

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

Vol. 48 No. 2

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

September 2026

Area businesses give mixed reviews for Franklin Boulevard "Complete Street" construction project

By Sue Hida

The City of Sacramento completed its "Franklin Boulevard Complete Street Project" in July, about 16 months after the groundbreaking. On Franklin Boulevard between Sutterville and Fruitridge roads, vehicular traffic was reduced to one lane. Bicycle lanes protected by 9-inch curbed medians, sidewalks, decorative lighting, artwork and landscaping also were added in both directions.

Reaction to the changes has been mixed. Several people who work along Franklin Boulevard told *Viewpoint* that they've seen drivers confused by the additional curbs and bike lanes, with a few drivers even trying to enter the bike lanes.

Grassroots community efforts led the city to initiate planning back in 2017. Michael Bokan, executive director of



The Franklin Boulevard Complete Streets project is complete, with bicycle lanes and sidewalks protected from vehicular traffic.

Photos by Sue Hida

the Franklin Boulevard Business District (FBBD), is elated that the project is complete.

"It is the first major Franklin Boulevard infrastructure improvement since the 1980s when the utilities were put

underground," he said.

Outreach, master plan, environmental review, a traffic study and preliminary engineering were funded by a Sacramento Council of Governments (SACOG) Community Design Grant. The California Transportation Commission for Active Transportation and the Sacramento Transportation Authority provided construction funds. FBBD and former District 5 Council Member Jay Schenier were both instrumental in the effort. The project cost approximately \$28 million.

Wayne Steving, who owns New Home Building Supply, said the changes have caused problems for his business. He said customers have ruined tires, rims and even transmissions. Newly painted white curbs have black tire marks. Being a short distance from

See Franklin, Page 4

New restaurant around the corner offers breakfast, brunch and lunch — and mimosas

By Patti Roberts

Curtis Park's newest restaurant, The Mimosa House, will hold its grand opening this month. The restaurant has had a soft opening over the last two months, offering breakfast, brunch and lunch at its new Sutterville Road location.

The Mimosa House in Curtis Park is the ninth in this family-owned and operated local restaurant chain. Owner Lou Dedier describes the menu as traditional

See New restaurant, Page 5



The Mimosa House restaurant chain owner Lou Dedier grew up in Curtis Park. Photo by Steve Martarano

Community, tastes and giving at Sierra 2 Center

By Piper Rea

Mark your calendars for one of Curtis Park's favorite fall traditions. From 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4, the Sierra 2 Center will once again bring the community together for Sip, Savor & Support, known in previous years as the Curtis Park Wine Tasting.

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) is delighted to put the fun back in fundraising with this reimagined event that builds on a long-standing tradition of celebrating the rich food and beverage culture found throughout the Sacramento region. Guests will enjoy tastings from local wineries, craft breweries, restaurants and more. The evening will feature live entertainment and silent auction items, all set against the beautiful backdrop of Curtis Hall and the historic Sierra 2 Center.

Whether you're a wine enthusiast, a

Event Details:

Ticket Price: \$85

What: Sip, Savor & Support 2026

When: 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4

Where: Curtis Hall-Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street

craft beer lover or simply someone who enjoys great food and company, Sip, Savor & Support offers something for everyone. If you're looking for a sneak peek into a few of the participating businesses, some highlights include returning favorites Casino Mine Ranch, Sobon Estates, Norse Legend Meade, Acheson Wine Co., Lucid Winery, Vallejo's Restaurant and Urban Plates. Newcomers include Dao's Distillery, Seka Hills, ZOE Coffee+Tacos and The Quail & Olive, to name a few.

Special thanks to sponsors Steffan

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Curb controversy leads to planned intersection improvements

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Meet a few of Curtis Park's new neighbors

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WHAT'S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

On the third Thursday of every month, Room 12 at Sierra 2 transforms into a hub of strategy, laughter and friendly competition. The monthly all-ages Board Game Night draws neighbors ages 3 to 83 for an evening of fun and connection.

The setup is simple, welcoming and open to everyone. Tables are stocked with a rotating library of games from classics like Uno and Sequence to modern tabletop favorites like Betrayal at House on the Hill, Settlers of Catan, and Wingspan to kid-friendly picks

like Out Foxed, Spot It! and Castle Panic.

Whether you're a seasoned strategist plotting your next victory or a complete novice looking to learn a new game, SCNA Board Member and host Noah Soliday Bench is always on hand to explain rules and help form tables.

The next game night is scheduled from 6-8 p.m. Sept. 17. The event is completely free, so swing on by and bring a game to share. We hope to see you there.

– Submitted by Noah Soliday Bench



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SCNA and Sierra 2 Center navigate a season of transition and community momentum

As summer gives way to fall, I have seen both the resilience and the energy of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) and the Sierra 2 Center. Even during the peak of summer heat, vacation schedules and a lighter July board calendar, our staff, volunteers and board members have continued the steady work of keeping programs moving, planning events and focusing the organization on the future.

At Sierra 2, the staff has not missed a beat. Over the past several weeks, they presented three successful Music in the Park events, bringing neighbors together for one of our most beloved summer traditions. The team also has been preparing for Sip, Savor & Support, our Sunday, Oct. 4 fundraiser, which will help sustain the programs and activities our community values.

Although the SCNA board traditionally doesn't meet in July, the work did not stop. Board members remained engaged behind the scenes, supporting staff,

PATRICK BAXTER SCNA Board President



monitoring operations and preparing for the next phase of strategic planning. That steady attention has been especially important during a period of organizational transition.

The board and staff are aligned around a practical goal: to keep the business resilient, organized and consistently able to deliver the activities, events and services that make Sierra 2 such an important community resource. The opportunity for staff and the board to work together more frequently has really opened

eyes on both sides and enabled an even better partnership.

Additionally, the board is finalizing the scope of work for our next executive director to initiate a search to replace Danielle Whitmore, who resigned in June. We want to find an individual with excellent customer service skills and the business acumen to execute on board direction.

As always, we appreciate the community's support and contributions to our success. The board is confident that even in seasons of change, SCNA is prepared for the future — and that Sierra 2 remains a place where neighbors gather, connect and invest in the future.

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.

Viewpoint boosters campaign off to strong start

By Kathy Les and Michael Oates

For nearly 50 years, *Viewpoint* has helped connect Curtis Park, sharing the stories of our neighbors, keeping residents informed about issues that affect our community and bringing news of local events, businesses and milestones directly to 2,500 doorsteps.

Now neighbors are stepping up to help ensure that tradition continues. In the early stages of the "*Viewpoint* Boosters" campaign, more than 60 Curtis Park households have signed up to support the paper and growing monthly recurring contributions have us well on our way to unlocking the full matching gift.

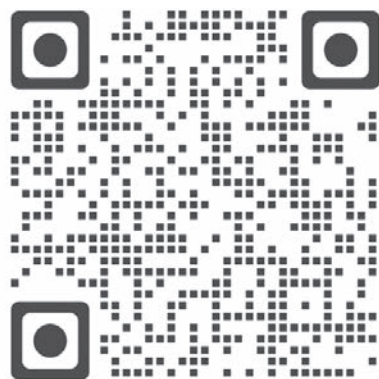
The response reflects something neighbors tell us repeatedly: *Viewpoint* is more than a newspaper. It is one of the ways Curtis Park stays informed, connected and rooted in community.

Here's what some of our boosters say *Viewpoint* means to them:

"My *Viewpoint* Boosters donation is an investment in maintaining the connected and caring Curtis Park neighborhood where I love living. The *Viewpoint* hits my doorstep each month with stories that keep our community up to date with the who, what, when and where of Curtis Park gatherings, neighbors' lives, and important local decisions relevant to our wellbeing. It is essential to keep it humming along! — **Nancy McKeever**, Cutter Way for 23 years

"It was a no-brainer to sign up for the *Viewpoint* Boosters. *Viewpoint* is such an asset to the neighborhood that it just makes sense to donate a little to keep it going." — **Barbara Sherry**, Third Ave. for 35 years

"I'm happy to support *Viewpoint*. I use it to find fun activities for me and my kids, and to keep up with neighborhood perspectives and new small



businesses I can support. I'm a millennial, but I know I wouldn't read it as thoroughly or consistently if it went online. There's something special about having it delivered to my stoop every month, knowing that our community helped get it there from writing to printing to delivery. Thanks for all you do, *Viewpoint* team!" — **Jillian Rich**, Marshall Way, born and raised in Curtis

Park, mother of two school-age children

"I am a big fan of *Viewpoint*, and I think it's really important for connecting the Curtis Park community. We read it every month. Delivery of *Viewpoint* to every resident's door every month is one of the things that makes the Curtis Park community special. Learning about neighbors and what's going on in the neighborhood keeps us connected. Suspension of the *Viewpoint* free in its printed format would be a huge loss. I am happy to contribute more to keep it alive." — **Mary Lou Flint**, Cutter Way for 43 years

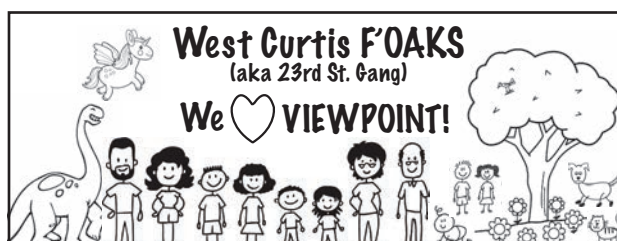
"I think the *Viewpoint* is important in creating a sense of community. It's special that Curtis Park has a paper that informs and connects us all. It's wonderful to read about neighbors, graduations, babies, etc., as well as current neighborhood issues. I'm happy to support it." — **Carla Meyers**, Curtis Way for 40 years

I really appreciate the *Viewpoint* as my simple way

to keep up on neighborhood issues and happenings. I really enjoy all the articles written by our neighbors too, so many interesting perspectives, activities, and stories. The *Viewpoint* really ties a bow on the entire Curtis Park neighborhood experience. — **Ted Frink**, 25th Street for 15 years

I'm donating to the *Viewpoint* monthly because I believe the strength of our neighborhood starts with informed, connected neighbors. *Viewpoint* shines a light on the people, community events, local businesses and stories that make Curtis Park such a special place to call home. In an increasingly digital world, there's something meaningful about a newspaper that's printed and hand-delivered to our doorsteps — a tangible reminder that a neighborhood is more than a place we live; it's a community we create together. I'm proud to support its mission and help ensure it continues connecting our neighborhood for years to come. — **Alex Moos**, Donner Way for 10 years, father of two school-age children and SCNA Board member

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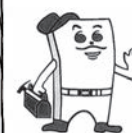
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Franklin

Continued from page 1

Fruitridge Road and the entrance to Highway 99, he said traffic also has backed up on Franklin in front of his business.

Delfino Justo, store director at La Superior Grocery, shared a photo of a small truck taking out a streetlight. On Aug. 3, a Lincoln sedan had to be towed after hitting a curb near El Novillero, presumably damaging its tie rods. On Aug. 6, a Toyota SUV damaged two rims and deployed the airbag near New Home Building Supply.

Bokan acknowledged that there will be a learning curve for road users, and that drivers will become accustomed to the hardscape.

Construction can have an impact on business, both short-and long-term. Some said they have not noticed any change in the number of customers; others said there are fewer. Some worry that the reduced vehicular traffic will deter customers from visiting Franklin Boulevard businesses and potential new businesses from moving into available properties.

Steving's business stocks lumber and building supplies that are delivered by semi-trailer trucks. Construction conflicted with deliveries in some cases. More critically, the project design moved the sidewalk closer to the structure, reducing room for semi-trucks



The aftermath of a car that accidentally drove over a new curb on Franklin Boulevard. Photo by Sue Hida

to maneuver in and out. The land used by trucks was not owned by the business and was needed to comply with traffic-dimension standards.

The new bike lane and sidewalks are attracting users. Alfredo Ochoa, owner of American Thrift Store, noted that for the first time in his 20 years on Franklin Boulevard, he's seen joggers using the sidewalk, and pedestrians make their way to church on Sunday morning. Justo, of La Superior, said he looks forward to approval from La Superior's property owner to install bike racks for customers as well as for employees.

On a recent morning, a mobility scooter sped northbound in the bike lane toward CVS and shortly

thereafter southbound with a purchase. A skateboarder was observed using the protected lane.

Rachel Rios, executive director of La Familia Counseling Center, which serves at-risk youth and families, said she plans to offer outreach on "safe skating."

"We need to encourage the use of helmets," she said. Rios is a strong advocate for the complete street project, adding, "Bus service is also needed. It's a long walk to the light rail."

A mix of city sprite zelkova and trident maple trees has been planted along the boulevard. There is general agreement that Franklin Boulevard's aesthetics and safety have improved. The city next plans to begin working on a similar project between Florin and Mack Roads.

Gloria Martinez, a manager of apartment complexes along Franklin between 43rd and 44th avenues, would like to see the road updates reach her neighborhood, which is too dangerous for her kids to bike.

"Currently, no way" she said. "Speed bumps are needed. I've seen cars do donuts and all kinds of crazy stuff."



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Longtime friends and Children's Home volunteers Sue Scotland, Marilyn MacVicar and Marlene Ohler enjoy reminiscing on the patio of the new Mimosa House on Sutterville Road.

Photo by Steve Martarano

New restaurant

Continued from page 1

American breakfast plates, benedicts, gourmet scrambles and lunch entrees. And true to the restaurant's name, they offer a selection of more than 100 kinds of mimosas.

The location is familiar to many Curtis Park neighbors as the former Casa Garden Restaurant, which closed during COVID in 2021 after 46 years of operation. The building required extensive renovations to transform the property into The Mimosa House, said Dedier, including updates to the patio, bar and interior décor.

"We started building out the restaurant, doing the remodel, redoing a lot of the patio area," said Dedier. He emphasized that the outdoor patio is dog-friendly and the restaurant even has a dog menu.

It's family-run, with Dedier, his wife and their adult children involved in all nine Mimosa House locations. Dedier feels a strong connection to this site since he was brought up in Curtis Park in a home near 25th Street and Marshall Way and attended Sierra Elementary and McClatchy High School.

"The reception from Curtis Park neighbors has been very welcoming," said Dedier. "Come in, take a break from your day, have some great food and take in a piece of Curtis Park's history."

The business is leasing the property from its neighbor, the Sacramento Children's Home; the income helps finance children's home operations.

"Casa Garden Restaurant was run by volunteers with all proceeds donated to Sacramento Children's Home," explained Children's Home CEO David Baker, who's been with the organization for 13 years. The restaurant shut down during COVID, and Baker was facing major upgrades to bring the 1912 building up to code.

"The best option was to lease the restaurant, and that's when Mimosa House stepped in," said Baker. "We're excited to have Mimosa House here. It's a good partnership, and the proceeds from the lease will help the Children's Home."

Seventh Avenue neighbor Carol Mott-Binkley has

been to Mimosa House a couple of times and speaks highly of the new venue so close by.

"It's an easy 10-minute walk from my home — less than a mile," she said. "The atmosphere was lovely, service was perfect and the food was delicious!"

Casa Garden was staffed by Los Niños Service League volunteers who greeted diners, waited tables, helped prepare meals and assisted with weddings and other private parties.

A trio of former, long-time Casa Garden volunteers has met a couple of times at The Mimosa House. Marlene Oehler, Marilyn MacVicar and Sue Scotland like to sit under the shade in the back garden and reminisce about their times together. They all recommend the new restaurant, saying the service is great, the food is delicious, the setting is pretty and the mimosas are wonderful.

The new Mimosa House is at 2760 Sutterville Road; call 916-706-3000 or visit mimosahouseca.com/curtis-park.

Evening

Continued from page 1

Brown (realtor, Coldwell Banker), Capitol Optometry, Paloma Begin (realtor, Compass), Cook Realty and All-Cal Insurance Agency. Sip, Savor & Support is made possible in part by participating businesses and sponsors.



More than just a tasting event, Sip, Savor & Support is an investment in the future of the Sierra 2 Center. Proceeds help sustain the center's community programming, preserve its historic campus, and ensure it remains a vibrant destination for arts, culture, education and community gatherings for future generations.

Join us on Sunday, Oct. 4, and raise a glass to community and the continued success of the Sierra 2 Center. Together, we can sip, savor and support a place that has been bringing people together for more than a century.

Tickets are now on sale on the Sierra 2 website or at the Sierra 2 office.



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Friday, Sept. 25
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Room 10

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11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 11
Debbie Self, 916-494-4230

Open Art Studio

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Room 11

BOOK CLUBS

Book Club

Monday, Sept. 14
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Room 11

Sept. Book: "Eleanor and Hick: The Love Affair that Shaped a First Lady" by Susan Quinn
Monday, Oct. 12
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 11
Oct. Book: "Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes

Nonfiction Book Club

Thursday, Sept. 17
11 a.m.-noon Room 11
Sept. Book: "The History of the World in 6 Glasses" by Tom Stanbage
Thursday, Oct. 15
11 a.m.-noon, Room 11
Oct. Book: "Nexus" by Yuval Noah Harari

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Room 12

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Room 12
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Room 12

Fridays, noon-3 p.m.
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Room 12



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5-6:30 p.m.

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Saturday, Sept. 26

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Sunday, Sept. 27

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QR code to The Learnery Website Calendar



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PARK ARTS



Untitled photo by Peggy Cooper

Untitled photo by Peggy Cooper

Neighborhood photographer captures the light in Crocker Village

Peggy Cooper uses art and photography for self-expression but has had works appear in museums and at the State Capitol as part of the Siskiyou County display, which included photos of Mount Shasta and its lenticular clouds. Cooper got started as a photographer shooting clouds and landscapes. She is retired now, but had careers in the private sector, state government and Volunteers of America shelter projects.

Cooper has lived on 10th Avenue for three years with her 16-year-old yorkiepoo, Mia.

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.



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

Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association
EVENT Calendar

Sip, Savor & Support – October 4

Angel Tree – November 23

Giving Tuesday – December 1

SCNA Membership Meeting – December 9

Join the Curtis Park Electric Stars!

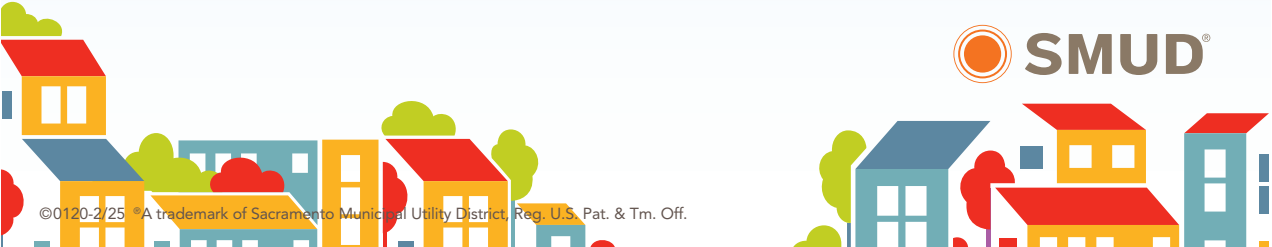
Are you ready to upgrade to an electric heat pump water heater, heat pump HVAC system or an induction cooktop? Going electric not only saves on energy costs, it's also safer, healthier and better for the environment. The Curtis Park Electric Stars are your neighbors and can help you make the switch with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



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



LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

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Saturday, Sept. 5: Jazz Gitan, our own popular area Gypsy Jazz quartet doing that hot French jazz, made world famous nearly 100 years ago.

Thursday, Sept. 10: Thomas Cassell and Nick Fallom. Cassell has been on the Opry, played with Billy Strings and Jim Lauderdale. Multiple national mandolin awards. A Virginian now in Nashville, guitarist Fallom matches his progressive bluegrass strengths.

Friday, Sept. 11: Sabrina the Songstress. She's called a "healing" singer of popular song, jazz standards; positive, uplifting music mostly from the 1940s-1970s.

Saturday, Sept. 12: Nell Robinson and Jim Nunally & Kalei Trio. Robinson and Nunally are area singer/songwriter favorites in the country/bluegrass/Americana vein. Adding Hawai'i accordionist/banjo/uke player Yamanoha sounds promising.

Friday, Sept. 18: Albert Lee, Grammy-winning British/Nashville guitar legend who has dazzled Clapton, EmmyLou, Jackson Browne, Roseanne Cash and Joe Cocker with his playing. The Everly Brothers re-uniter and music director.

Saturday Sept. 19: According To Bazooka, a laid back, breezy, rhythm & roots Americana original group blending rock 'n' roll, jazz, blues and country.

Thursday, Sept. 24: Jimmy Grant and Tim Kliphuis, two masters of Gypsy Jazz perform the magic of 1930s Paris. "Superb ... a provocative meeting of minds" – Sunday Times.

Friday, Sept. 25: Maria Muldaur and Her Jazzabelle Quintet, the Grand Dame of Americana/Blues/Gospel/Folk/Jazz. A bona fide folk/jug band/hippie goddess in the 1960s-70s, Muldaur presents her 60-year career in song and scintillating stories, "The Blues & All That Jazz."

Saturday, Sept. 26: New Acoustic Collective, a NorCal progressive bluegrass group influenced by heroes David Grisman, Darol Anger and Tony Rice.

Friday, Oct. 2: Lynn Drury. Southern, sultry, sweet sounds from this Mississippi-now New Orleans-based singer/songwriter guitarist and former rodeo gal. NOLA-Americana. "Drury conveys the feelings of a strong, independent woman who refuses to be thrown out of the saddle." – Offbeat.

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Thursdays: "Jazz Night" curated by Charlie Passarelli, 7-9 p.m.

Sept. 3: Dave Thomas' New Cycles, 7-9 p.m.

Sept. 10: Passarelli & Touray (sax & DJ Duo)- 7-9 p.m.

Sept. 17: Alan Ernst Ensemble, 7-9 p.m.

Sept. 24: A regular end of the month open Jazz Jam w/ Anime Aliens. Bring your instrument. 7-9 p.m.

Oct. 1: Terrier, 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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Live Music on Weekends



Maria Muldaur

– Mindy Giles

Trees in Curtis Park

Pruning trees around high-voltage and utility wires

By Daniel Pskowski

Homeowners often contact me with questions about their trees that a Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) contractor has pruned. The SMUD Vegetation Management team clears vegetation from power lines, poles and transformers to ensure reliable electrical service. These contractors prune only to clear branches from the high-voltage electrical wire at the top of the pole. SMUD needs about 12 feet of space between tree canopies and overhead power lines. But for fast growing trees, as much as 20 feet of clearance is required.

Multiple high-voltage wires are installed above the pole's cross-arm. All the other utility wires — telephone, internet, electrical service and cable television — are the property owner's responsibility. These utility wires are insulated, and nothing touching the wires will conduct an electrical charge unless the insulation is frayed. However, the high-voltage wires are not insulated, so anything that comes into contact with the wire will receive a deadly electrical charge; if it is dry plant material, the contact can cause a fire.

Special training is required to prune trees around high-voltage wires. SMUD advises anyone working within 10 feet of their wires to first call 1-866-473-9582. A vegetation planner who is also an International Society of Arboricul-

ture (ISA)-certified arborist (most have additional ISA credentials) will come and inspect the trees and surrounding wires at no charge to ensure the pruning will be safe. SMUD will prune any branches or vegetation within 10 feet of high-voltage wires.

Homeowners may assume that SMUD pruning every three years is all their tree requires, at least until a large branch comes crashing down during high winds or a winter storm. The utility line clearance-pruning causes the tree to redirect its growth to other parts of the canopy growing away from the wires. This growth can be problematic if not addressed with pruning. Branches with good attachment can get too long and fail.

Most overhead utilities extend along alleys and backyards. If your backyard trees are being pruned by SMUD, it is important to have an ISA-certified arborist inspect the utility-pruned tree every 5 to 7 years. You don't want to lose the tree or the privacy and shade it provides because of a large limb failure.

For trees interfering with power lines or working within 10 feet of high voltage wires, call 1-866-473-9582

For downed power lines, call 1-888-456-7683 or 911.

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

SIERRA 2 CENTER THEATER

24th Street THEATRE

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The Flamenco Society

Sept. 25, 7-8:30 p.m.

Flamenco De Jerez
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Congratulations



Luna Williams, daughter of Brett Williams and Jessie Quinn of Fifth Avenue, graduated from McClatchy High School's HISP program. She will major in journalism at the University of Minnesota in the fall.

Curtis Park loses teacher, historian, musician, fence builder Mark Bradley

Curtis Park lost one of its creative minds earlier this summer. Mark Bradley, who lived on Eighth Avenue for 35 years, passed away on June 5. He was 74.

Many neighbors knew him for the amazing front yard fences he built. In the 1990s, after a trip to Ireland, he began collecting sticks from the park and neighbors until he had enough to build a fence made entirely of twigs. As he was building the fence, he remarked, "Only in Curtis Park."



Photo Courtesy Noralee Bradley

When the twigs finally deteriorated, he came up with a new idea, a more permanent fence that he wouldn't have to replace in his lifetime, made from antique iron bed frames. The fence is still standing strong and is a constant source of amusement for neighbors and passersby.

Mark was a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was a historian, teacher, actor and singer-songwriter. He loved this neighborhood and is dearly missed.

Mark was survived by his wife of 45 years, Noralee; children Robert, Julie, Mollie and Charley; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

— Submitted by Noralee Bradley

Don't toss those dead batteries in the trash; bring them to Sierra 2 for disposal

Proper disposal of old household batteries takes effort. SCNA makes it easy by providing a convenient collection site at the Sierra 2 center.

The box for old batteries has moved around over the past two decades. Now it sits on top of the table outside Room 12 (the Senior Center). When it's full, Curtis Park resident and SCNA Board Member Gerre Buehler takes the batteries to one of the city's official disposal sites.

Buehler established the pickup service about 20 years ago. It is an outgrowth of her professional work with waste management.

We all know that old batteries are toxic and should not be put in the garbage. For the Sierra 2 battery drop, only household batteries are acceptable (AA, AAA, B, C, D and 9-volt). There is no need to bundle batteries; just dump them in the box.

The old battery box is accessible whenever the center is open.

— Judy Green Scheible

Concerts in Curtis Park bring joy to all ages through the summer

The SCNA concert series in Curtis Park drew people of all ages from the neighborhood and surrounding areas. Music by Steph Cali and her band and kids' entertainer Jahri's World were the perfect backdrop for picnics, face painting, bubble blowing and even plein air art on July 26. The last concert was held on Aug. 30 with the It's About Time Band.



Seven-month-old Jack enjoyed the show – and his black beans – while at the July concert in the park with his grandmother.



Bret Harte student Kara Dominguez, 5, sees her newly painted face at the July concert in Curtis Park. Photos by Dorsey Griffith and Jill Estroff



Plein air artist Stephanie Wiman of Elverta, with a Fifth Avenue friend, did some painting and a little dancing during Steph Cali's first set in Curtis Park.



Neighborhood kids get their groove on at the concert in the park.



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Illegal gray area has residents seeing red *New crosswalk in the works*

By Michael Sicilia

Almost everyone knows that a red curb means no parking. But what if a city employee paints a red zone gray? It may still be illegal to park. That's what some Curtis Park residents learned the hard way recently, and the confusion over the situation has drawn attention to a relatively new state law known as "daylighting."

In May, an unidentified person or people painted red zones on the corner of Second Avenue and 25th Street. Shortly after, Sacramento city workers repainted the unauthorized red zones back to gray. Twenty-fifth Street resident Robert Sofio assumed the gray meant he was in the clear but received a citation shortly after parking in the newly repainted gray zone.

"I got a ticket within hours," said Sofio, adding that he supports making intersections safer, but wishes the city did more to educate residents about city traffic policies.

Donner Way resident Greg Speck sits on the SCNA Neighborhood Advocacy Committee, which works with elected officials and the city on neighborhood concerns.

"It's kind of laughable that the city should spend scarce resources to repaint an intersection that by all accounts was accurately painted in accordance with the new law," he said.

The daylighting law seeks to make intersections more

Daylighting law key facts:

No parking, stopping or standing is allowed within 20 feet of any crosswalk (marked or unmarked).

No parking within 15 feet of crosswalks with curb extensions is allowed.

The law applies even if there is no signage or painted curb.

Citations, with a \$25 fine, began July 1, 2025

visible, reduce collisions, and protect pedestrians by clearing an approximate car length of space for a better view. But implementation is being left to individual jurisdictions, with no dedicated funding source.

AB 413, which established the daylighting rule, has been the law since 2025. Motorists who park a vehicle within 20 feet of a marked or unmarked intersection can be cited and fined. In Sacramento, the law

has been enforced with \$25 fines issued.

"Regardless of whether a curb is painted or signed, motorists are responsible for complying with California traffic law," said City of Sacramento spokesperson Gabby Miller. "We ask that residents not paint curbs or make other modifications within the public right-of-way on their own, as unauthorized changes can create confusion and may conflict with established traffic control standards or planned improvements."

Miller recommended residents with concerns about intersection safety call 311, and city engineers and traffic safety personnel will evaluate the request.

Miller said that Sacramento has thousands of intersections and "continues to improve intersection safety by incorporating daylighting treatments, including red curb markings and 'no parking' signage, through transportation projects, traffic investigations and other safety improvements as resources allow."

She also confirmed that work orders for a crosswalk at Second Avenue and 25th Street have been approved, in response to a 311 request. She did not provide information on when the crosswalk and other safety improvements would be completed.

The Sierra Curtis Park Neighborhood Association (SCNA) has been concerned about the Second Avenue and 25th Street intersection, as well as other problematic intersections near Franklin Boulevard and Gunther's Ice Cream, near Bret Harte Elementary School and on Crocker Drive and Donner Way.

Meanwhile, "I'm challenging the ticket," said Sofio, adding that he supports efforts to make the intersection safer. "It should make things nicer for the DMV workers when they take their breaks."

Curtis Park volunteers step up to keep neighborhood clean

On Sunday, Aug. 16, piles of trash were collected by 35 volunteers between Franklin and Broadway, the Second Avenue overpass and Old Soul along Broadway. Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association and the Oak Park Neighborhood Association teamed up for the second neighborhood cleanup of the year. Starting at Smart & Final and making their way through Oak Park, neighbors came together to make our community a bit brighter, cleaner and more connected. After two hours in the sun, the group gathered at Oak Park Brewery for a beverage or two to celebrate and share ideas and opportunities for future collaboration.

The next clean-up will be in the fall. If you are interested in getting involved or curious about more Neighborhood Advocacy Committee initiatives, please email gbspeck@gmail.com.

— Garrett Jensen

Share your home harvest at the Crop Swap

By: Michael Oates

If you've ever had more tomatoes, plums or zucchini than you could possibly use, you're not alone.

Organized in collaboration with Strong SacTown, the Crop Swap gives Sacramento gardeners a simple way to share the abundance from their yards while meeting others who love to grow food. Hosted at the north end of Curtis Park, the event welcomes everyone, whether you're bringing a basket full of produce or simply curious to see what's in season.

The Crop Swap meets from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays at the north end of Curtis Park. During the rainy season, it moves to The Mother Natives near Sacramento City College.

Elena Bischak and her husband, who live near Curtis Park, started Crop Swap in May 2025 after realizing many home gardeners faced the same challenge.

"Everyone always has too much of one thing and not enough of another," Bischak said. "The stuff that's spreading in our garden isn't what's spreading in yours, so it tends to balance."

Each gathering features a mix of seasonal produce, flowers, seeds and plant starts, from tomatoes and zucchini to citrus in the winter months. The only request is to bring items grown without pesticides or herbicides when possible.

Learn more about the Crop Swap and other community-building efforts at strongstactown.org.

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HOME OF RIVER CITY TAPS

Couple finds their dream historic home on Eighth Avenue

By Dorsey Griffith

Ashley Walker and Max Jenkins put offers on two other houses before landing a charming 4-bedroom home on Eighth Avenue.

Nearly 100 years old, the house had most recently belonged to Matt Curtis and Taeko Frost and their two young children before they departed for a new life in Amsterdam. Walker and Jenkins are thrilled with their new home and starting to make it their own.

"We were looking in Land Park and East Sacramento and then found a couple of houses in Curtis Park," Walker said. "We just loved it here. I love that it's a historic home. It's the character – the charm."

The couple moved in on June 3, having left Oakland after the closure of a veterinary hospital where Walker worked.

"We weren't super happy in Oakland," said Walker, a graduate of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. "We wanted to buy a house, and it's so expensive there. This gave us an opportunity to make the shift."

Walker, who grew up in Fair Oaks, landed a new job as a cardiologist at Vista Veterinary Specialists in Sacramento. Jenkins, who was born in Russia and is a retired professional bicycle racer (and under-23 national champion), now works as a technology consultant.

When they bought the home, they encountered several minor issues, which they quickly addressed. In the past several weeks, they painted most of the home's interior, updated some electrical wiring, fixed a minor crack in the foundation and a sewer line leak



Ashley Walker and Max Jenkins

Photo by Dorsey Griffith

and moved the laundry room to a different part of the house. Next, they plan to remodel the kitchen, removing part of a wall up to create a more open floor plan, and update the back patio.

"If you buy a house that has been recently remodeled, you feel bad tearing things up," Jenkins said. "If it hasn't been remodeled recently, you have more of a runway to do what you want."

Walker said the couple's dog, 4-year-old Athena, is gradually adjusting to her new surroundings.

"She loves going on walks in the park," she said. "Everyone in the neighborhood has been so welcoming and warm; we are grateful to be joining the community and excited for our new chapter in Curtis Park."



Kelly and Mario Brancoli with Boo-Boo

Photo by Dorsey Griffith

With a front-seat view of Curtis Park, Folsom couple loving their new home

By Dorsey Griffith

After 42 years, including several as a rental, the white Spanish-style house on the corner of West Curtis Drive and Seventh Avenue was put up for sale by its longtime owners.

The timing couldn't have been better for Kelly and Mario Brancoli, who had been trying on and off for two years to sell their Folsom house — and finally had. They'd fallen in love with the neighborhood, deeming Curtis Park the perfect community for the transition from a large suburban tract home to an older home in a vibrant city neighborhood.

"We wanted to make a change," said Mario, who works in marketing and accounting for a law firm. "We loved Folsom, but it ran its course. We wanted to downsize, simplify and get back to the city."

Empty nesters, the couple's grown daughter lives in Midtown; their son, in Brooklyn, New York.

"This house wasn't what I dreamed of when I thought about a Curtis Park house," admitted Kelly, a fifth-grade schoolteacher. "I wanted a little brick Tudor with leaded windows. But this house is awesome, and we wanted to be in the club."

The couple left a 3,500-square-foot house with four bedrooms and a swimming pool, and, except for the laundry room and their lemon tree, said they don't miss any of it. Their four little dogs, French bulldog Boo-Boo, pugs Baby Dog and Punk and chihuahua Pippa have adjusted well, too.

These days, the Brancolis enjoy front-row seats from their kitchen window and street-front patio, taking in the life of Curtis Park — the joggers, the yoga, the Little League and soccer games and, of course, neighbors ambling past with a friendly word.

"It's like a dream, being on the corner watching everyone in the park. We just meet so many people, and everyone has been so nice," said Kelly.



Mike, Lila, Emily and Olivia Taggart

Photo courtesy Mike Taggart



Pablo Gutierrez and Natalie Agoos

Photo courtesy the couple

Portola Way welcomes two new families

By Andrea Rosen

Portola Way neighbors extended a warm welcome recently to two new families, Mike and Emily Taggart, their two daughters and rescue dog, Juniper; and Natalie Agoos and Pablo Gutierrez and their pets Nola and PeeDee. The block loves dogs and new human neighbors too.

The Taggarts bought their Portola Way house earlier this year and have almost completely remodeled it after spending 18 years in a Craftsman bungalow on Sloat Way. Two daughters later, they needed more space. Mike is an archaeologist, and Emily works in the arts. Kudos to them on the huge remodel; perhaps their house is a candidate for a future Curtis Park Home &

Garden Tour? The thought of leaving Curtis Park never entered their minds.

Agoos and Gutierrez survived four years in Los Angeles before coming to Curtis Park. They report that Nola and PeeDee are happy here, and they all enjoy the warm welcome of neighbors and learning the stories of these old houses.

Pablo grew up on 10th Avenue, where his mom still lives, and he rode his bike to McClatchy High School down Portola Way. The couple appreciates the mystery of the Portola Way alley. Agoos said she both loves and hates how close Marie's is to their house.

If you would like to introduce your new neighbors to the community, contact the *Viewpoint* editor at Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com.

Bret Harte builds on past success for a promising new school year

On Aug. 11, Bret Harte Elementary staff, teachers and parent volunteers enthusiastically welcomed students back to campus to begin the school year. Everyone has since settled into their classroom routines, while plans for learning and fun already are underway.

Now entering her second year as principal, Jasmine Piring Jones is building on the many successes from last year, when she got to know the students, families and staff and created the foundation for a positive learning environment. She hopes to build on that foundation this year by strengthening high-quality instruction, maintaining a positive environment for students and further reducing chronic absenteeism, which dropped by 15% last year.

“Our team is committed to strengthening our school culture, celebrating our students and making Bret Harte a place where every child feels seen, supported and challenged to grow,” said Jones. Several new teachers and staff members joined Bret Harte this year, bringing fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to the campus.

Family engagement activities organized by the PTA, plus hands-on projects in the school garden, will add to



LAUREN
GOTHARD
and
LINDSEY
SIN

a busy and dynamic year ahead. PTA President Adam Gothard is excited about plans for the school year, including annual student favorites, the Welcome Back Dance on Sept. 11 and the Fall Festival on Oct. 23. Along with supporting student activities and school programs, the PTA will focus on building a strong foundation for future years, including improving processes and procedures, training new leaders and creating systems that make it easier for future volunteers to continue the organization’s work.

“Every year we continue to grow in numbers and participation, and we are able to take on more projects,” said Gothard. “The biggest challenge with this is sustainability and ensuring that our PTA continues to thrive after families leave to move on to middle school.”

Last year, parents, staff, students and neighbors worked tirelessly to finish the Butterfly Garden Project. There are a few outstanding items to complete during this school year, such as adding benches and additional plants.

“After a year with lots of expansions and changes, we are taking a pause on new big projects to ensure we are sustainable and expand with intention next year,” said



Bret Harte community members (from left to right): Julissa Leal, Principal Jasmine Jones, Adam Gothard and Emily Grau
Photo by Lauren Gothard

parent and Garden Committee Co-Chair Emily Grau. There will be several new activities in the garden for students to enjoy, such as a corn harvest and popcorn party, a mud kitchen to dig and look for bugs and the continuation of the student-led composting program.

“This year we are hopeful to continue sparking the students’ curiosity and love for nature and the outdoors; confidence in making healthy food choices and for them to continue to grow into good stewards of the environment. It is important that they understand their place in nature along with the importance of biodiversity,” said parent and Garden Committee Co-Chair Julissa Leal.

Families and community members can participate by volunteering at events, joining garden workdays, attending PTA meetings or supporting various programs through donations.

“At the end of the day, our school is strongest when our families, community and staff work together,” added Jones.

Upcoming events:

- Family Picnic – Friday, Sept. 4 during lunch
- Welcome Back Dance – Friday, Sept. 11 at 5:30 p.m.
- Back to School Night – Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Garden Workday and BBQ – Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 a.m.-noon
- Fall Festival – Friday, Oct. 23 from 5:30-7 p.m.

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