

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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October 2026

Last chance to reserve your spot at Sip, Savor & Support

Sierra 2 Center's signature annual tasting fundraiser, Sip, Savor & Support, is just around the corner and is set from 4 to 7 p.m., Sunday Oct. 4. For over two decades, this event has brought the Curtis Park community together to celebrate the rich food and beverage culture found throughout the Sacramento region.

With over 30 participating businesses, guests will sample wines, craft beer, spirits, mocktails and delicious small bites from some of the Sacramento region's favorite wineries, breweries, restaurants and specialty vendors.

The evening also features a silent auction, live entertainment and the opportunity to purchase a spot at one of SCNA's popular Neighborhood Dinner experiences.

Every ticket purchased directly supports the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community, helping fund community programs, the Sierra 2 Senior Center, The Learnerly and the 24th Street Theatre. Special thanks to our sponsors: Steffan Brown, Coldwell Banker; Capitol Optometry; Paloma Begin, Compass Realty; Cook Realty and Jennifer Schryer; Grounded.

Event Information:

- Must be 21 or older to attend.
- Childcare is available upon request. Please let us know the number and ages of your children when registering.
- A limited number of tickets may be available at the door, but advance purchase is strongly encouraged.

Reserve your tickets today at sierra2.org/event/sip-savor-support, and raise a glass in support of your community!

— Piper Rea

Lucky's Drive-in bus opens to diners

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Curtis Park mourns the loss of community activist Kathy Les

Page 11



Community targets safety concerns along 24th Street

By Sue Hida

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association's Neighborhood Advocacy Committee (NAC) has been working with Sacramento City Council Representative Rick Jennings' office to improve safety along 24th Street. Concerns include speeding vehicles, the safety of kids and older adults crossing 24th Street and noise.

The NAC hopes to improve the 24th Street crossings at Castro Way, Fourth Avenue and Donner Way using "quick build" processes. Quick builds are minor construction projects that use durable, low- to moderate-cost materials to quickly address safety needs. The city has used quick builds elsewhere in Sacramento.



After installation of a roundabout at 24th Street and Marshall Way, many drivers have hit the curb.

Photo by Sue Hida

Along 24th Street at Castro Way, city traffic engineers plan to use flexible yellow posts like those used on Alhambra Boulevard at U Street to

divide traffic. White flexible posts will be added to three corners in an arc,

See 24th Street, Page 4

ACROSS THE COUNTER

Asha Urban Baths celebrates 10 years in the neighborhood

By Michael Oates

Ten years ago, opening an urban bathhouse in Sacramento required some explanation. At first, Asha Urban Baths founder Cori Martinez even hesitated to use the word "bathhouse." Today, the Curtis Park business has become a familiar destination for Sacramentans looking for something increasingly rare: a couple of hours to unplug, slow down and do very little. On Nov. 4, Asha will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

The idea began years earlier. In college, Martinez met a friend for yoga every Wednesday, followed by an evening rotating between the sauna, hot tub and outdoor



Asha Urban Baths owner Cori Martinez with and longtime employee Kate McKinney

Photo by Michael Oates

See Asha Urban Baths, Page 5

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WHAT'S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

Mayhem abounds with new shows staged at the 24th Street Theatre

By Andrea Rosen

It's time for some mayhem again at Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and Community. Musical Mayhem Productions (MMP), founded in 2012 and devoted to youth, is mounting several productions this month: "Madagascar Kids," "Madagascar TYA" and "Children of Eden Jr."

Ann Marie Pringle, the company's artistic director, has built a robust organization that has given as many as 2,500 kids the opportunity to participate in live theater, including musicals.

"MMP is a place for young people to not only learn about theater, but to build real-world skills they can use for the rest of their lives," she said. "We love performing at the 24th Street Theatre, and there is not a bad seat in the house!"

The company puts on three different productions each year at Sierra 2. The company also has played an important role in supporting SCNA and Sierra 2 through its productions, which attract hundreds of theatergoers to Curtis Park.

"Our families love visiting local businesses while their children are in tech rehearsals and exploring the beauty of Curtis Park," she said. "MMP hopes to continue bringing family-friendly theatrical productions to the 24th Street Theatre for years to come."

Thanks to a grant from SMUD, the theater will be getting new lights before the end of the year. SCNA Board President Patrick Baxter said they also hope to repair or replace the stage floor, which has sustained some holes over the years and needs painting. Pringle said that until the old lights are replaced, MMP will bring in temporary lighting equipment as needed, adding that the group is willing to contribute to the cost of repairing the theater floor.

Pringle said her philosophy is to leave the space



A Musical Mayhem performance of Suff's Jr. at the 24th Street Theatre
Photo courtesy Musical Mayhem Productions

better than they found it. Their efforts benefit both the acting company and the Curtis Park community.

MMP receives grants but is mostly funded by tuition and ticket sales. In addition to the theater, the group also rents the Sierra 2 garden room and courtyard. Pringle believes that education includes building appreciation for the arts and that theater can create empathy in young people.

MMP also serves homeschooled students. Many elementary school classes attend MMP productions at Sierra 2 throughout the year. While the focus is on youth theater, MMP also offers an adult choir program. MMP has been selected to participate in a pilot program in which they stage Broadway junior musicals before they are licensed. When MMP is not using the Sierra 2 Theatre, they perform at Oak High School in Elk Grove.

The acting company will be back next spring with "Music Man" for the youngest players, the high-school version of "Chicago," "Thirteen Jr." and an entire month of "Seussical."

For more information about Musical Mayhem Productions or for tickets, visit mmpkids.com.

Ranked Choice Voting: Why your ballot might get an upgrade

By Greg Speck

Many neighbors have been asked in recent months to sign a petition to qualify a measure for the November ballot that would change the way we vote. It's a complex measure, and while the SCNA board has not yet taken a position, *Viewpoint* offers this primer to help residents decide whether to sign the petition.

The measure would bring ranked choice voting (RCV) to Sacramento's mayoral and city council races. Under the current system, all candidates for a race appear on one primary ballot; the top two advance to the November election unless someone wins an outright majority in the primary, which decides the race immediately and cancels the general election. The RVC proposal would eliminate that primary. All candidates would appear on the November ballot, and voters could rank several in order of preference. If no one wins a first-choice majority, the last-place candidate is eliminated, and those ballots move to voters' next choices, repeating until someone crosses 50%. If approved, backers say the change would take effect in 2028.

Better Ballot Sacramento, a coalition launched by the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County in December 2023, leads the measure and includes the Democratic Party of Sacramento County, several labor unions and other local groups. Supporters argue the current system lets low-turnout primaries decide races and that ranking rewards candidates who campaign more broadly, rather than focus solely on a narrow base.

Local critics counter that ranking adds complexity to the ballot, and some, including the conservative-leaning *California Globe*, have questioned the coalition's motives given its politically active membership. Nationally, RCV also draws criticism for ballot "exhaustion" (votes that don't count toward the final round) and slower results; New York City's 2021 mayoral primary took eight rounds and several weeks to resolve.

Six California cities use RCV, and Maine and Alaska use it statewide, while several other states have moved to restrict or ban it.

The League has indicated it plans to refile for signatures to ensure it has enough valid signatures, so the process may shift before the measure is finalized.

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



Sunday, October 4
4 - 7 p.m.
Sierra 2 Center

Vendor Preview

Acheson Wine Company
Sobon Estate Winery
Norse Legend Mead
Casino Mine Ranch Winery
Lucid Wines
Seka Hills Midtown Tasting Room
Grand Island Vineyards
Carvalho Family Winery

Borjon Winery
Dao Distillery
Patio 29
Moonshine & Co.
Backstage Brewing Co.
Two Rivers Cider Co.
Bike Dog Brewing Co.
SacYard Community Tap House

Oak Park Brewing Co.
Touchstone Brewing Co.
Dust Bowl Brewing Co.
Lotus Herbs and Teas
Alluvial Wines
The Quail & Olive
Vallejo's Restaurant
Chocolate Fountains of Sacramento

Urban Plates
Zoe Coffee and Tacos
Frog & Slim
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SCNA and Sierra 2 prepare for our year-end activities

Our Fall Sip, Savor & Support fundraiser is here. Sierra 2 staff and board members are grateful to the more than 40 local businesses whose generous contributions make this memorable event possible. We hope you'll join us for delicious food and drinks, live music, a silent auction and plenty of laughs.

Our staff, board and volunteers have kept programs moving, events successful and the organization focused on the future. We are consistently looking for opportunities to make improvements around the building, including the 24th Street Theatre. We expect to complete several projects in the next couple of months and will highlight those in future editions.

Specific to the 24th Street Theatre – exciting progress. New LED lighting equipment has been ordered, and installation planning is underway. This update will enhance both energy efficiency and performance capabilities in our historic theater. We also continue to look for other opportunities to cost-effectively modernize our space for guests and performers.

The board also has finalized the scope of work for our next executive director and the search is on. As mentioned in my last column, we expect to find an individual with excellent customer service skills and

PATRICK BAXTER SCNA Board President



the business acumen to execute on board directives. This search will take some time as we will be very selective to find a great fit for the organization and the neighborhood.

Finally, if you are not yet a member of SCNA, please consider joining the association this month and attending our membership meeting in December. You'll have the opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of the organization and our historic building, as well as provide your input into how we sustain community programs, maintain our historic facility and keep Curtis Park vibrant and connected.

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.

Search for new Sierra 2 executive director launched

SCNA is seeking an experienced, community-minded leader to serve as executive director of the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and Community.

The executive director will oversee the day-to-day operations of Sierra 2, working with staff, the SCNA Board of Directors and community partners to ensure the center remains a welcoming, well-managed and vibrant home for arts, education and community life. SCNA is looking for a collaborative leader with strong organizational, financial and people-management skills who is excited about helping Sierra 2 thrive for years to come.

Community members are encouraged to help spread the word. To request a copy of the full job description, or if you know someone who would like to submit a resume for consideration, please contact careers@sierra2.org.

– Michael Oats

Board Notes

Strategic Plan Enters Committee Phase

President **Patrick Baxter** reported that the strategic planning process has transitioned into Phase 2. Committee chairs are working to align individual program goals with the organization's overarching vision. Facilitated by consultant **Margo Fowkes**, committees are developing realistic, phased action plans for the coming year. The board aims to compile an executive summary by Oct. 15 for publication in the November *Viewpoint*, giving neighbors an advanced look at priorities ahead of the annual membership meeting in December.

Theater and Facility Upgrades

Upgrades to the 24th Street Theatre are progressing. The SCNA has ordered new LED stage lighting funded through grant awards, with delivery and installation slated for late October or early November ahead of the holiday production season. Musical Mayhem Productions has offered to contribute to the cost of some stage repairs. Across the facility, a signed agreement is in place with

HVAC contractor Lawson to relocate the Garden Room heat pump from the roof to ground level once the city clears permits. To boost community utilization, the board voted unanimously to lower the hourly rental rate for the newly renovated conference room from \$60 to \$30 per hour.

Financial Oversight and Staffing Updates

Treasurer **Shannon Motley** reported on efforts to maintain fiscal discipline, emphasizing that future events and programming will aim for a 3-to-1 revenue-to-cost ratio. The board reviewed a streamlined job description for the executive director position that refocuses responsibilities on facility operations, business performance and administration while adjusting the salary to reflect the restructured scope. Sierra 2 Administrative Specialist **Jenn Stice**, currently serving as Interim Sierra 2 director, received a one-time bonus for her extra service managing daily operations.

Sip & Savor Preparations Underway

Development Chair **Noah Soliday-Bench** announced that tickets

for the annual Sip & Savor fundraiser are on sale. Admission is set at \$85, with a \$5 discount for association members. The event will showcase regional beverages, food trucks and live music, accompanied by a silent auction featuring contributions from local establishments such as One-Speed and The Waterboy. The board approved temporarily closing the Sierra 2 parking lot on Oct. 4 to accommodate food trucks and support event logistics. Meanwhile, the family-oriented Pie & Pajamas event will be paused for the current fiscal year.

Traffic Safety Improvements and Corridor Cleanups

Neighborhood Concerns Committee Chair **Alex Moos** reported on traffic calming initiatives coordinated with Councilmember **Rick Jennings'** office and Franklin Slow Streets. Planned safety measures include new painted crosswalks on Second Avenue at 25th and 27th Streets, curb bulb-outs near Qisa Coffee, and crosswalk improvements at Ninth Avenue and Franklin Boulevard near Bret Harte Elementary School. Following two neighborhood cleanups along Broadway, the board authorized sending letters to nearby

fast-food businesses to collaborate on reducing single-use packaging and increasing commercial trash receptacles. The board deferred a proposed letter recommending municipal fireworks restrictions to September to build broader coalition support with surrounding neighborhoods.

Senior Center Guidelines and Board Nominations

Vice President **Janet Hecsh** reported that the Senior Center is developing updated participation guidelines and a code of conduct modeled on regional facilities to ensure a welcoming environment for visitors and staff. The center also is pursuing steps to convert its grant-funded aide into a regular staff position. In administrative business, the Executive Committee will assume the duties of the Nominations Committee this fall to begin recruiting community candidates for upcoming board vacancies.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28 in the conference room at Sierra 2.

– Submitted by Matthew Royal,
board secretary

VIEWPOINT

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24th Street

Continued from page 1

marking the boundary around pedestrians waiting to cross the street. Crosswalks will complete the square. NAC Chair Greg Speck said the city's traffic engineers have approved the installation, though no timeframe was provided.

The SCNA Committee hopes to continue working with Jennings' office on the other two 24th Street crossings. The NAC wants the city to install a four-way stop at the Donner Way intersection and to replace the signal at Fourth Avenue with four-way stop signs.

Neighbors also complain about intersections.

Kathleen Strawser lives at the corner of 24th Street and Fifth Avenue. She said, "Cars honk their horns during the morning commute trying to pass other cars."

Jillian Hinchliffe of Portola Way must cross 24th Street to participate in a dance class at Sierra 2. She especially dislikes the left-hand turn onto 24th Street.

"A lot of kids live on this street," she said. Some cross 24th Street on their way to playgrounds, soccer fields or Bret Harte Elementary School.

John Pryor lives on Castro Way east of 24th Street and crosses the road to reach Qisa Coffee.

"Crossing 24th Street is nerve-wracking," he said, "but I applaud the safety efforts made so far."

Neighbors also are concerned about speed in general. Jill Sorge and her husband, Dennis, have lived on 24th Street for 25 years. Both have noticed higher speeds and the sound of cars hitting the speed humps.

"We call it the freeway," Dennis said.

Hinchliffe's husband, Randall Bleichner, summed

it up: "People just drive too fast."

Installed about eight years ago to slow traffic, the roundabout at 24th Street and Marshall Way, along with the speed humps cars drive over before and after approaching it, has drawn mixed reactions.

"Look at the skid marks," said Rueben Edelson, whose home is on the corner. "I routinely get hubcaps and other car parts in my front yard. I won't allow my five-year-old in the front yard."

Patrick Van Buren, who lives two doors north of Edelson, echoes complaints about errant drivers but acknowledged, "The roundabout has served its purpose of reducing speed."

Neighborhood vehicular speed issues are not isolated to Curtis Park.

"Slow Down Sacramento" works to foster a culture of safe, respectful and courteous driving within Sacramento, hoping to reduce the risk of collisions and keep people safe.

"Legacy communities like Curtis Park were laid out over 100 years ago," said Issac Gonzalez, founder and president of Slow Down Sacramento. "Motor vehicles were prioritized. Now we need to retrofit urban corridors and slow cars down to save lives." Gonzalez also chairs the City of Sacramento's Active Transportation Commission.

For Slow Down Sacramento's policy briefs, information or "Twenty is Plenty" lawn signs, see slow-downsacramento.org.

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Monday & Tuesday: By Appointment



Lani Fehr with her newly published book

Photo courtesy of the author

Local author publishes first book at age 85

Curtis Park resident Lani Fehr has published her debut novel, “Lifting Fog,” a book she calls “a fresh and compassionate look at homelessness, resilience and the search for identity set against the shifting fogs of San Francisco.”

Fehr, 85, said the story follows Ruth, a quiet, self-effacing woman navigating profound loss, and Dizzy, a brash young woman who has stepped away from her own fractured past. Their lives intersect after a life-altering encounter on the Golden Gate Bridge.

“This story was born from a lifetime of listening and observing,” Fehr said. “I’ve witnessed the same resilience and courage in the life skills programs I developed and taught for several years.”

She said she wrote the book to honor the people “we often look past — everyone striving to improve their lives — and to remind us that when the fog is thickest, there is still a way forward.”

The book is self-published and available on Amazon and eBook formats. Fehr, who lives on Marshall Way, also shares her novel with book groups upon request. You can contact her at laniwrites@yahoo.com.

— Dorsey Griffith

Asha Urban Baths

Continued from page 1

pool at a nearby health club. When she later moved somewhere without yoga studios or health clubs, she missed the ritual. Martinez eventually opened several yoga studios and taught for more than 20 years, but her thoughts kept returning to the other half of that experience.

“As the world kept getting faster, fuller, busier, I found myself craving something that asked people to slow down and do nothing,” she said. It became one of Asha’s guiding ideas: “Less doing, more being.”

Curtis Park was already familiar territory. Martinez’s husband grew up in the neighborhood, where his parents still live. The building that became Asha once housed two call centers and was vacant for six or seven years. When the owner showed it to Martinez, he warned that it was a mess. She said “yes” within about 30 seconds.

Martinez loved the building’s brick, exposed beams and rough edges. During construction, workers were preparing to cover one unfinished wall with drywall when she and her designer stopped them. The wall remains exposed today.

“You can just be yourself here,” Martinez said. “You don’t have to be all the way put together and pretty and perfect.” That feeling of inclusion has been intentional from the beginning. Martinez wanted Asha to welcome people of different ages, body types and backgrounds without feeling fancy, exclusive or overly polished.

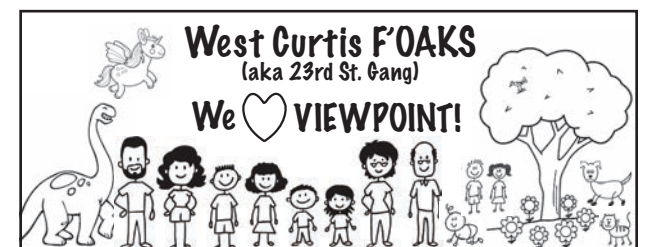
Asha has doubled in size since opening and now includes its original bathhouse, an annex,

salt lounge and sound immersion. Guests move at their own pace through hot and cold experiences. Phones aren’t allowed inside, and much of the bathhouse is kept at whisper volume. The first few minutes can feel unfamiliar, Martinez said. Then people begin to settle in.

“After about 15 minutes, most people start to relax,” she said. “And after two hours, you might feel like a whole new version of yourself. Or maybe an old version, one that wasn’t quite so frazzled.”

For Martinez, reaching 10 years is as much about that community — and Asha’s employees — as it is about the business itself. “What I’m proudest of is really the workplace we’ve built,” she said, “a place where 25 people know they are genuinely valued.”

Asha will mark its anniversary with guest and staff stories, drawings and small surprises during the 10 days leading up to Nov. 4. First-time visitors should make a reservation, bring a swimsuit and plan to unplug. Learn more at ashaurbanbaths.com.



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Dancing with Heidi Basic Ballet (12-year-olds)

(no experience required)

Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.

Children's Ballet I-II

Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Ballet from the beginning (12-year-old)

Wednesdays, 7:15-9 p.m.

Adult/Teen Basic Ballet

Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m.
(some experience required)

Adult/Teen Basic Ballet with a focus

Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
(some experience required)

Adult/Teen Ballet from the Beginning

Wednesdays, 7:15-9 p.m.
(no experience required)

Adult/Teen Mixed Level Ballet

Wednesdays 3-4:30 p.m.

Inter/Advanced Ballet

Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
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Class Schedules:
dancingwithheidi.com

Two Rivers Dance Center/ River City Taps

Mondays-Thursdays/Saturdays

Class schedules:
tworiversdancecenter.com
and rivercitytaps.com

Dancing for Parkinsons

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

Pasitos Dance and Music Academy Sundays

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

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glassactmosaics.org

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pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

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916-479-2255, weight-watchers.com

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Monthly Senior Luncheon – Free

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

Women's Friendship Group

Gathering for friendship, fun and laughter
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11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 11
Debbie Self, 916-494-4230

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Room 11

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Book Club

(2nd Mondays)
Monday, Oct. 12
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Room 11
Oct. Book: "Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes

Monday, Nov. 9
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 11
Nov. Book: "Stoner" by John Williams

Nonfiction Book Club (3rd Thursdays)

Thursday, Oct. 15
11 a.m.-noon Room 11
Oct. Book: "Nexus" by Yuval Noah Harari
Thursday, Nov. 19
11 a.m.-noon Room 11
Nov. Book: "Seabiscuit" by Laura Hillenbrand

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.-12 p.m.
Room 12
Beginners welcome

Contract Bridge

Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m.
Room 12
Fridays, 12-3 p.m.

Room 9
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Karen Hill stands beside one of her mosaic pieces.



A display of Leiberman's Shibori textiles created using mushroom dyes



Brian Curtis Hill in the workshop at his home in Curtis Park during Open Studios

Photos by Dorsey Griffith



Antonia Price helps a young learner with her fiber art sculpture.

Curtis Park artists again display and demonstrate their creations

Several Curtis Park artists displayed their work last month as part of Open Studios, the annual regional showcase of painters, sculptors, woodworkers and artists of many other disciplines. Among them were Antonia Price, who creates fiber art sculpture. She and Davis textile artist Tanya Leiberman showed eager learners how they bring their materials to life in Price's backyard. Across the park, Brian Curtis Hill talked with visitors about

his woodwork pieces, many of which recreate mythological figures and historical drawings by English naturalist Mark Catesby. His wife, Karen Hill, displayed her elaborate mosaics with cut glass and stone. Other artists who showed their work in Curtis Park during Open Studios were Elizabeth Reagh, Jen Beckman, Sandy Fong Whetstone, Tom Fillebrown, J. Gordon Dean, Cara Emilia Gregor, Kate Cheeseman, Dana Rider and David Burkholder.

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LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

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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

Thursday, Oct. 8: Fox & Bones + J.B. Barton & Dominic Restivo (opening), ex-married couple having the best time of their lives. "Are We Still Having Fun?," the new record, sounds like rockin' relief music. From Portland.

Friday, Oct. 9: Caltucky, innovative jamgrass/bluegrass denizens who occasionally find garage and metal as inspiration.

Saturday, Oct. 10: Hence Phillips Band + Forever Goldrush, stellar double-bill of strong original Sacramento roots-rock, folk-Americana. Fans know Hence as the multi-instrumentalist and vocal harmony backbone with young Jackie Greene. FG are the original "devil-may-care" mountain boys. Record release party. Recommended.

Thursday, Oct. 15: Tanasi (Mary Lucey, Anya Hinckle, Billy Chardine), National Endowment for the Arts 2025 U.S. Artist International Grant Recipient. Soaring music from "worldgrass" trio (Asheville, N.C.) channeling global folk traditions through the drive, textures and close harmonies of an Appalachian string band.

Friday, Oct. 16: Nathan Stanley: "A Tribute to Ralph Stanley." With his powerful voice, deep connection to the music and personal memories from a lifetime around his grandfather, Stanley brings audiences an unforgettable evening of authentic bluegrass, emotion and Appalachian heritage.

Saturday, Oct. 17: Mark Stuart Full Band, a Side Door favorite. Stuart encompasses original country, American, roots, rock and blues in his work.

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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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Oct. 8: Marco Fuoco, 7-9 p.m.

Oct. 15: Anime Aliens, 7-9 p.m.

Oct. 22: Art Lessing & The Flower Vato, 7-9 p.m.

Oct. 29: A regular end-of-the-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.

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Live Music on Weekends

— Mindy Giles



Diner owners Michael Feagins and Willow Eskridge with their long-awaited burger bus.



Diners now enjoy their Lucky's Drive-in food aboard the double-decker bus. Photos by Steve Martarano

All aboard Lucky's vintage double-decker burger bus

By Patti Roberts

The red double-decker bus that's become a beacon for people passing the Lucky's Drive-in on Franklin Boulevard is now welcoming diners to experience burgers on a bus.

Lucky's opened two years ago, offering a menu of classic burgers, hot dogs, shakes and fries with a vintage feel inside the former Hideaway Bar and Grill at 2565 Franklin Blvd. Owners Willow Eskridge and Michael Feagins parked the red 1960 Bristol Lodeka double-decker outside to draw diners into their burger joint — and it sure has.

But it's taken a couple of years to build booths, dining tables and chairs inside the bus so customers can sit on board to enjoy their burgers and fries.

Eskridge and Feagins had previously run a successful burger joint up in Washington before opening one here in Curtis Park. And that's where the idea for the bus first came from.

"Our burger place in Tacoma was a walk-up restaurant where people ate outside," said Feagins. "We wanted seating and couldn't build a whole new building. So instead, we got a vintage Seattle Metro bus and parked it outside with seating inside. It was

a huge hit."

So, they brought the bus concept down here. The Lucky's bus was born in Bristol, England, immigrated to San Francisco as a tour bus, and eventually made it to Sacramento.

But it took work to make it habitable. The vehicle was initially empty, and needed interior painting, floor repairs, holes patched, updated LED lighting, heat and air conditioning and custom-built benches, tables, booths and seating. It now offers booths and two-top tables downstairs, plus additional booths and bar seating upstairs.

Eskridge describes the bus as retro, mid-century, vintage-modern, with music primarily from the 1960s and 1970s, which matches the vibe inside their restaurant.

"Customers have reacted enthusiastically since the bus opened during the last week of August," said Eskridge. "Many guests choose the upstairs seating, and the kids love running up and down the stairs."

In the parking lot, Lucky's hosts car gatherings, pop-up vendor markets and fundraisers. Dogs are welcome on the shaded patio in front of the bus and receive a free all-beef "pup patty" with an order.



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POINT OF VIEW

Mystery solved: Fourth Avenue home's history found in the attic

By Andrew Meditz

Curtis Park is one of Sacramento's most historic neighborhoods, with some homes even dating back to the late 1800s. An older home comes with certain mysteries. Over the course of a century or more, renovations and upgrades are made, and quirky things take shape.

My family and I moved to Curtis Park in 2019 from North Oak Park, where we lived for a number of years in a 1922 Craftsman. As our kids grew, we needed more space and searched for a larger home, which we found on Fourth Avenue in a 1931, two-story brick, Tudor-style home.

Well, at least we know that the first floor was built in 1931. A 696-square-foot second story was added, but property records don't show what year the addition was made. The home's prior owners didn't know either. There were a few clues, though, that it was likely completed not long after the original build.

The first clue was architectural: The second story matches the first story's style, inside and out. From the matching double-hung windows, red bricks, lath and plaster walls and consistent hardwood flooring throughout the house, it's not apparent that the second story was added later, other than the very steep staircase that would never pass current building codes.

The second clue was my neighbor's home, built in 1928, which has the same Art Deco pink-and-gray tile floor design as our upstairs bathroom. Our neighbors are confident their tile floor is the original from 1928.

The third clue is the use of knob-and-tube electrical wiring upstairs. Knob-and-tube first appeared in the late 19th century and began to be phased out in the 1940s, when Romex became the preferred wiring technology.

While these clues narrowed the second-story addition window down to a decade or two after 1931, I figured the exact year of the upstairs addition would remain a mystery.

That changed this past spring when we decided to replace some old insulation in our side attic that runs alongside our upper-story rooms. I hired Trevor Lauritsen, the "Curtis Park Handyman," to do the work. Behind the insulation, he discovered that the vertical walls were lined in newspaper, glued on to cover the lath and plaster.

The newspaper was dated February 7, 1937. In the copy of the *San Francisco Examiner*, President Roosevelt was actively trying to reorganize the armed forces under a unified command, and an eight-piece dining suite cost \$89. And since it was a Sunday paper, the comics section ran a full-color Joe Palooka strip.

When the original one-story home was built in 1931, the nation was still reeling from the 1929 stock market crash, which triggered the Great Depression. In 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) ran for president of the United States on a promise to end the Great Depression, and once in office, he implemented the New Deal, a series of economic, social and political reforms. Just a handful of years later, when the homeowners added the second story, FDR was still trying to revive the U.S.



A handyman discovered that a 1937 newspaper was used as insulation in the second-floor addition.
Photo courtesy of Andrew Meditz

economy, and signs of war were emerging in Europe. Resourceful during the Depression, the homeowners used newspaper, a common commodity, to help with their construction.

In so doing, they likely never imagined they'd left a time capsule with a portal to the past.

Andrew Meditz lives on Fourth Avenue.

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Seventh Avenue residents celebrate homes' 100th birthdays

By Dorsey Griffith

Caroline West knew her Seventh Avenue home would turn 100 in 2026, so she set to work learning about every house on the street. The effort helped connect every resident, many of whom had not met one another.

West was inspired by stories in *Viewpoint* about other Curtis Park residents who researched the origins and early owners of their homes. Her training as a longtime analyst and researcher for the state and the University of California came in handy.

She started by going to city assessor maps to get each home's age, then used reverse city directories from the 1920s, available online at the Sacramento History Center website. She then went to the website Ancestry.com and entered the name and address of the person who had lived in her house in 1930.

"From there, it was easy," she said. "The census taker wrote down all the information. I created a big spreadsheet with all the census information for every address, the name of the resident or residents and the information listed about them – their ages, where they were born, where their parents were born, their professions, their kids, even whether they owned a radio. The whole street was listed together."

The most interesting fact she found was that many of the street's first-time homeowners were World War I veterans. "And when I read the his-



Seventh Avenue residents (L to R) Paul Self, Nick Ferraro, Anne Marie Atencio, Bill Benjamin, Debbie Self and Roxanne Ferraro gather outside the Selfs' home to celebrate the centennial anniversaries of the homes on Seventh Avenue.

Photo by Caroline West

tory of all the architectural styles in Curtis Park, I learned they were the result of the vets coming home from the war in Europe and wanting the architectural styles of homes they saw overseas, like Tudors, French revivals and Spanish revivals."

Once the project was complete, she and her neighbor, Carol Mott-Binkley, organized a Seventh Avenue Street Centennial potluck celebration. The RSVPs poured in, including from enthusiastic Seventh Avenue residents who had moved in since the COVID pandemic and had not gotten to know many of their neighbors, including West herself.

"We circulated up and down the street, and met all kinds of people," she said of the party, held on July 25.



Patricia Rouse

Photo courtesy Bob Rouse

Rochon Way loses longtime neighbor

Patricia Rouse, age 87, passed away on July 25 of natural causes.

She raised her five children in several Curtis Park houses before purchasing the long-time family home on Rochon Way in 1969.

Patricia devoted 36 years to education, beginning her career at Kennedy High School as an EH (emotionally handicapped) teacher. She went on to teach for many years at William Daylor High School — the first continuation high school in the Elk Grove Unified School District — where she dedicated herself to meeting the needs of at-risk youth.

In addition to a busy teaching career and raising her family, Patricia also was an accomplished painter. Inspired by her collection of art books, she primarily created landscapes and still lifes with floral subjects. Her love of the arts extended to her children, several of whom played musical instruments.

At her memorial, Patricia's best friend and fellow teacher recalled: "She picked one of the most challenging groups of students to teach... her devotion to these students was never-ending."

Upon retirement, Patricia moved to River Pines in Amador County. Later in life, health challenges brought her back to Rochon Way, where her son Bob cared for her in her final years.

Patricia is survived by her sons James, Bob, Chris and daughter Pattie. Her daughter Susan passed away 20 years ago.

Funeral services were held on Aug. 15 at Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

— Submitted by Susan MacCulloch and Bob Rouse

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Trees in Curtis Park



One of two large coast redwoods that had been growing in a layer of decomposed granite before Rudy and Janet Calpo bought their house



Removing the decomposed granite and adding a retaining wall helped the yard retain water and saved the trees.

Photos by Daniel Pskowski

Trees in declining health can be saved

By Daniel Pskowski

Early in my 29.5-year career as a Sacramento city arborist, I learned not to predict how long a tree would live. I monitored city trees in declining health for four or five years before deciding to post a removal sign. In response to residents' requests to preserve, I postponed removal since the trees had no serious structural issues. To my surprise, the trees I thought should be removed improved in health and are thriving to this day.

An example of struggling trees that rebound are two redwoods on Marshall Way. When Rudy and Janice Calpo purchased their home on Marshall Way in the spring of 2020, I was asked to inspect the two large coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) in the front yard. The trees, with diameters of 61 and 41 inches, covered the front yard. I was concerned because the needles were stunted and the branch growth increments indicated long-term stress. I wondered whether the trees' declining health would lead to removal.

Bare ground was visible under both trees. The absence of redwood needles or wood chip mulch could contribute to the trees' declining health. Letting the

dead needles collect under the dripline improves soil fertility. It also supports mycorrhizae, fungi that attach to the tree's absorbing roots and help with nutrient and water absorption.

The prior owner had installed decomposed granite in most of the front yard. This construction material should be used sparingly around trees. Why? Because it compacts and becomes as hard as concrete. This prevents water and oxygen from reaching the absorbing roots and was the main contributing factor to the redwood's declining health.

The couple removed the decomposed granite layer and built retaining walls to ensure water penetrated the soil instead of running off into the street. The installation of shade-tolerant plants, a drip irrigation system, and flagstone for the sitting area were done to improve the tree health.

Six years later, both coast redwoods are healthy, and I am no longer concerned about them dying. The Calpos' efforts improved the soil environment, which is key to growing healthy plants and trees.

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



Kathy Les, photographed in July, displayed her garden's bounty, which she used to make a tomato reduction for future meals.

Photo courtesy of Hal Thomas

Longtime Curtis Park volunteer and advocate Kathy Les has died

Kathy Les, a passionate champion for the Curtis Park community, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 20, of breast cancer. She was 75.

Kathy was well known in the neighborhood for her longtime contributions to the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association, where she served for many years on the board of directors (most recently as vice president in 2025), stepping in as executive director of Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community in the mid 2000s during a transition period, and as a longtime editor and contributor of *Viewpoint*.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, on March 21, 1951, Kathy lived most of her early life in Southern California. In 1983, she and her husband of nearly 50 years, Hal Thomas, moved to Curtis Park and rented a small house on 25th Street — within walking distance of McGeorge School of Law, where Hal was a student.

The couple later bought and renovated their current home on Portola Way, where they lived for 35 years and raised their daughter, Maggie. Maggie now lives across the street from her parents' home with her husband, Franz Hochstrasser, and their son, Henry. The Les-Thomas home and its expansive garden were featured in the Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour. There, the couple also hosted many joyous dinner parties, fundraisers supporting community causes, and life milestones — birthdays, holidays, and all the moments in between.

In the early 1970s, Kathy earned a BA in English from UC Berkeley, and she was a deft journalist. Her creative skills, however, extended far beyond penning stories. As she told her husband before her passing, she should be remembered by the phrase on her business card: Writer, Gardner, Knitter, Cook.

Kathy's Celebration of Life will be held at Sierra 2 Center on a date to be determined. A longer tribute to Kathy's life and contributions will appear in the November issue of *Viewpoint*.

— Dorsey Griffith



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Giving Tuesday – December 1

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Traffic concerns around Bret Harte Elementary grow as students return to school

It has been nearly two months since school started at Bret Harte Elementary. While neighbors are used to weekday traffic and expect more pedestrians and cars when school is in session, the activity is especially noticeable this year. Student attendance from Curtis Park and Oak Park is up, and automobile travel along Franklin Boulevard has increased as more people return to in-office work. Families are rightfully concerned about the potential for a serious accident. According to the city’s traffic incident dashboard, pedestrian-involved collisions increased from 2024 to 2025 throughout Sacramento. More alarming is that a number of schools in the greater Sacramento area have experienced pedestrian fatalities or serious injuries in



Family bicycles parked in front of Bret Harte for Back to School Night
Photo by Lauren Gothard

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There is a renewed focus on creating greater safety measures for cyclists and pedestrians and reducing vehicle speed in various parts of Curtis Park and Oak Park, including prioritizing the corner of Franklin Boulevard and Ninth Avenue at Bret Harte. But the urgent question is what will be addressed and when. The issue and some proposed solutions are top of mind for many Bret Harte parents.

Joey Wraithwall, who wrote an article about school safety in the July issue of *Viewpoint*, updated families at the first PTA meeting of the year on Aug. 31. The presentation included improvements that were recently submitted to the city through SCNA board member Garrett Jensen and drafted by Bret Harte parent David Moore, who also serves on the city’s Active Transportation Commission. The suggested improvements at Franklin Boulevard and Ninth Avenue are a curb extension to shorten crossing distances for pedestrians, which would also improve visibility and encourage slower vehicle speeds. As a result, drivers also would have to make slower, more deliberate turns.

The second suggestion is to create centerline hardening by placing flexible traffic cones in the middle of the road to reduce vehicle speeds. Similar traffic-calming measures are already in use throughout the city near other local schools, such as Riverside Boulevard and Broadway for Crocker Riverside Elementary, Alhambra and I Street for Miwok Middle School and Broadway and 59th for Tahoe Elementary School. City council members Rick Jennings and Caity Maple have expressed their support for overall improvements and their commitment to working with Bret Harte,



“Bike bus” of students and parents ride together to Bret Harte.
Photo by Joey Wraithwall

SCNA and Curtis Park residents.

Wraithwall and others are cautiously optimistic about the proposal.

“We believe that the request for a treatment at [Franklin Blvd and Ninth Avenue] has been heard, and that the city does plan to do something there at some point,” he said. But what comes next may take time.

The city will likely need to study the area and evaluate what solutions make sense before installation. The city’s new Transportation Safety Team may undertake the work. To date, the “quick build” team has installed improvements near approximately 17 school sites around Sacramento. Meanwhile, concerned neighbors and families are encouraged to use the 311 number or website, 311.cityofsacramento.org, to request a traffic investigation and use extreme caution coming to and from school.

Wraithwall and Moore also plan to create two “bike bus” routes (groups of students bicycling together under parent supervision along a planned route) in the fall to help kids and families get to school safely. A PTA Safety Committee also has formed and has begun meeting to discuss additional concerns with interested families.

While city action may take time, the growing collaboration among families, neighbors and city officials reflects a shared commitment to making routes to Bret Harte safer for everyone. Whether through infrastructure improvements, bike buses or ongoing advocacy, the community is demonstrating that safer streets are not just a transportation issue, but a community priority.

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