I ran up the driveway and noticed a dirt trail from his paws that led up to the house's garage. I went into the open garage when suddenly the garage door shut. I heard my dog whimpering and I called for him. He came to me. I was relieved, but he just walked right through the garage door like it was an illusion so I also tried to walk through the garage door but I couldn't.

"I felt a table and searched around for a flashlight, which I can't believe I even found, and it thankfully still worked so I shined it around and I saw old paintings and photos of people playing pool and sitting at a bar. I shined the light on a shelf and saw red paint dripping off the shelf. I went closer to the dripping paint. Then I realized that it wasn't paint. It was blood."

Stay tuned: We hope to offer more of this story in the future.

New baby joins multi-generational Curtis Park family

Marissa Meyers and Jon Cedercruetz of Eleventh Avenue welcomed their new baby, Andrew Everett Cedercruetz, on Feb. 4. Andrew weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces.

The couple moved to the neighborhood from San Francisco in 2020. Marissa grew up on Curtis Way where her parents still reside. Marissa's sister, Kristin Meyers, brother-in-law Ken Lambert and their two daughters live on Coleman Way. Three families, three generations, knowing how special it is to live in Curtis Park.

— Carla Meyers



On May 2, Michael and Ashley Oates of 21st Street hosted a garden party dinner for guests who purchased tickets during last October's Sip, Savor and Support wine tasting fundraiser for SCNA. The Oateses plan to make the gathering an annual tradition, welcoming new and longtime neighbors in support of SCNA.

Photo by Kris Backus



Mixed Four Bowling Champs, Hanging Loose flank their captain, Curtis Park Resident Shirl Worley, (center) at their annual banquet.

Photo courtesy Shirl Worley

Local bowler goes home a champion

Curtis Park resident Shirl Worley is the captain and anchor of her Mixed Four Bowling Team, which brought home a championship last month at Country Club Lanes.

Worley of Fifth Avenue made a clutch final-frame spare to secure the match, then topped it by throwing a strike on her bonus throw before a cheering crowd watching the tense conclusion. The dramatic final-game victory pitted two teams that had each won championships over two halves of a one-year season.

Worley led the first-half champs, Hangin' Loose, composed of Worley, Kevin Chan, Jason Yip, Greg Yip and Nano Simanto, against the second-half champs, the Odd Balls. The best-of-three championship came down to the rubber match, in which Hangin' Loose prevailed 704-684.

Teammate Chan said Captain Worley demonstrated leadership and stayed cool under pressure, adding that during the pivotal 7th frame of the match, she admonished the team to "buckle down and stay focused!" Clearly, the pep talk paid off.

— Michael Sicilia

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Little Miss 916

June 27

Little Miss 916 Beauty Pageant

From pandemic kindergarten to middle school

Bret Harte Elementary's current sixth-grade class stands out for several reasons. The students finished kindergarten online during the early months of the pandemic, and with only 12 students currently enrolled, they have remained the school's smallest class for the past six years. Their size meant spending much of elementary school in split-grade classrooms, learning alongside both younger and older students. While split classes can be challenging for teachers, the arrangement helped the students build strong friendships across grade levels and adapt easily to different learning environments.

For the past two years, the sixth graders also have benefited from having Michael Rule as their teacher, whom students overwhelmingly described as their favorite. Rule said saying goodbye to this year's class will be especially difficult.

"It is always a high and low feeling when I send my sixth-grade class off to middle school, and with having this year's class of sixth graders for two years, it will definitely be tough saying congratulations, good luck and goodbye to them," he said. "I love when they drop by to visit and tell me about middle school and how they are doing or send a random email to say 'hi' while they're in middle school classes; it always puts a smile on my face."

There's a bittersweet feeling among students, too. They will miss the many student and family events like the pancake breakfast, school dances and field trips. Students Andre and Kaiya will miss the Family Picnics on the Lawn that happen on the first Friday of the month, while Nia and Anystie will miss the staff, especially front office assistants Sonia Carrillo and Anna Garcia Carrillo.

Addy, Khaleesi and Rayanne said they will miss their



The 2026 sixth-grade graduating class at Bret Harte Elementary.

Photo by Lindsey Sin



**LAUREN
GOTHARD
and
LINDSEY
SIN**

friends the most. "One thing I am going to miss most about Bret Harte is going to school and seeing my fifth-grade friends. I am so sad that I have to leave them behind," said Rayanne. Rose, Max, Faith and Caileigh said one of their favorite memories was going to Sly Park two years in a row.

Beyond the friendships and memorable events, students said they also grew academically and personally during their years at Bret Harte.

"I loved almost all of the subjects, especially class books because we would always do projects on them," said Rose. Science and math were the most popular subjects among this cohort, although Alexis said he enjoyed history the most.

They shared what they were most proud of from this year, including better focus, staying positive and learning difficult things. The sixth graders also had practical and positive advice for their fifth-grade peers, such as to study hard and take lots of notes.

"Always try your best, don't give up and believe in yourself," encouraged Max.

They also had words of wisdom and optimism for their future 25-year-old selves. Kaiya encouraged her future self "to continue this never-ending journey, never give up, accomplish new goals, learn new things and always remember good and bad things are in every journey."

For a class that began elementary school during one of the most uncertain times in recent history, these sixth graders found stability in friendship, community and shared experiences. Now, as they turn the page toward middle school, they leave Bret Harte not only with memories but with the confidence and resilience they built together along the way.

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