

VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

Vol. 48 No. 4

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

November 2026



Invasive mosquitoes are biting in Curtis Park.

Photo courtesy of the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District

Are your ankles itching?

By Nancee Murray

Sacramento County has seen an increase in invasive mosquitoes this year, and Curtis Park is on the top of their hit list.

The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District website says the district may treat an area based on high mosquito abundance or West Nile virus (WNV) activity.

In the Curtis Park and Land Park areas, the concern is mosquito abundance. These invasive mosquitoes don't carry WNV like some native mosquitoes, but the invasive pests are a huge nuisance because they bite regardless of time and temperature and can potentially spread diseases other than WNV.

The most prevalent invasive mosquito in the area is *Aedes aegypti*. First found in Citrus Heights in 2019, it has since spread to other areas. In addition to Curtis Park and Land Park, the district also is spraying for these mosquitoes in Citrus Heights, Rosemont and Orangevale.

According to district Public Information Officer Luz Robles, these differ from our native mosquitoes for two reasons: They can breed in very little water — much less than a native mosquito — and their eggs can stay dormant for six months, waiting for water to spur growth. Second, they are day-biting

See *Mosquitoes*, Page 3

Remembering Curtis Park champion Kathy Les

By Dorsey Griffith

Kathy Les suggested she should be remembered as a writer, garden-er, knitter and cook. And she was all of those things, but so much more: a kind, steady leader, inspiring mentor, skillful advocate, relentless force for good, and loving mother and partner.

Kathy passed away from breast cancer on Sept. 20 at age 75. Her death stunned many in the neighborhood, in part because she kept her years-long illness mostly private and remained active in community affairs until her last days.

"She had a lot to live for," her daughter, Maggie Thomas, reflected. "She wanted to continue to do what she loved for as long as she could."

Kathy was best known locally for decades of service on the Sierra Curtis Park Neighborhood Association (SCNA) board and for supporting Sierra 2 Center and *Viewpoint*, work she began to set aside only in the last couple of months of her life.

Her former board colleagues, including past presidents Bill Hoover and John Bailey, say they couldn't have done their jobs without her steady, deft counsel through many crises, including Sierra 2's financial challenges during the pandemic and the dog park controversy.

"She did a lot of thinking before she took action," said Hoover. "She was introspective, thoughtful and not given to rash decision-making. She was a calm voice, especially for me."

Added Bailey, "Kathy would have been a far better president than I. She was far more astute, nurturing of relationships, politically aware, nuanced and, when needed, forceful than my temperament allowed."

Former board member Erik Fay said Kathy was instrumental in finding



Kathy Les, Maggie and Harold Thomas enjoy their garden.

Photos courtesy of Maggie and Harold Thomas

creative ways to raise money during the COVID lockdown, including the 2020 porch picnic when families enjoyed local food and music from their porches, and making cold calls to SCNA members to make extra donations to stabilize SCNA's finances.

Friend and Curtis Park neighbor José Hermosillo remembers those calls, which, in his case, came every year. "She was dogged and doing everything she could to strengthen Sierra 2," he said. "She was a doer. She was ferocious in getting people involved."

In addition to helping balance the demands of running Sierra 2 and maintain-

ing a robust neighborhood association, Kathy was masterful in motivating others, said board member Michael Oates, who's carried on her work for *Viewpoint*, the clean and quiet yard care initiative and other priorities.

"Kathy was really good at pestering, getting you to do something," Oates said. "It was. 'Hi, I hope your hydrangeas are doing well in this weather. By the way, have you gotten that [project] done?' She was good at finding out which people were good at what things and then getting them into the right spots."

See *Kathy Les*, Page 8

Help shape the future of Curtis Park; join the SCNA board

Are you passionate about Curtis Park and interested in making a difference in our community? The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) is seeking neighbors to serve on its board of directors.

Serving on the SCNA board is a rewarding opportunity to give back to the neighborhood, connect with fellow residents and help shape the future of Curtis Park and the Sierra 2 Center. Board members contribute their unique perspectives and talents while gaining valuable experience in community leadership, collaboration and nonprofit governance.

Whether you're a longtime resident or relatively new to the neighborhood, your voice and involvement can make a meaningful difference. We're looking for individuals who care about our community and are excited to help it thrive.

To be considered for inclusion on the upcoming ballot, please reach out to a current SCNA board member or email president@sierra2.org to express your interest.

We encourage you to get involved and help build a stronger, more connected Curtis Park neighborhood.

—Michael Oates

Sip, Savor & Support
brings neighbors
together



Page 2

Bret Harte welcomes
new teacher



Page 12

Sip, Savor & Support a delicious success

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association's annual wine, beer and food tasting event drew more than 200 people and raised \$35,000, with net proceeds supporting Sierra 2 Center programs and neighborhood events.

The event, organized by Sierra 2 staff with support from the SCNA Board of Directors and several sponsors, featured 32 vendors of wine, beer, cider, coffee, teas and a wide variety of food from restaurants and other businesses throughout the region. Among them were 25 new vendors, including Aioli Bodega Española, Kado Asian Fusion, Puzz E. Gata Jamaica, Two Rivers Cider and Zoe Coffee and Tacos.

Attendees enjoyed music on the patio by Americana performers Doug Pauly, Katherine O'Neal and Mike Crain, as well as pianist Jeremy Crandall in Curtis Hall.

Attendees snapped up gift baskets, vacations, spa treatments, local art and many bottles of wine in the silent auction, along with coveted seats at upcoming Neighborhood Dinners.

SCNA is grateful for the Sip, Savor & Support sponsors: Steffan Brown (Coldwell Banker), Capitol Optometry, Cook Realty, Paloma Begin (Compass Point), All-Cal Insurance and Jennifer Schryer (Realtor at Grounded).

-- Piper Rae and Dorsey Griffith



Event sponsor Steffan Brown of Coldwell Banker mingles with event attendees. Photos by Steve Martarano



Neighbors enjoy the courtyard scene at Sip, Savor & Support.



Art Vallejo of Vallejo's Restaurant serves up Mexican fare at Sip, Savor & Support event.



Michael Benjamin and Carolyn Tarnay chat with other neighbors at the 2026 wine and food tasting event.



Mayor Kevin McCarty greets a neighbor at the Sip, Savor & Support event.



A representative from Casino Mine Ranch Winery shares a lively moment with event sponsor Jennifer Schryer of Grounded during the Sip, Savor & Support festivities.



ANGEL TREE

at Sierra 2 Center

Starting November 23

Give a child in need a special Christmas!

3 easy steps:

1. Choose a tag from the tree in the Sierra 2 Center lobby
2. Shop for the child's wishlist on the tag
3. Return the gifts to the tree at Sierra 2 Center

Brought to you by The Salvation Army and Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association



Learn more at www.sierra2.org





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

Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association EVENT Calendar

Angel Tree – November 23

Giving Tuesday – December 1

SCNA Membership Meeting –
December 9



YOUNGER YOU

AESTHETICS

AESTHETIC & WELLNESS MEDICINE

AGE

beautifully:



Personalized aesthetic and wellness medicine designed to help you look refreshed, feel confident, and live vibrantly



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE &
SCHEDULE YOUR
COMPLIMENTARY
CONSULTATION

**NEW PATIENT
CONSULTATION**

INCLUDES AURA SKIN ANALYSIS

Advanced imaging technology and expert guidance to create a personalized plan for your best, most confident you.

HOW WE HELP YOU

-  **LASER REJUVENATION**
CO₂ Laser, BBL HEROic, MOXI, Sylfirm X
-  **BOTOX**
-  **SKIN HEALTH**
-  **WELLNESS & HORMONES**
BHRT, Men's Optimization, Weight Loss & More

 **916-216-4879**

 youngeryouaesthetics.com

 [@youngeryou.aesthetics](https://www.instagram.com/youngeryou.aesthetics)

 **3570 Crocker Dr., Ste 130
Sacramento, CA 95818**
NEAR CURTIS PARK & LAND PARK

PROUDLY SERVING CURTIS PARK, LAND PARK, EAST SACRAMENTO & GREATER SACRAMENTO

A busy fall activities for the SCNA and Sierra 2 Center

Early fall has been busy for the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association and Sierra 2 Center. I'm reminded again how much gets accomplished when neighbors, volunteers, staff, local organizations and businesses work together.

One of the best examples was our Oct. 4 Sip, Savor & Support gathering. We'd like to thank all our generous sponsors, volunteers and the neighbors who joined us for the early evening festivities. With live music, local vendors, a silent auction and the opportunity to sign up for Neighborhood Dinners, the event created something simple but important: neighbors enjoying time with each other while supporting the community center that serves us throughout the year.

We're also already thinking about Sip, Savor & Support and our other neighborhood events in 2027. If you own a restaurant or know owners of local

PATRICK BAXTER SCNA Board President



restaurants, wineries, breweries or N/A beverage businesses that might be interested in participating next year, please reach out to us now so we can keep you informed of those opportunities.

Our theater and other building projects continue. As anyone familiar with building construction or upgrade projects knows, progress and completion may not be as quick as desired. We remain optimistic

and energized about the improvements that enhance energy efficiency and the visitor experience across all our Sierra 2 buildings.

The executive director candidate screening and interviews picked up speed in the past few weeks. We continue to focus on selecting an individual with excellent customer-service skills and the business acumen to execute board directions.

Taken individually, these may seem like very different activities. Together, however, they reflect what SCNA and Sierra 2 are about: connecting neighbors, advocating for our community and taking care of an extraordinary neighborhood resource.

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

Board Notes

Remembering Kathy Les

The board shared the sad news that former board member and dedicated neighborhood volunteer **Kathy Les** passed away. The board approved providing flowers and using the Sierra 2 building to honor her memory and contributions to the community.

Facility Upgrades and Maintenance

President **Patrick Baxter** provided updates on several facility projects. Musson Theatrical Inc. is installing new theater lighting; leftover grant funds may be directed toward additional theater projects. A local theater group that is closing is donating stage curtains to the theater, and Musical Mayhem suggested installing a plywood covering for the stage.

For the heat pump project, the HVAC contractors have requested a permit for the Garden Room unit

and are working with a structural engineer to approve roof unit weight limits to obtain a permit. Additionally, the Facilities Committee is consulting on options for the theater sign, including potentially removing it and installing lettering on the building, while staying within city preservation guidelines. Across the broader facility, a broken chiller (still under warranty) in Curtis Hall is being addressed, and landscape planning continues.

Financial Updates and Form 990

Treasurer **Shannon Motley** reported the organization is maintaining a strict budget freeze while finalizing standing-committee budgets. Motley also is compiling volunteer hours from board members to complete the organization's annual IRS Form 990 by the deadline. Additionally, she consulted with board member **Greg Speck** regarding potential efficiencies and cost savings for the organization's social media and website.

Executive Director Search and Personnel

Personnel Chair **Michael Oates** announced the formation of a Selection Committee to hire a permanent executive director. The board amended the job description to emphasize that the board serves as the employer and to require strong public-facing communication skills. The board also extended a bonus for the interim executive director and approved making the Senior Center aide a permanent, 20-hour-per-week staff position.

Neighborhood Advocacy and Community Events

The Neighborhood Advocacy Committee deferred a proposed letter supporting a citywide fireworks ban. Instead, the committee will bring the fireworks issue — along with discussions on gas mowers and leaf blowers — to the annual membership meeting and host future community forums to gather neighbor input.

Board Nominations and Strategic Planning

The Executive Committee is currently acting as the Nominations Committee and has two potential board candidates scheduled for interviews. Vice President **Janet Hecsh** is contacting current members with expiring terms to gauge their interest in returning. For strategic planning, the board held an orientation to help committees develop specific operational objectives. Finally, the Senior Center has initiated a partnership process with Sacramento State to bring student volunteers to the center by spring 2027.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 18 in the conference room at the Sierra 2 Center.

— Submitted by *Matthew Royal*, board secretary, with notes from *Janet Hecsh*, vice president

Mosquitoes

Continued from page 1

mosquitoes that prefer biting humans over animals.

The district has set traps in Curtis Park. Summer Silveira of Cutter Way said that district staff knocked on her door looking for a trap on her street. She asked them to spray her yard, as she had noticed an increase in mosquito activity.

"I play volleyball in the park," Silveira said. "These mosquitoes are different. They bite any time of day, and I have noticed more bites around my ankles than on my face or arms."

The district treated the Curtis Park and Land Park areas between 2-6 a.m. Oct. 1, 6, 7 and 9. Robles said the aggressive approach to spraying is not unusual. They generally use a ground-based method for residential treatments and aerial methods in agricultural areas. Trucks or quads equipped with sprayers mounted in the back spray the pesticide upward. District employees drive along main streets and in public parks in the designated area.

The district has used a larval control treatment in Curtis Park that is environmentally friendly and approved for use on organic crops. Since it is a microbe found naturally in soil, it breaks down quickly, typically after a few hours of sunlight. The district says it has no

effect on people, pets, plants or wildlife in the amounts used for mosquito control.

Treatments in the area will continue until monitoring indicates the mosquito population has decreased.

"Treatments will probably continue in the district through October when the population of these mosquitoes peaks," Robles said. "With consistent cooler weather, the populations should decrease and the need for treatment will also decrease."

While the district posts spraying updates on its website, the more reliable way to know when a treatment will occur in Curtis Park is to sign up for email notifications on the district website, fightthebite.net/services/spray-notifications/.

VIEWPOINT

Executive Editor
Dorsey Griffith

Assistant Editors
Susan MacCulloch, Diana Sunseri

Production Manager
Bonnie Rodriguez

Contributors
Patrick Baxter, Gerre Buehler, Mindy Giles, Lauren Gothard, Vivian Gonzalez, Garrett Jensen, Kathy Les (courtesy Hal Thomas), Caity Maple, Steve Martarano, Nancee Murray, Michael Oates, Daniel Pskowski, Lara Pucic Johnson, Patti Roberts, Lindsey Sin, Piper Rea, Matthew Royal, Lauren Solomon

Ad Manager
Kinsley Earl

Distribution Manager
Gerre Buehler

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

Advertise in Viewpoint
Call Kinsley Earl: 916-452-3005 x 205
kinsley@sierra2.org

WHAT'S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

Curtis Park's growing youngster population has plenty to choose from at Sierra 2

By Gerre Buehler

Have you noticed that more and more younger families are moving into Curtis Park? The Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and Community offers activities and programs for kids and teens ages 0-17. Designed for infants to 5-year-olds, Capital City Music Together offers an early childhood music and movement program. The family-oriented classes show parents, grandparents and caregivers how to help their children become confident music-makers just by having fun together.

"These classes are fun for the whole family," said Maggie Thomas of Portola Way, who brings her son to the classes.

Some classes are for babies, while others are designed for mixed ages (0-5). Classes are currently scheduled on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at Sierra 2.

If you have a young ballerina in your household, Dancing with Heidi offers beginning ballet for children ages 6-9 on Wednesdays at Sierra 2. It covers basic ballet positions, arm movements, barre and center exercises in a fun, imaginative atmosphere. Dancing with Heidi also offers beginning ballet classes for 12+ teens at Sierra 2 on Mondays and Wednesdays.

If you're interested in Mexican dance and song, Pasitos Dance and Music Academy has plenty to offer. No prior dance experience is required. Classes are held at Sierra 2 for various age groups. The Grown-up and Me (children 1-4) is currently sold out. Also offered are other Folklorico classes for kids ages 4-7 and 7-13. Thirteen-year-olds also can join the adult Folklorico or Adult Technique and Styling class. Most classes are held on Sundays. The Technique and Styling class is on Monday.

Another offering at Sierra 2 is Ka Hula O Manu-arii (KHOMO), with Hawaiian oriented activities, including lessons for children and teens. Keiki Hula is designed for children to learn hula movements and dances. The class also includes games to build confi-



Cece Jackson Gonzalez of Sixth Avenue (second from left), says the Pasitos Dance class at Sierra 2 is fun. She heard about it from a friend on her soccer team. Photo by Gerre Buehler

dence, vocabulary and a sense of community. Mixed Level Hula is designed for teens 14 and older.

If your household has a budding performer, take a look at Sacramento Performing Arts Company, which rents space at Sierra 2. The organization offers classes in singing, dancing and acting for children and teens. Ms. Kim has been directing youth in our community for 35 years.

"The classes were created to help kids get more one-on-one time by keeping the group small so everyone gets an opportunity to grow and shine," she said.

The children's class for grades K-6 meets from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesdays. The teen class (ages 7-12) meets from 6-8 p.m. on Mondays.

Children interested in martial arts may want to join Eagle Claw Kung Fu of Sacramento. Sifu Mary Melliza is the chief instructor, and she has studied this Kung Fu style for over 20 years. Because the system relies on subtle redirection of an attacker's aggressive energy, it works effectively regardless of the student's size or strength. Eagle Claw offers classes to children and teens from 11-17 years at Sierra 2.

Also check out The Learnery programs at Sierra 2, which connect you with local business and industry experts for fresh, relevant learning experiences for all ages. Beginning piano and guitar classes for kids and teens were offered in October.

To find out more about any of these classes, visit Sierra2.org.

The KITCHEN TABLE
A sweet little kitchen boutique in Land Park
NEW LOCATION!
3175 Riverside Blvd
(right next to Vic's!)
kitchentablesac.com

At HOME in Curtis Park

STEFFAN BROWN
REAL ESTATE
steffan@steffanbrown.com
916-717-7217
Passionate about Fine Older Homes
Buying or Selling... I am here to help.

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
CaDRE #01882787

2417 6th Avenue, Sacramento
3 Bed/2 Bath
Comfort Inside. Backyard Bliss Outside.

Personal and City Hall news from Team Maple

I hope you all are having a cozy fall so far. As for personal updates, I am thrilled to share that our family grew a little bigger with the arrival of our son, Hudson Liam Rice, on Sept. 1. We're soaking up these first days together and feeling incredibly grateful for all the love and well wishes from friends, family and neighbors. In the meantime, Team Maple has remained fully operational. I have a few updates on what's been happening at Sacramento City Hall.

The city recently approved six new entertainment zones, including one in the Oak Park Triangle on Broadway. During permitted special events, licensed bars and restaurants within the zone can sell to-go alcohol for public consumption within designated boundaries. Entertainment zone events, such as the Rainbow Festival and Concerts in the Park, have proven to be major successes for both residents and local businesses. I can't wait to see what these events can do during this first one in District 5.

Last year, in response to continued reports of dangerous crashes in our neighborhoods, I advocated for the creation of the Quick Build program. Quick Build is a safety initiative to curb traffic

CAITY MAPLE
City Council Member
District 5



deaths and serious injuries by bypassing multi-year projects and quickly installing low-cost interim improvements. In its first year alone, our two-person team completed 673 work orders to help reduce crashes. With four new staff members joining the team, we look forward to expanding these life-saving yet cost-effective safety measures across the city.

Lastly, Southside Santa is returning. To reach more neighborhoods, Southside Santa will run an extra day. My team will be parading with Santa from 5 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 19 and 20. We'll stop by the Mack Road Valley Hi Community Center, Phoenix Green Park and Woodbine Park during Night 1. On Night 2, we'll head north to parade at McClatchy Park, Mater Dei Catholic School and Argonaut Park. To find out more about what time Santa will be at a stop near you, visit sacd5.com/santa.

As always, my office is your liaison to the City of Sacramento. If you have any questions or concerns, please email my office at district5@cityofsacramento.org or call 916-808-7005.

The rebirth of Pangaea Bier Cafe – new location, same vibe

By Patti Roberts

Pangaea Bier Cafe, the beloved Curtis Park craft beer and award-winning burger pub on Franklin Boulevard that closed last March, is easing on down the road. Pangaea regulars will be relieved to find that owner Rob Archie is preparing to reopen Pangaea this spring at a new location – The Diggs, a mixed-use downtown development at the corner of Third and R Streets.

Archie, a 20-year Curtis Park resident, was saddened when he couldn't reach a lease agreement for his original Franklin location.

Archie wanted to reopen nearby and finally found a new opportunity at The Diggs, which will give him expanded space to add a brewery. He is looking forward to welcoming Curtis Park neighbors to his new location.

"We're still part of your community. It's only a mile and a half away. Come, enjoy and hang out," Archie said. "We look forward to seeing many of our loyal Curtis Park patrons."

"It will have the neighborly hospitality that Pangaea was known for," he said. "Visitors will recognize many of the same staff from the Franklin Pangaea. We were able to retain most of our original employees."

Archie also owns Urban Roots Brewery & Smokehouse, Cerveceria on Folsom, Good Neighbor, Bawk, The Roost and now a Bawk at Sacramento International Airport.

Adopt a Gentle Giant

Kind and sweet and loving companions
Beautiful, pure-bred Saint Bernards
looking for a forever home

SAINTS OF THE WEST RESCUE
saintsofthewest.com



*I'm Ruby Rose from
Saints of the West
I live in Curtis Park
with my family*

***See a list of adorable adoptable Saints**

Se habla Español

cpaconnect
TAX & ACCOUNTING

- Your local Tax Expert
- Individual and Business Income Tax
- Accounting, Tax Planning & Strategy

Oscar Uribe, CPA

Contact us today
916-234-3004

Email: info@cpaconnectinc.com
www.cpaconnectinc.com

In Curtis Park since 1997

Merry Garden



Celebrating 30 years of stewardship nurturing childhood in an environment where healthy roots flourish.

merrygardenpreschool@gmail.com (916) 336-9908
merrygardenpreschool.com FAC 343617807



KADO

asian fusion

BOLD ASIAN FLAVORS FRESH OFF THE GRILL



Rice Bowls • Sandwiches • Lighter Fare
Dine in • Takeout • Delivery

Mention this Viewpoint ad and receive a free drink

2007 Broadway, Sacramento, CA
M-Sa 12pm-8pm



SACRAMENTO RUNNING COMPANY

Sacramento's Local Source for Running & Walking Shoes
Woman Owned and Community Focused
Free Gait Analysis

All major brands: Asics, Brooks, New Balance, Hoka, and more!



2673 21st St.
Sacramento CA 95818
Wednesday - Saturday: 11AM - 7PM
Sunday: 12PM - 5PM
Monday & Tuesday: By Appointment

Aging Well

Knowledge is one of the most meaningful gifts we can give ourselves and the people we care for. This month, our **Orangevale Seminar Series** continues with free, practical sessions for caregivers, older adults, and families navigating the road ahead.

- Tuesday, November 3 at 10:00 AM — Caring for the Caregiver: Engaging in Meaningful Self-Care
- Tuesday, November 10 at 10:00 AM — Senior Care Solutions: Navigating the Senior Care Maze

To RSVP, call the Orangevale Community Center at 916-988-4373

Orangevale Parks Activity Building
6818 Hazel Avenue,
Orangevale, CA



**SIERRA 2 CENTER
SIERRA CURTIS**
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Questions? Please contact groups directly.

MUSIC
Beginning Taiko Drumming
4-week class
No experience necessary.
Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 1
kristyoshiro.com/home

Intermediate Taiko Drumming
4-week class
Previous taiko experience required.
Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
Studio 1
kristyoshiro.com/home

MARTIAL ARTS
Yi family Tai Chi/Qi Gong, Shaolin Martial Arts
Tuesdays/Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2
lohan36@sbcglobal.net

Eagle Claw Kung Fu
Mondays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 2
Wednesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Studio 2
Sifu Mary Melliza:
916-802-3144

DANCE
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.

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.
Pointe & pre-pointe
Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

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

ART
Glass Acts Mosaics Collective
All skill levels welcome
Tuesdays, 12-3 p.m.
Room 11
glassactmosaics.org

FITNESS
Zumba with Pakko
Sundays, 10-11 a.m.
Studio 3
pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

WW Studio Workshop
Thursdays/Fridays, 8:30 a.m.
Room 10
Sat., 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Room 10
916-479-2255, weight-watchers.com

**SIERRA 2 CENTER
FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY**
Senior Center

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

LEISURE
Creative Mending and Crafts (New)
Each week will focus on a different project, no experience required
Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Room 12
Piper Rea 916-465-8589, for weekly materials list

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

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

Women's Friendship Group
Gathering together for friendship, fun and laughter
Wednesday, Oct. 14 and 28 (2nd and 4th Wednesdays)
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 11
Debbie Self, 916-494-4230

Open Art Studio
Bring your own art projects and create alongside others.
Fridays, noon-3 p.m.
Room 11

BOOK CLUBS
Book Club
(2nd Mondays)

Contract Bridge
Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Room 12
Fridays, 12-3 p.m. Room 9
Beginners welcome

SENIOR WELL-NESS PROGRAM
Improve balance and connect with older adults of all experience levels.
\$10 single class
\$45/5-class wellness package
\$80/10-class wellness package

Qi Gong (NEW)
Mondays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2

Strength and Balance
Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2

Tai Chi
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2

Chair Yoga
Thursdays, 9-10 a.m. Room 12

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



Save the Date!

Giving Tuesday is December 1st

Join us in supporting the
Sierra 2 Senior Center this
December!



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



HELPING DREAMS COME TRUE IN THE SIERRA CURTIS NEIGHBORHOOD SINCE 1974


Proud sponsor
SIP, SAVOR, & SUPPORT

“For Fine Older Homes and Quality Newer Homes”



4305 Freeport Blvd.

On-line Real Estate School
Contact Larry Easterling at leasterling@cookrealty.net

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
916 457-4907

COOK REALTY
can assist with the purchase or sale of any property across the nation!

BUYING OR SELLING
916 451-6702

DRE # 00618471

WWW.COOKREALTY.NET

LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

Here's your handy guide

THE SIDE DOOR

2900 Franklin Blvd.
thesidedoor.net • All shows 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$25-\$40. Advance tickets available.

Friday, Nov. 6: Laurie Lewis and Nina Gerber, a grand guitar duo with many national folk and bluegrass awards. Two-time IBMA "Vocalist of the Year" winner, Lewis won a Grammy for her work on "True Life Blues: The Songs of Bill Monroe." Gerber was mentored by the legendary Kate Wolf and "is the LeBron James of guitarists – she makes everyone around her a better player."

Friday, Nov. 13: Jim Lauderdale, the welcome autumnal return of one of the architects of the entire Americana genre. Beloved internationally, from Nashville, storyteller/singer/songwriter/player extraordinaire. "He's a man of great style, an exceptional songwriter and tremendous singer." – Elvis Costello.

Saturday, Nov. 14: Vivian Lee, Sacramento's favorite. An elegant jazz and standards singer with top-notch players Joe Gilman or Brenden Lowe on piano, Buca Necak on bass and Jeff Minniweather on drums. Count on Gershwin, Ellington, Berlin, Mercer, Jobim and the like, with a little Brubeck, Gillespie and Monk.

Sunday, Nov. 15: California Bluegrass Reunion, important sextet with deep California roots performs songs honoring the modern heroes of the genre, the Bluegrass Album Band (Tony Rice, J. D. Crowe, Bobby Hicks, Jerry Douglas, Doyle Lawson and Todd Phillips).

THE GUILD THEATER

2828 35th St.
sthope.org/guild-theater-home

Saturday, Nov. 7, "Tutti Fruitti: A Tribute to Little Richard" celebrating the real King of rock 'n' roll, featuring Dedrick Weathersby as Little Richard. Created by the same team behind "Remembering James Brown," the show focuses on his life and reign from 1949 to 1957. "A-wop-bop-a-loo-bop!" from 6-8 p.m., sthope.org/event/tutti-fruitti-tribute-little-richard-0

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.

TWO RIVERS CIDER

4311 Attawa Ave.
tworiverscider.com/events

Wednesdays: "Bad Karaokel!" 7-9 p.m.

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

Nov. 5: freeDOOM, 7-9 p.m.

Nov. 12: Sour Diesel Jams, 7-9 p.m.

Nov. 19: Anime Aliens, 7-9 p.m.

Nov. 26: No jazz (Thanksgiving)

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); Old Time Jam, 6-8 p.m.

Ukulele class with Gurukulele (Jim Coats), 4-5 pm.
– Mindy Giles



Kathy Les

Continued from page 1

Kathy's efforts reached well beyond Curtis Park's borders; she had a knack for recruiting like-minded people for causes she embraced, whether it was the Broadway corridor project, the struggling Oak Park Farmers' Market or broader societal issues such as racial justice and threats to democracy.

"Kathy was so good at calling you to act in the nicest way," said Garrett Jensen, an SCNA board member who met Kathy as vice president and whom Kathy mentored. Years after the 2020 murder of George Floyd, for example, Kathy relied on Jensen to ensure the board stayed on top of police accountability issues in Sacramento.

In a text to Jensen in late July, Kathy praised him for setting up a board presentation by the Sacramento Grand Jury's representative on the jury's report of the Police Community Review Commission.

"You rock," she wrote. "I have always believed we who are more endowed should advocate for the less advantaged citizens in our community. Police services don't affect us as much as they do in poorer neighborhoods that depend on honest and thorough police protection."

Advocacy was one of Kathy's superpowers, an attribute that first attracted her husband, Hal Thomas, when they met in their mid-20s working on campaign finance reform in Orange County. Their efforts grew to include historic preservation projects in cities throughout Southern California.

"We were both proud to walk the walk," Thomas said. "She would take the bull by the horns and do it. We were always a team."

Years ago, Kathy and Hal chose Bret Harte Elementary on Ninth Avenue as their daughter's elementary school, at the time joining few other Curtis Park families. The couple felt strongly that Curtis Park families



Kathy Les and Maggie Thomas assemble bouquets from the garden to sell to support the food bank.



Kathy Les and Harold Thomas at Notre Dame in Paris.

had a responsibility to contribute to Bret Harte's growth and sustainability.

Kathy helped launch the Bret Harte PTA in the mid-1990s and, long after her daughter left the school, hosted events bringing together prospective and current Curtis Park Bret Harte parents. She also began the regular parent-written Bret Harte column in *Viewpoint*.

"She deeply believed you have to invest in your local community," said Maggie Thomas.

An avid writer and prolific poet, Kathy worked for the *California Journal* from 1997 to 2001 and served as *Viewpoint* editor for five years in the early 2000s. She continued to contribute articles and served as the paper's board liaison. Most recently, she collected quotes about *Viewpoint's* value to help fund publication expenses and was herself a generous donor.

After her stint as editor, Kathy launched the Curtis Park Energy Stars, encouraging residents to embrace home electrification to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by hosting "heat pump house parties."

"She was a powerful organizer and voice for liberal politics and kindness in the world," said Cheri Davis, a close friend who worked at SMUD and helped with the effort. "She was such a source of light for me."

Quiet philanthropy and small acts of kindness marked Kathy's approach. "I will never forget her generosity, goodwill and big, loving heart," said Tatiana Morfas, who knew Kathy through literacy events and fundraisers and shared her love of reading.

Kathy created floral bouquets from her abundant garden and sold them from her porch to raise money for the Sacramento Food Bank. She helped Morfas fund a Ukrainian family during the war. And, just earlier this year, she began tutoring a Turkish neighbor child to support her learning at Bret Harte.

"This is what she does," said Morfas. "She is the first in line to help."

When the New Year's Eve 2022 storm felled a giant oak tree in Bruce Pierini's yard, Kathy offered him and his spouse a home if theirs became uninhabitable. She was there, too, when Pierini's mother died, with a consoling poem on grief.

"It is not hyperbole to say Curtis Park has lost one of its champions for making our community safe, enriched and beautiful," Pierini said.

Kathy's generosity was legendary. "She shared with me wise counsel, positivism, humor, tales of her travels, her magic way with flowers and delicious cookies that were also healthy," said fellow former board member and longtime friend Mimi Budd. "She has left an impression that will guide me."

A Celebration of Life for Kathy will be held at Sierra 2 at 3 p.m. on Nov. 7. RSVP at tinyurl.com/kathyles. Donations in her name can be made to support *Viewpoint* at secure.qgiv.com/for/vieboo.

Yoga for the
rest of us

at the Sacramento Yoga Center

Conveniently located in your
Sierra 2 Community Center

Visit sacramentoyogacenter.com

Contact us
(916) 996-5645

Stretch, Relax &
Calm the Mind

Trees in Curtis Park

Add an edible element to your yard by planting citrus

By Daniel Pskowski

Fall is for planting. If you don't have any citrus trees in your yard, consider one. They enhance the landscape with their fragrant flowers, colorful fruit and evergreen leaves. There are plenty to choose from: oranges, mandarin oranges, lemons, grapefruits, limes, tangerines and kumquats. All gardeners know that home-grown is best because you pick the fruit when it is fully ripe.

Sacramento's climate is excellent for growing citrus. The dwarf and semi-dwarf varieties, which grow 6-12 feet tall with equal spread, do not require a lot of space. Four Winds Growers provides a reliable source for information on varieties (fourwindsgrower.com).

Plant citrus in full sun and well-drained soil. Do not plant in a lawn or with other plants that require frequent irrigation. Citrus also can be grown in containers for your patio, as long as it gets 6 hours of sun. The best time to plant is early spring after the danger of frost has passed. However, planting now allows the tree to establish itself before the scorching summer weather. Cover the tree if frost is in the forecast or hang Christmas lights on the tree for winter cold protection. For older varieties that are 20-25 feet tall, place a tarp over the top and hang a drop light with a 100-watt incandescent bulb in the tree to prevent frost damage.

Watering and fertilizing are key to a successful citrus crop. Improper watering may cause fruit to drop or result in fruit that splits or is dry and pithy inside. Newly planted trees require regular watering for the first and second year. Once the tree is established, deep, infrequent watering every two weeks is recommended. How much depends on the soil type, drainage, weather and size of

tree. A soil moisture meter or a hand trowel will help you decide how much water is needed. Apply wood chip mulch under the drip line, but keep it 6 inches away from the trunk.

Container citrus require more frequent watering than in-ground trees. During the summer, they may need water every day. Check the soil moisture using a moisture meter or carefully dig down 6-8 inches. If the soil is crumbly, it's dry and needs water.

Citrus trees need three applications of fertilizer. Start in March before bloom, then apply a second in May and the third and final in June. The easiest way is with an organic or synthetic fertilizer formulated specifically for citrus. Applying compost is also beneficial and may provide sufficient fertilization.

Citrus trees need little pruning. Remove dead, rubbing branches and suckers (shoots) that originate below the graft union at the base. Remove water sprouts, which are unusually vigorous upright shoots.

I recommend that Sacramentans plant citrus, especially an orange tree. It's always a joy to walk out into the yard and pick sweet, juicy oranges right off the tree.

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



A Curtis Park orange tree

Photo by Daniel Pskowski

New Home Building Supply

Hardware Store

Family owned & operated since 1949

Complete Hardware Store

Competitive pricing
Helpful and knowledgeable crew
We have all the hard-to-find sidings
Quality lumber for any size project

www.newhomebldgsupply.net

916 455-3057

5310 Franklin Blvd. | Sacramento

HOURS:
M-F 6am-5pm | Sat 7am-3:30pm | Closed Sundays

CORBIN CONSTRUCTION

With 45 years experience,
we specialize in older homes!

916-899-4606

corbinemmett@yahoo.com

CSLB: 942801

If you dream it, Emmett can build it!

Not everything can be solved by AI call your Neighborhood Tech Guy!

- Affordable Rates & Free Estimates
- Wi Fi & Home Network Issues
- New Device Setup & Smart Devices
- New Tech Purchase Guidance
- Patient, one-on-one help

– And much, much more!

JACKSON MICHEL
(530) 848-7057
ThatTechGuyJackson@gmail.com
Serving Curtis Park & other nearby areas

Jennifer Schryer
CURTIS PARK NEIGHBOR & REALTOR®
916.601.5766 | jennifer@grounded.city
DRE #01736905

Proud sponsor of **SIP, SAVOR, & SUPPORT**

Family or Friends Coming to Town?

Give them a comfortable, stylish place to stay, right here in Curtis Park.

Beautifully furnished 2-bedroom, 1-bath upstairs apartment in a 1920s Tudor, King and queen beds, full kitchen, and private outdoor deck.

TOP 1% OF AIRBNB LISTINGS IN SACRAMENTO

For availability, see the Airbnb listing or contact me directly.
airbnb.com/h/curtisparkepdatederre

grounded.
PEOPLE | HOMES | COMMUNITY

Order anytime at:
QuailandOlive.com

for pickup or delivery

(831) 659-4288
14 DEL FINO PLACE, CARMEL VALLEY
QuailandOlive.com

Instagram: @thequailandolive
Facebook: @quailandolive

THE QUAIL & OLIVE

Thank you for stopping by & Savoring with us!

We loved sharing a taste of The Quail & Olive with you at Sierra 2's Sip, Savor & Support!

Keep your pantry stocked with our fresh California Extra Virgin Olive Oils & Balsamic Vinegars, and remember us as the holiday season approaches!

Holiday gifting made delicious!

Shop our large selection of beautifully curated gifts, or let us create something special just for you, perfect for family, friends, hosts, clients & corporate gifting.

Fresh California flavor. Thoughtful gifts. Shipped with love from Carmel Valley.

POINT OF VIEW

Be careful out there!

By Lauren Solomon

Sacramento has a reputation for being dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians and, even in Curtis Park, a pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly neighborhood, cyclists must be vigilant and never assume that a driver, cyclist or a pedestrian sees them – or their pets. Cyclists are invisible to everyone around them, and that invisibility is a liability, not a superpower.

Drivers need to look for cyclists and pedestrians, especially when the sun is low and visibility is reduced.

On the early evening of Oct. 1, I was riding my bicycle northbound on 26th Street when a pickup truck traveling westbound on Fifth Avenue stopped, partially blocking 26th Street. As I entered the intersection, I saw a young man on the ground, holding the leash of a beautiful, shiny-coated, black dog with one blue eye and one black eye. The young man's bicycle was on the ground, its wheels inches from the truck's passenger-side front wheel. His bicycle had been clipped by the truck.

The driver got out of the pickup and walked toward the young man, who moaned, "Man, I thought you saw me."

I glanced toward 24th Street to the west and saw the

sun shining brightly through the trees, low in the sky. Turning to the driver, I asked:

"Did you see him?"

"No," he replied.

An older woman walked across the street toward the bicycle and the young man.

"Are you okay?"

The young man didn't reply but, moving his legs, started to get up.

"I'm sure glad that I didn't hit your dog," the driver said, reaching out to pet him.

As the cyclist started to right his bike, the driver said, concerned, "If you start to be in pain, I live right around the corner; let me know."

"Yeah, I'd like to get your number," the cyclist said. I left them as they exchanged information.

I have been a bicycle commuter in Chicago, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco and Palo Alto. I have cycled all over Northern California, New York City, Michigan, Amsterdam, and on long-distance trips in Vermont and Spain. I have never been hit by a moving vehicle, and I would like to keep it that way. I also want the streets to be safe for me and other cyclists in Curtis Park and beyond.

Lauren Solomon lives on East Curtis Drive.

City makes case for adjusting utility rates Public hearing scheduled for Dec. 2

By Lara Pucik Johnson

Notice from the city's Department of Utilities of proposed adjustments to drinking water and sewer rates may have come as a surprise. In fact, these are part of an in-depth process the city is conducting to address pending revenue gaps, deferred maintenance and needed capital improvements to the systems that provide clean, safe drinking water and reliable sewer services to our homes and businesses every day.

At Public Utilities Rate Advisory Committee (URAC) meetings over the last couple of years, the city and its consultant have presented information about the laws governing rate adjustments, the needs driving them and the independent analysis used to develop them. On Dec. 2, URAC plans to hold a public hearing to consider recommending adoption of the proposed rates. Below are questions and issues discussed at URAC meetings.

How are rates set? The city enlisted independent consulting firm Raftelis to determine revenue requirements, analyze cost of service, and design proposed rates in accordance with industry standards and Proposition 218, which mandates that fees and charges for services to properties cannot exceed costs to provide service. Proposition 218 also specifies that revenues from fees and charges for services cannot be used for anything else. Their analysis and recommendations are available on the city's website. The city council must formally adopt the proposed rates after a public hearing before implementing them.

How would these changes affect your utility bill? You can run an estimate using the city's online bill calculator. Starting next summer, a typical single-family residence with a 1" line (the majority of homes in Sacramento) might expect to see a current monthly \$78 bill for water plus wastewater increase incrementally to \$140 by 2031.

Actual usage will make up a larger share of your bill than it does now, so conservation efforts will pay off more.

How did we get here? Costs are increasing. The city last adjusted water and wastewater rates in 2016 and phased them in from 2016 to 2019. Since then, operating costs for equipment, supplies, labor, compliance with new regulations, cybersecurity and inflation have risen significantly. Without adjustments, revenues will not continue to cover costs. Many of the city's water and sewer pipes are over 100 years old, and the city still faces a backlog of \$2.2 billion in deferred maintenance.

What happens if rates don't change? Failing to address this financial situation risks service impacts, public and environmental health problems, lower credit ratings that raise interest expenses and more costly emergency repairs. Proposed rate increases will keep systems running and set us up fiscally through borrowing in the next rate cycle.

What about affordability? Sacramento's current and proposed residential water rates are lower than most surrounding areas from Roseville to Stockton and lower than the other three operations on the West Coast similar to ours. Still, rate adjustments can hurt. The city offers SURA (Sacramento Utility Rate Assistance) for income-qualified households; learn how to apply on the city's website.

Visit cityofsacramento.gov/utilities/pay-your-utility-bill/services-and-rates/2027-rate-adjustments, to access all the resources and information cited in this article. Please share your comments with URAC and the city council. Stewardship of our collective infrastructure is an intergenerational responsibility spanning decades.

Lara Pucik Johnson, who lives on 26th Street, has served on the City of Sacramento Utilities Rate Advisory Commission (URAC) since January 2023.

Neighborhood advocacy pays off

By Garrett Jensen

"If you don't have a seat at the table, you're on the menu." That simple truth is why the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) has shifted to take a proactive role in shaping the future of Curtis Park and Sacramento. Beyond running the Sierra 2 Center and hosting community events, SCNA has embraced a crucial and growing responsibility: direct advocacy for an economically vibrant, safe, transit-oriented and accessible neighborhood for everyone.

Neighborhood associations should be in the room when decisions that affect us are being made, whether about transportation planning or housing. But as someone who has worked for multiple state elected leaders, I've learned advocacy works when it's built on trust and constructive partnership. Criticism alone doesn't move the needle; it must come with solutions, ideas and a willingness to work alongside local lawmakers and department leaders. By leading with collaboration, compromise and practical goals, SCNA has earned a place as a trusted partner in regional planning.

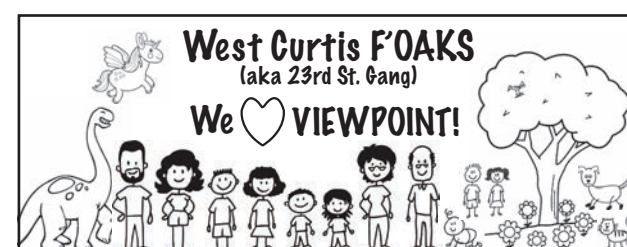
That approach recently delivered a major win. You may have read in the May *Viewpoint* article about Senate Bill 802, which coordinates regional responses to housing insecurity and homelessness. SCNA formally stepped up to support the measure, authored by Sen. Angelique Ashby, and Gov. Gavin Newsom recently signed the legislation into law. Its passage marks a concrete victory for our community and proves that neighborhood-level advocacy can directly influence state and regional policy. While implementation will be key, the law is a critical first step in bringing everyone to the table on homelessness response in our county.

SCNA board members are elected by their peers to represent the community's interests, and doing that effectively requires continuing to modernize, diversify and reflect the neighbors we serve. While more work remains to expand representation and participation, SB 802 shows what is possible when neighborhood associations step up to guide our city's future.

When neighbors engage, build coalitions with other neighborhood associations and offer real solutions, our collective voice gets louder, and SCNA gets results.

SCNA is currently seeking new board members to help build on this vision. If you are interested, please contact president@sierra2.org.

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



Curtis Park neighbors offer encouragement and treats to the Sacramento Pilgrim Community

By Patti Roberts

Larry and Lori Easterling of Fifth Avenue hosted more than 150 participants at Walktoberfest on Oct. 18 during a full-day, 10-mile-plus hike organized by the Sacramento Pilgrim Community.

Walktoberfest participants had either done the famed Camino de Santiago in Portugal, Spain or both or plan to do it in the future, so conversations ranged from memories of past journeys to shared experiences and encouragement for those with the Camino on their bucket lists.

The walk is meant to simulate a typical day hike on the Camino de Santiago, which runs through Spain and Portugal to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Legend holds that the cathedral contains the remains of St. James beneath its altar. The 500-mile pilgrimage began 1,000 years ago.

This year's Walktoberfest started in Land Park, traveled to Old Sacramento, went east through Midtown, then south to Curtis Park and ultimately back to Land Park.

Armed with walking sticks and small backpacks, the pilgrims stopped for a quick bite and a stamp in their pilgrimage passports at various points. The Easterling's house was the second-to-last stop, where the couple offered cookies and Rice Krispies treats



Sacramento Pilgrim Community members grab refreshments in Curtis Park. Photos by Patti Roberts

baked by Larry along with water and lemonade.

Interest in experiencing the Camino pilgrimage is what prompted the Easterlings to volunteer their house for the Sacramento trek.

"We have plans to do the Camino in Spain,"



Larry and Lori Easterling offered pilgrims treats during the Curtis Park leg of their trek.

said Lori, who has joined the group for some of its regular monthly walks. "I love hearing about the Camino trek from those who have done it before. I see the journey as an adventure and as an opportunity for self-reflection."

26th neighbors celebrate 100-year-old homes

By Susan MacCulloch

Neighbors on 26th Street between Fourth Avenue and Marshall Way, with a detour to Rochon Way, celebrated their homes' birthdays on Sept. 26, honoring the year they were built in the Heilbron Oaks subdivision.

Sharon Helmar invited neighbors to planning meetings where they chose aspects of 1926-era lives. Helmar then created a "Passport to 1926" for tour-goers.

"I needed to thank my house for sheltering good Curtis Park people for 100 years and to celebrate the neighborhood I've called home for 50 years,"



Stephanie Hague and Tim Seward hosted sports of the era.

Photos by Susan MacCulloch

said Helmar. "The very best part was the excitement my neighbors brought to the event. We all learned about 1926 and enjoyed sharing with 60 to 70 friends and neighbors."

Neighbors from 26th Street and people from the wider Curtis Park neighborhood toured displays outside several homes that featured a snapshot of Sacramento in 1926 with displays about its people, politics, sports and the cost of living, as well as ads from the Sept. 25, 1926 *Sacramento Bee*, music, slang words and 1926 movies.

Several stops included snacks; Jennifer Schryer hosted movies of the era

and offered a delicious array of movie candies and treats.

Stephanie Hague and Tim Seward, who live next door to Helmar on Rochon Way, hosted a collection of sports memorabilia and athletes of the day, including the local Solons baseball team and, of course, baseball snacks.

"It was wonderful to meet so many neighbors who jointly came together to celebrate the neighborhood's history by seeing the different displays from 1926," said Hague. "I also really enjoyed researching our theme, 'sports,' and learning a lot about the Solons."

The final tour stop was the shad-



Jennifer Schryer hosted movies of the era.

ed patio of Mary and Paul Dubrow's home. They featured inventions of the era and a poster-board display of their home's history. They also offered a birthday sheet cake celebrating 100 years.

"What a special experience to be able to celebrate our home's 100-year history alongside our wonderful Curtis Park neighbors and friends," said Mary Durbrow.

SIERRA 2 CENTER

THEATER

EST. 1929

24th Street THEATRE

NorCal Arts
Mary Poppins Junior

Nov. 19-22

Showtimes and tickets:
norcalsota.org/shows/main-stage

Getting to know Bret Harte's new fourth-grade teacher

This school year, Bret Harte welcomed several new staff members, each bringing their own professional experiences, perspectives and enthusiasm to the school. Among them is the new fourth-grade teacher, Lila Suryanarayan. Known as Ms. Sury to students and families, her arrival was met with enthusiasm and excitement as prospective fourth graders toured their classroom during the school's annual Welcome Back Ice Cream Social.

Sury spent the past few months getting to know her students, building a fun classroom culture and sharing her goals for fourth-grade learning with students and families through weekly newsletters and regular updates. Now in her fourth year of teaching, Sury brings a passion for helping students grow and a commitment to making every student feel valued in the classroom.

"I am looking forward to creating a fun learning environment where students are excited to come to class each day," she said.

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Sury began her teaching career in Washington, D.C. After relocating to California, she worked as a kindergarten through fifth-grade learning specialist at Sacramento Country Day School. She credits these experiences with helping her understand how students develop as learners across different elementary levels. She enjoys teaching fourth



LAUREN
GOTHARD
and
LINDSEY
SIN

grade, helping students become independent thinkers and watching their personalities shine.

"Fourth grade is such a fun turning point. Students are ready for real independence, and they start to think in more complex ways, like making connections across text and explaining why they believe something," she said. "Best of all, their personalities really shine at this age. I love seeing their humor and ideas come out in class discussions and in their writing."

One thing that drew Sury to Bret Harte was its small, close-knit community. She appreciates that students can grow up with the same classmates, which builds lasting friendships and a strong sense of belonging.

"Every student feels seen and heard, and no one gets lost in a big student body," she said. "That kind of belonging is hard to find at a larger school."

Outside of the classroom, Sury enjoys watching movies, reading and exploring Sacramento's food scene with her husband. The two are always looking for new restaurants to try.

Reviews from Sury's fourth-grade class are very positive so far. Students are engaged and excited to learn. Still, they may not yet know many details about Sury, such as that she played the French horn in high school or how small her home state of Rhode Island really is. Perhaps that fact will come up in fourth-grade social



Bret Harte's new 4th grade teacher Lila Suryanarayan
Photo courtesy of Lila Suryanarayan

science this year. As the school year continues, Sury and her fourth graders will have plenty of opportunities to learn from one another. For now, she's enjoying getting to know the Bret Harte community and helping her students make the most of their fourth-grade year.



**YOUR
NEIGHBOR**

**LARRY
EASTERLING**
Broker
Associate

916 849-9431
easterling129@gmail.com

DRE #01343981
COOK
REALTY



Sacramento's Best!
Homemade Ice Cream Since 1940

Real Fruit Freeze • 50-50's
Soups & Sandwiches • Ice Cream Cakes & Pies
2801 Franklin Blvd. | 916 457-6646
www.gunthersicecream.com | Open Daily
Flavor of the Month in November:
RUM RAISIN!

TAP DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS
BEGINNING TO ADVANCED CLASSES
mornings • evenings • saturdays

INTRODUCTION TO TAP
inquire about our upcoming 'intro' series

for information, please contact:
richard@rivercitytaps.com
location: sierra 2 center

RIVER CITY TAPS



Sacramento's only cage-free daycare and boarding facility



Daycare Grooming Boarding

Call or visit us today!

916-446-2501 430 17th Street
Sacramento

info@gratefuldogdaycare.com
gratefuldogdaycare.com

ADULT BALLET
SATURDAY MORNINGS
BALLET/BASIC ■ BALLET 1

for information, please contact:
Richard@TwoRiversDanceCenter.com
location: Sierra 2 Center

two rivers dance center
HOME OF RIVER CITY TAPS

**Need a
Helping Hand?**
Infant & Toddler Care
for Local Families

Need a few hours for an appointment,
errands, or simply a little time to yourself?

Retired Preschool Teacher
offering loving, experienced care for infants & toddlers.

916-678-2654
debrahughes2000@yahoo.com