

VIEWPOINT

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November 2023

Affordable housing project underway on Broadway

By Kathy Les

Tractors kicking up dust and heavy earth-moving equipment have been a rare sight on Broadway over the last few decades. But that's changing at the corner of 19th Street and Broadway as construction begins on an affordable housing project to help address Sacramento's housing shortage for low-income earners.

Developer EAH Housing is making its Sacramento debut with On Broadway, a project comprised of two adjacent five-story buildings close

to light rail. Soon to rise will be 140 apartments with one, two or three bedrooms. The project, designed by LPAS Architecture & Design, includes community centers in each building, supportive services provided by EAH Housing, exterior courtyards with play structures, bike storage, laundry rooms and 60 onsite parking spaces with gated entry and 3,600 square feet of commercial space.

Thirty-seven of the apartments will be permanent supportive housing for families or individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming



Rendering of On Broadway affordable housing project to be completed in 2025

Courtesy EAH Housing

homeless. The remaining units will be for families and individuals earning 30% and 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Sixty percent of the median income for a family in Sacramento of four is \$85,750 annually. Incomes at 30% of AMI qualifying for

housing at On Broadway may be as low as \$22,530 for a single person.

While the 140 units in On Broadway will make just a small dent in easing the affordable housing crisis in

See Project, Page 3

Carmazzi Caramel Corn reaches new heights

By Carlos Alcalá

The first customer at Carmazzi Caramel Corn's Arden area shop one recent morning wasn't just a customer. She was the daughter of one of Karen Carmazzi's best friends, a Curtis Park neighbor who lived past 100.

Carmazzi may not be making her addictive caramel corn in her Curtis

Park kitchen anymore, but there is still a neighborly flavor in her new shop, on top of the caramel aroma wafting from the back.

In mid-October, she hit the three-month mark at her new Sacramento location, 520 La Sierra Drive, where she and her employees pop more than 100 pounds of kernels per week and generate 64,000 bags per year, according to one media report. Also in October, Carmazzi Caramel Corn was voted one of four finalists for the Coolest Thing Made in California competition sponsored by the California Manufacturers & Technology Association. The company's lofty competition: the James Webb Telescope, Tesla Model Y and the Victus Nox Space System. The electric car took top honors.

At age 56, it's Carmazzi's first time running a brick-and-mortar operation. The shop had buckets of caramel corn with Halloween themes and with Sacramento Kings logos, but the caramel



Karen and Paul Carmazzi Jr. accept the Coolest Thing Made in California finalist award

Courtesy Karen Carmazzi

corn inside is the same product her customers know.

"They taste the butter, the true caramel flavor," she said. She uses quality ingredients and doesn't use soy, peanuts or anything with gluten. It's a positive thing for people with dietary needs to eat something that is normal and that everyone loves.

To open the new shop, Carmazzi Caramel Corn moved the commercial-quality home equipment from Curtis Park to the new location, said Paul Carmazzi Jr., her son and one of her

100th birthday of Sierra School building celebration Dec. 5

Join the SCNA board of directors and local officials on Dec. 5 from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to celebrate 100 years of the Sierra School building, home of SCNA and the Sierra 2 Center.

The half-hour event will include a presentation with a plaque marking the 100th birthday of the school and a few short speeches highlighting the building's history. Cake and drinks will be served. Everyone is welcome.

Built in 1923, the building began as the Sierra School, serving countless neighborhood children who went on to become esteemed members of our community. In the late 1970s, the Sierra School building was preserved thanks to the dedication and passion of many Curtis Park residents.

Sierra 2 Center has since evolved into a regional hub that nurtures the arts, education, culture and community activities. Immediately following the celebration, SCNA will host its annual membership meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Curtis Hall.

SCNA Membership Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 5

6:30 p.m. in Curtis Hall,
Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street

- Recap of significant SCNA accomplishments in 2023
- Review of SCNA financial status
- Board elections
- You must be a SCNA Member to attend and vote.

To join, visit www.sierra2.org.

Jennings
Council Member
Rick Jennings
updates community
on tackling
homelessness

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Soloman
How two neighbors
became friends in
Africa

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A chance meeting in a faraway land with a new Curtis Park friend

By Lauren Solomon

Curtis Park residents love to travel and are frequently found in faraway locales. However, it's rare when they discover they are Curtis Park neighbors meeting for the first time halfway around the world.

That is what happened to my daughter, Arielle, and me when we met Curtis Park resident Debby Loft at a dinner in Njobvu Safari Camp outside of South Luangwa National Park in Mfuwe, Zambia. Debby lives on Tenth Avenue; we live on East Curtis Drive.

None of us had met walking around our beloved Curtis Park, but instantly connected over our long-term ties to the neighborhood. While the sounds of Curtis Park feature the click-clack of pickleball, applause for young soccer players, laughing children and barking dogs, here we were surrounded by the Zambian landscape filled with snorting hippos, grazing elephants and impalas, scampering baboons and myriad exotic birds.

We are all educators, who, along with others, volunteered to work in libraries founded by the African Hope Fund. The fund's mission is to teach English to rural Zambian students, as high school and university are taught in English, the country's official language. But most Zambians speak one of 73 African dialects at home and do not learn English in school until second grade. Each summer, the African Hope Fund recruits volunteers to work with teaching assistants at the libraries. The 2024 volunteer trip is scheduled July 26-Aug. 10. (For more information, visit AfricaHopeFund.org).

While we all shared our reading skills, the trip also provided an opportunity to showcase other talents.



The author is second from left. To her right is her daughter, Arielle. Debby Loft is fifth from left.

Photos courtesy Lauren Solomon

Arielle, having trained, danced and taught with Pamela Hayes Classical Ballet, first on 24th Street then in Eldorado Hills, shared her love of dance, teaching the students the Macarena and the Can-Can. In return, our hosts invited us to perform their local dances with them. The Macarena clearly was a highlight for many young students, and it was delightful to see children dancing the Macarena and surrounding Arielle as she arrived in the mornings.



Arielle with students and teaching assistants dancing the Can-Can.

The trip also included safaris, bush camping, a massage in a world-class spa and meetings with NGOs. A final highlight was a trip to Victoria Falls. Carol Van Bruggen, the founder of the African Hope Fund, went to Zambia for the animals, and, as Debby

said, "stayed for the people." This is the same reason many of us, Debby and I included, stay in Curtis Park – to connect with the people who live here. You may see us walking in the park together and, if you do, say hello.

Have Medicare questions? I have answers.



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The future for SCNA and Sierra 2 Center looks strong

Submitting *Viewpoint* columns about halfway through the preceding month creates interesting choices in addressing certain subject matters. A bit of guesswork is in play, too.

By the time you read this, the search for a new executive director may be over as the committee's goal is to present its recommendation to the board for approval at the Nov. 1 board meeting. The multi-step process was thorough, and the candidates interviewed were very impressive.

While the executive director search continues, the Nominations Committee has been equally busy meeting with a number of SCNA members

BILL HOOVER SCNA Board President



who have expressed interest in serving on the SCNA Board of Directors. Using SCNA's stated mission and purpose as a guide, the committee has focused on identifying individuals who want Curtis Park to remain a desirable place for all residents.

With that in mind, SCNA's general membership meeting is on Wednes-

day, Dec. 6, which is just around the corner. Even if you cannot serve as a board member, volunteers are always needed and welcome. Remember, SCNA exists to maintain and operate Sierra 2 Center and to promote the health, safety and quality of life for all Curtis Park residents. Your vote can go a long way in ensuring that continues.

In the meantime, the Sierra 2 staff has stepped up admirably to keep the center up and running. Val Burrows, Fran Coletti, Stacy Gray and the other support staff are to be commended for their dedication to Sierra 2 Center and SCNA. Despite the inevitable hiccups, the center is

functioning very well and their efforts are much appreciated. Next time you're at Sierra 2, please take the time to stop by and offer them a personal thank you.

The staff efforts are buttressed by Treasurer John Bailey's assessment of our financial situation. I believe our financial future looks good with new leases in place and rentals and theater bookings at pre-Covid levels. SCNA-sponsored events such as Music in the Park and the Home & Garden Tour have returned, and next year promises even more activities, with the Wine Tasting at the top of the list. Having a new crop of board members to help should ensure our ongoing success.

Board Notes

Board continues search for new Sierra 2 Center Executive Director

John Bailey reported that the Personnel Committee received approximately 60 resumes to fill the vacant executive director position. Of those, six were interviewed virtually and three face-to-face. Board members were asked for topics and goals for onboarding the successful candidate.

Curtis Hall gets new doors

Gerre Buehler, chair of the Facilities Committee, reported that new ADA-compliant doors were installed from Curtis Hall onto the courtyard. The doors leading into the main building near Room 10 also were repaired.

Sierra School Centennial Celebration

Shannon Motley reported that the Development Committee is confirming speakers. The celebration will take place on Dec. 5 from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. prior to SCNA's annual membership meeting.

Cone Zones

Erik Fay, chair of the Neighborhood Concerns Committee, reported that the committee heard from City Transportation engineers Phillip Vulliet and Megan Johnson, who reported on two projects nearest Curtis Park. The "Central City Mobility Project" extends south to Broadway and includes improvements to 19th Street from X to W streets and 21st Street from X to W streets. For more information visit cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/Engineering-Services/Projects/Current-Projects/Downtown-Mobility-Project. The "Broadway Complete Streets Project" will follow, with construction starting in the spring. For more information see cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/Engineering-Services/Projects/Current-Projects/Broadway-Complete-Streets.

Viewpoint print shop

Buehler reported that the *Viewpoint* will now be printed in Auburn. The Galt printing office has closed.

The next SCNA meeting will be Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

— Submitted by Sue Hida

Project

Continued from page 1

Sacramento, it's a start, said Welton Jordan, chief real estate development officer at EAH Housing.

"These types of projects are difficult to bring to market. Anything we can do to improve the uphill battle for affordable housing helps," he said.

On Broadway relies on funding from local and state sources, which make up a combined 40% of the project's funding. Another 60% comes from equity through the sale of federal tax credits to private investors.

"The city deserves a lot of credit for getting us to a place where we could apply for funding so quickly," said Jordan. "The project was able to round up funding in just six months, which is a year faster than usual."

This is EAH Housing's first project in Sacramento, and they hope to do more here. The company has built affordable housing projects in 240 communities throughout California and Hawaii.

Asked if he expects On Broadway will stimulate other projects along Broadway, Jordan said he's seen it happen in other communities. "Nearby buildings often get painted and properties get cleaned up," he said, adding that EAH Housing would be amenable to undertaking a second project some-

where on Broadway or nearby.

The proximity to light rail and downtown makes Broadway attractive to a company like EAH Housing. Jordan said affordable housing projects rent quickly. Housing applications will be taken online when the project nears completion, sometime in 2025.

On Broadway was the site selected by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to announce that Sacramento is the first Prohousing Designation Program jurisdiction in the state.

The City of Sacramento Central City Specific Plan identified the On Broadway property as critical to revitalizing the Broadway Corridor. In early 2022, the project was awarded \$29 million in housing and transit improvement funds from HCD.

Viewpoint needs an advertising sales volunteer

Curtis Park residents support area businesses, and your community newspaper could benefit from their advertisements. If you can spend a few hours per month encouraging local businesses to advertise their goods and services in *Viewpoint*, please contact Executive Editor Dorsey Griffith at Dorsey.griffith@gmail.com.

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White-breasted nuthatch

Photos by Dan Murphy

White-breasted nuthatch a regular at local feeders

By Dan Murphy

One of the jauntiest birds in our neighborhood is the white-breasted nuthatch. It is a small, common resident of deciduous forests throughout North America. Unlike other birds, it characteristically walks with its head pointed downward on large branches and trunks of trees, probing crevices in bark for its seed and insect prey. It also uses crevices and loose bark of tree trunks to store seeds and nuts, which it then hacks open with its large, slightly upturned bill. The name “nuthatch” is reportedly derived from this behavior. The crown is black in males and generally grayish in females. Nothing else in their appearance significantly distinguishes the genders.

White-breasted nuthatches generally live in pairs in permanent territories throughout the year and regularly visit feeders during fall and winter. In winter, they hoard food in large amounts, hiding it throughout their territory. They eat a variety of insects such as weevils, beetles and ants, as well as plant matter such as acorns, nuts and corn. The proportion of seeds in their diet is 68% in winter, 48% in spring, none in summer, and 29% in the fall.

Their favored habitat is mature,



deciduous woodland, as well as mixed deciduous and coniferous forest; occasionally they live in residential areas. The birds favor woodland edges over more central locations, preferring open areas (water, roads, clearings, fields) near the nest. The presence of some oaks seems to be a requirement across much of their range. The birds prefer to breed in natural holes in large, old trees. White-breasted nuthatches start breeding in the first year of life. They are monogamous; pairs remain together from the time they establish a territory until one of the partners disappears. No separations are reported.

During courtship, the male feeds the female. This can be initiated when a female in a motionless pose raises her beak in a fixed position, causing a male to approach her with food. Then a female gives a begging call typical of older nestlings with her beak open and wings quivering; during the egg-laying period, she may take repeated feedings from a male without display. Nuthatch pairs raise only one brood per year. The size of the brood is between six and seven chicks. About two-thirds of white-breasted nuthatches survive each year. The oldest known nuthatch was about 10 years old.

Solar power demonstrated in Curtis Park

Neighbors Steve Saffold, Paul Barth, Cheri Davis and Ted Frink worked together on a sunny Saturday, Oct. 7 to bring the National Solar Tour to Sacramento. It's billed as the largest grassroots solar and sustainable living event in the nation. The American Solar Energy Society (ASES) has hosted the event for over 28 years.

Barth and Saffold, both previously affiliated with Solar Cookers International, exhibited a variety of solar cookers. In Spurgin Alley off of 25th Street, Saffold baked several batches of cookies. Barth demonstrated roasted vegetables using only the power of the sun in the same amount of time as a typical slow cooker – and with delicious results. Barth said he regularly preps meals by cooking large batches in his solar cooker and eating them during the week.

Davis and Frink offered tours and information about their near-Zero Net Energy home on 25th Street, which features a Tesla solar roof, Powerwall battery, heat pump water heater, heat pump HVAC system and induction stove. Davis works for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), where she leads the team that provides residential rebates for

energy efficiency and electrification. They're proud to be doing their part to combat climate change at home and are members of the Curtis Park Electric Stars.

Their home's solar and battery system helps offset the cost of peak summer rates and powers everything from an induction stove in the kitchen to the HVAC system in the basement. Davis demonstrated how the induction stove can boil water in only two minutes (twice as fast as gas), and, unlike gas, produces no harmful air pollution in the kitchen.

Frink gave a behind-the-scenes tour of the heat pump system in the basement. Unlike a conventional gas water heater, electric heat pump water heaters don't create emissions that must be vented outside. Instead, the cool air they vent can be used indoors to cool the space around it. He also showed how ducted mini-split systems can be fitted into existing homes' basements or attics thanks to their slim profiles.

The four neighbors demonstrated that environmentally friendly power generation, cooling and cooking isn't expensive or inconvenient and that even houses approaching their 100th year can take advantage of the latest technology to save money and the planet.



Paul Barth demonstrates his solar cooker.

Photo credit: Matthew Royal

Carmazzi

Continued from page 1

family co-workers.

"All the ingredients are from the original recipe," she said, nodding to the photo of her grandmother on the wall. That is who started making the caramel corn at a time before Karen Carmazzi can remember.

She does remember her grandmother giving her a Tupperware bowl – she still has it – with caramel corn and a congratulatory card upon her college graduation. "I knew it meant something," she said.

What moving to a storefront means is the opportunity to serve more people face-to-face, along with wholesale customers like Taylor's Market.

It's also in Nugget Market, said Bev Krikorian, Carmazzi's neighbor who has sent bags of the stuff to Southern California, Florida and Pennsylvania. "It's a wonderful product."

Moving the operation to a shop means a little more room to live her life at home. Before the move, "to watch TV, I would have to move boxes," she said.

Carmazzi's Caramel Corn is still moving boxes, but success means they're moving boxes out the door of the Arden shop, heading to more customers than before.

Still, it all originated in Curtis Park.



Optometry practice coming to Amalia development

By Matthew Royal

Nichole R. Moos, owner of Capitol Optometry, is bringing her business and enthusiasm to the new Amalia development on 24th Street.

"It's always been a dream to live and work in the community," said Moos, an optometrist who lives in Curtis Park "It's in a great spot for the community, and the services we're offering should jive."

She acquired her current practice, located downtown near 12th and J Street, in 2019. However, Moos recognized the changing employment landscape during the pandemic, with more people working from home, and the desire for convenient local services.

"We've been getting feedback from patients who say they don't want to come downtown as much as they used to," Moos said. She plans to maintain her downtown location, which boasts a wide range of eyeglass frames, from affordable options to boutique finds.

The new practice will offer primary care optometry services and specialty services to new and current patients, such as a dry-eye clinic and myopia control for children.

"Dry eyes are becoming more of an issue," Moos noted. "We'll also focus on myopia control to help children with nearsightedness through specialty contact lenses and drops. I really love working with kids, and I'm hoping to get to work more with kids in this location."

Moos said that they are currently in the permitting process for tenant improvements and could have a grand opening as early as February 2024, with a tentative move-in date in the first quarter of 2024.

Submit your creations for Park Arts

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

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LEISURE

Book Club

2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 12

Nov. 13 – "The Cat's Table," Michael Ondaatje

Nonfiction Book Club

3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon Room 12

Nov. 16 – "Great Influenza: The story of the deadliest pandemic," John Barry

Life History Writing

Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

Open Art Studio

Bring your art or craft project to work on while socializing.
Fridays, noon-3 p.m. Room 11

CARDS & GAMES

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Fridays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

Mahjong

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Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

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Thursday, Nov. 16, 9:30-11 a.m. Room 7

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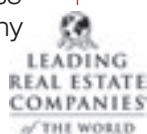
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10:00 a.m.-noon
\$30

In keeping with a Thanksgiving theme, we will create a cornucopia. Our artistic cornucopia is an opportunity to study composition and shading. Your completed picture can be framed and hung or given as a gift. Local artist and teacher Marie Taylor offers step-by-step instruction in a relaxed and welcoming environment for ages 16 and up. This class is ideal for beginners or those wishing to practice their drawing skills.

PAINT & SIP: WOODEN STACKING TOYS WORKSHOP
Sunday, Nov. 12
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
\$45 (includes three toys and materials)

Join us for this fun and creative workshop where you'll custom-paint three wooden toys for one-of-a-kind gifts. Toys include one three-piece nesting hill, a wooden fox and a rainbow nesting set with six sizes.



You will be provided with 100% organic Milk paint colors that are environmentally friendly, non-toxic and safe for kids and pets. You're welcome to bring your favorite drink (wine, cider and beer are OK; no cocktails please) and snacks.

HOLIDAY CARD MAKING: GNOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Sunday, Nov. 26
10 a.m.-noon
\$30

Gnomes are part of Scandinavian folklore and are thought to have magical powers. Symbols of good luck, they live under houses and protect children, animals and gardens. This year, put a bit of old-fashioned magic in your own yuletide season at our workshop. Choose from a dozen gnome designs and create four one-of-a-kind holiday cards or art pieces. Personal, step-by-step instruction so easy even a gnome could do it. Cards, envelopes and glitter provided. You bring your colored pencils

or markers and a few basic supplies. Finish up that leftover turkey, then come to this fun workshop held the Sunday after Thanksgiving!

SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

Punch cards \$80/10 classes; \$45/5 classes or \$10 drop-in (purchase in the Sierra 2 office)

TAI CHI CHUAN

Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1

STRENGTH AND BALANCE

Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1
 Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon, Studio 1

LINE DANCE CLASS

Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 2

ZUMBA GOLD

Mondays & Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2



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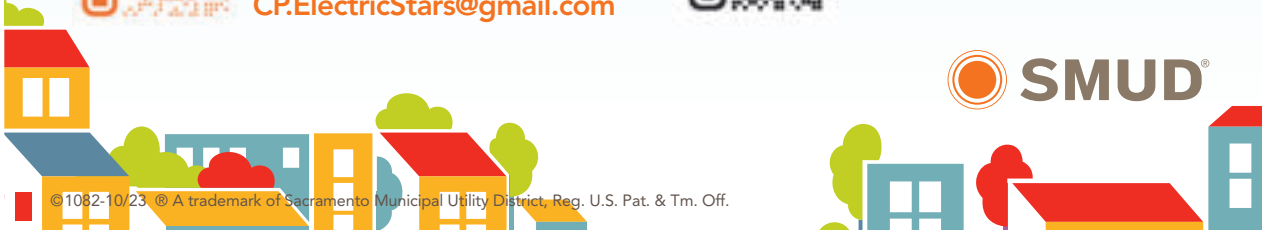
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Scan this code to learn more about available rebates or visit smud.org/Rebates

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Tickets: \$20-\$30.
Advance tickets available.

Friday, Nov. 3:

Crying Uncle with Jason & Jonah Howard, Bluegrass, Dawg, Jazz. David



Tony Gilkyson

Grisman-recommended young stars of the festival circuit and "2023 IBMA Momentum Band of the Year"

Saturday, Nov. 4: Anton Barbeau & Allyson Seconds Band, London- and Sacramento-based indie-pop stars. "Brain-burrowing melody and mystical psych-guitar fuzz" — Spin Magazine

Friday, Nov. 10: California Bluegrass Reunion, six internationally known instrumentalists who all have deep connections to the Golden State

Saturday, Nov. 11: "Tribute to Jazz Legend Wayne Shorter," Northern California groove/chamber band Tumble, with Curtis Park-based reeds player Tony Passarell

Friday, Nov. 17: Dave Nachmanoff & The Usual Culprits, Davis-based guitar virtuoso with a doctorate in philosophy who cut his musical teeth performing and collaborating with singer-songwriter Al Stewart ("Year of the Cat")

Saturday, Nov. 18: Rick Shea & Tony Gilkyson, haunting, ironic, darkly humorous seasoned guitarists/songwriters with A-list resumes (Shea with Wanda Jackson, Dave Alvin, R.E.M.; Gilkyson with Tom Waits, X, Bob Dylan, T-Bone Burnett)

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Tuesdays: "Dead Night" with Dick's Picks, Dave's Picks and unreleased. 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Thursdays: Black Yacht Club presents "The Acoustic Circus," 1st Thursday, 7-9 p.m. "On the 2 & the 4," Jazz with Kent Lacin & Two Rivers Trio," 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.

Fridays: "Local Sounds" acoustic showcase hosted by Four-Eyed Whale, 6-9 p.m.

Sundays: Ukulele class with Gurukulele (Jim Coats), 4-5 p.m.

"Sunday Acoustic Jam," 1st Sunday monthly 1-4 p.m.

"Drum Circle," 3rd Sunday monthly 5-7 p.m.

— Mincy Giles

Support live music!
#SaveOurStages!

Light Up Curtis Park around the corner

It's time for our 3rd Annual Light Up Curtis Park! Untangle the lights and spruce up your outdoor space to dazzle nighttime passersby and neighbors.

Here's how you can get involved:

Decorate your front yard, porch, windows, roof, bikes or pets with festive lights and creative displays.

Starting the weekend after Thanksgiving (Nov. 24), register your space for the People's Choice competition using the form at Sierra2.org/LightUp23. Registration closes Dec. 15.

Walk, bike or drive through the neighborhood enjoying your neighbors' creations. Vote for your favorite decorated spaces online Dec. 16 through Dec. 31. Winners will be announced on Jan. 4 and will be



awarded gift cards donated by local businesses.

— Heather Hogan

Angel Tree takes flight Nov. 15

Sierra 2 will once again participate in the Angel Tree Program over the holidays. This is the community's eighth year participating in the Salvation Army program, and this year Sierra 2 organizers hope to fulfill the wishes of 100 children.

The Angel Tree Program assists families hoping to fulfill their child's gift wishes. Families apply for Christmas assistance and are screened and approved based on income. When you "adopt" an "angel," that boy or girl will receive the gifts they've requested.

The process is simple. When donors visit the Angel Tree in the Sierra 2 Center hallway near Great Beginnings, which is accessible by both the front and back doors of the building, they select a tag that represents one child. Each tag includes the child's name, age and toy preference along with clothing sizes. Donors must log their tag information on the provided sign-in sheet on the podium next to the tree. Donors take the tag as a guide when shopping, purchasing as little or as much as they can. All gifts go to that individual child. Donors then return their new and unwrapped gifts with the tag to the Sierra 2 Center Main Office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. Gifts should not be left in the hallway or under the tree.

Donors can pick up a Salvation Army Angel tag starting on Nov. 15, and information about when the gifts are due back will be available soon. Watch for updates on the program on the SCNA website. Organizers hope to fulfill each angel's wishes when deliveries are made in December.



Sierra 2 file photo

Sierra 2 Center Booking Specialist Stacy Gray can answer questions. Contact her by email at stacy@sierra2.org or call 916-452-3005 x200.

— Stacy Gray

Neighbor joins California Assembly race

Rosanna Herber, a 31-year Curtis Park resident and former SCNA Board president, has joined a crowded field of Democrats to run for the state Assembly's 6th District. She aims to replace Kevin McCarty, who is leaving the Assembly in a run to replace Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. The mayor will not seek a third term and leaves office at the end of 2024. The 6th District covers most of the city of Sacramento and part of the unincorporated county.



Rosanna Herber

Herber, a SMUD board representative since 2018, will join Sean Frame, Maggy Krell, Lex Lazar, Carlos Marquez, Evan Minton and Paula Marie Villescay in her Assembly bid.

Herber served as SCNA president from 2008-2010 and another four years as a board member. She also has been a *Viewpoint* contributor. Herber was chief of staff for Sacramento Councilwoman Kim Mueller from 1992-1996.

"I know this might sound corny, but I really do believe that government has the power to make people's lives better," she said as her reason for running. "I have seen that at SMUD, and I want to take it to a higher level."

This article does not constitute an endorsement of the candidate.

— Dorsey Griffith



General Manager Guido Benitez and Regional Vice President Robby Solomon
Photo by Steve Martarano

Finally open!

After eight months of construction and a SMUD delay, City Sports Club General Manager Guido Benitez and Regional Vice President Robby Solomon welcome new members to the finally finished Crocker Village fitness center. So far, more than 1,500 members have joined the 37,000-square-foot club. "So many neighbors from Curtis Park have said how wonderful it is to have a gym within walking distance and with so many available hours," said Benitez. For more information visit citysportsfitness.com.

— Patti Roberts



Happy 100th!

Like many of our neighbors, we will celebrate the 100th birthday of our house on Sixth Avenue in 2024. To commemorate the event, we commissioned an art installation for the front of our house. We drew what we wanted, trying to stay within a style appropriate for the vintage, and handed it to Andrew Uaiz, a sculptor, among other things. Putting this bas-relief on the wall of the front porch was a natural choice as it was a blank canvas, it is protected from the elements and the location allowed for a subtle display. After about 200 hours of work, Andrew's expertise and creativity surpassed anything we could have dreamed.

— Natsuki Fukasawa



Artist Andrew Uaiz next to his bas-relief (above), and with homeowners Natsuki Fukasawa and Richard Cionco, who commissioned the piece for their 100-year-old home.

Photos by Nikki Ritcher Photography

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SATURDAY MORNINGS

BALLET/BASIC ■ BALLET 1

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Richard@TwoRiversDanceCenter.com

location: Sierra 2 Center

two rivers dance center

HOME OF RIVER CITY TAPS

Unlocking hope: Balancing quality-of-life impacts with services

To those who know me, as well as those who don't, I am very proud to be your council member. As such, there are a lot of issues that we will work on together, and I look forward to working with you to make things better in the city we love with all of our hearts. In the 37 years I have lived in Sacramento, I have not seen homelessness at the level that I see it now. You have expressed to me that addressing homelessness in our city, community and neighborhoods is the first, second and third priority. The mayor and the city council agree with you. At the recent council priority-setting workshop, we designated homelessness as the foremost concern for the city, followed by public safety and infrastructure/basic city services.

Many of you are aware of the framework within which we must operate when addressing homelessness, including the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *Martin v. Boise* and multiple federal court injunctions that have, at times, halted or limited the city's enforcement opportunities. It's important to note that the necessary shelter beds and services are provided by the county, as outlined in the City/County Partnership Agreement. I believe we all understand that

**RICK
JENNINGS**
City
Council
Member
District 7



developing long-term solutions for shelter and services will take time due to the complex nature of the issue.

The impact of the homeless crisis on our community's quality of life has been profound. This crisis has had stark consequences for residents, businesses and visitors to our city. Despite the challenges posed by the Boise decision and federal court enforcement injunctions, as a city government, we must proceed to ensure compliance with the Sacramento City Code and relevant state statutes such as the California Vehicle Code. This compliance effort is aimed at addressing the quality of life and public safety issues resulting from homelessness on our streets.

To me, compliance with our city codes to address crime, public-health issues, trash problems, public safety concerns and their impact on businesses is the missing piece of the puzzle. While

our anti-camping enforcement efforts are limited by the Boise decision, there are still actions we can take. In fact, the courts have indicated that "camp management" to ensure compliance with local codes and address issues related to trash and public health is permitted. The challenge lies in striking the necessary balance between achieving code compliance and providing the shelter and services homeless individuals need.

My decisions and actions have been informed by my experience with my church's Winter Sanctuary Program. My wife and I were actively involved in this ministry, partnering with other faith communities during the winter to provide shelter to the homeless. The most impactful aspect of this experience was observing the same individuals returning year after year. Despite services offered day after day, month after month, and year after year, the same individuals continued to return.

I cannot condone allowing homeless individuals to remain trapped in a cycle of disordered thinking and related activities. While this approach may not be popular or supported by everyone, I firmly believe that we need to implement disruptive actions to break the cycle of disordered thinking and behavior among the homeless, with the hope that they will become more receptive to receiving services. The current problem is that the overwhelming majority of homeless individuals are resistant to accepting services. As the mayor often points out, during one encampment cleanup, 33 homeless individuals were offered shelter and services, but only one person accepted. Unfortunately, this low level of service acceptance is the norm rather than the exception.

To me, the issue lies in finding the balance between addressing the impacts on our community's quality of life and providing shelter and services. While I am not a member of the working group between the city and county, the participation of city council members and the board of supervisors is limited by the state law known as the Brown Act. Consequently, when the first report on the City-County Partnership was delivered at the end of May, I requested a council workshop on enforcement. I was pleased that the council agreed, and in late June we had a discussion that provided direction to staff to return with an aggressive program for local code compliance and relevant state statutes. The council passed a resolution

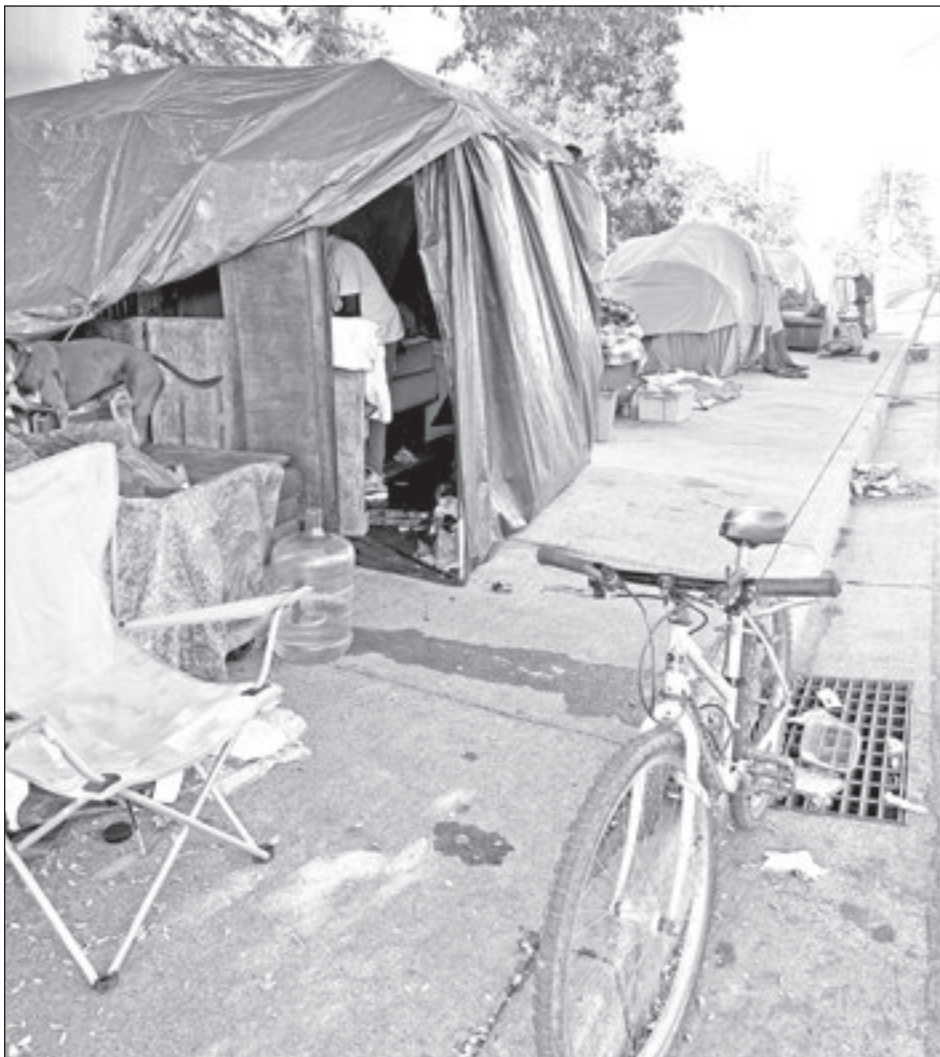
at the beginning of August by a 7-2 vote to enhance enforcement and secure the necessary budget authority to ensure code compliance. Subsequently, the Sacramento Homeless Union sued us, and a federal judge imposed an injunction on the city, preventing us from enforcing our codes.

The 7-2 vote was pivotal because it also included the Homeless Response Protocols, establishing the Rapid Response Model with a focus on code compliance as the goal. This demonstrates our commitment to balancing the need for quality of life and public safety while working toward shelter and services, which is a significant step forward.

Enforcing compliance with critical infrastructure regulations, restrictions on nighttime park activities, sidewalk ordinances, the California Vehicle Code and rules regarding the storage of private property on public land can be enforced under the Boise decision. This aims to strike a balance between addressing quality-of-life issues and providing shelter and services. Through discussions with staff, it has become evident that they require additional tools to better mitigate the impacts on quality of life and public safety.

Councilmember Guerra and I introduced a daytime camping ordinance for city council consideration. We collaborated with staff to devise a plan to mitigate the impacts on quality of life while our partnership with the county focuses on shelter and services. We are drawing insights from cities like San Diego that have implemented similar measures and seen significant reductions in their homeless populations.

By prohibiting daytime camping, homeless individuals will be required to store their belongings through a city-provided program or private means. They will be limited in what they can pack up and move each day. The hope is that they will avail themselves of services offered during compliance actions or later at a CORE center or other facilities. The proliferation of illegal encampments in our city cannot continue. For far too long, we have not adequately addressed the impact of homelessness on our community's quality of life and public safety. My council colleagues and I are actively working to bring about this change while remaining committed to providing shelter and services through our partnership with the county.



Homeless encampment along Alhambra Boulevard.

Photo by Dorsey Griffith

Viewpoint writer and photographer captures recent eclipse

Despite the cloudy skies, it was possible to get a glimpse of the Oct. 15 annular solar eclipse, which occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the earth. Total eclipses are rare because the moon must pass exactly in line between the sun and Earth. If the moon is close to Earth, it will block enough of the sky to cover the entire globe of the sun, creating a total solar eclipse. If the moon is at a far point in its orbit, it will not cover the entire sun and a ring of fire will appear on the uncovered edges, creating an annular eclipse. While the Oct. 15 event was an annular eclipse, the view from Curtis Park was partial because we were not in the center of the moon's shadow as it crossed the U.S. Nonetheless, the 86% blockage was exciting to witness.

— Dan Murphy



Harlene Barrett

Photo courtesy of the Barrett Family

Harlene Barrett, former SCNA board chair and volunteer, passes

Harlene Barrett, who was active on the SCNA board from 1996 through 2003, passed away on Sept. 4.

Barrett was first elected to the SCNA board in 1996, co-chaired the Community Services Committee through 2000, became board vice president in 2001 and served as board president in 2002 and 2003.

Prior to her tenure as president, SCNA had suffered a financial and management setback, so in her role as president she focused on getting SCNA back on a secure footing.

Anticipating the growth of the retired baby boomer population, Harlene strongly advocated for a recreation and education activity program for seniors at Sierra 2 Center managed by SCNA. She secured funding from the City of Sacramento's Hart Trust Fund to get it started. The Senior Center has grown by leaps and bounds ever since.

Harlene was an artistic and talented decorator. Twice she and her husband, Sonny Barrett, opened their beautiful 24th Street Craftsman for the annual home and garden tour. She also wrote for *Viewpoint*.

"She was warm, smart and had a great sense of humor," said her neighbor, Charon Jenner. "She was quietly persistent and a good note-taker. I would never have wanted to go up against her in a lawsuit!"

No services are planned.

— Andrea Rosen



Badminton anyone?

Jayne and John Mangles delighted neighbors again this Halloween with their annual witches and ghosts tableau. This year's version, in the yard of their home at 22nd Street and Marshall Way, was a badminton face-off refereed by a skeleton. Jayne is already designing next year's display. "The planning is part of the fun of it," she said.

Photo by Anne Da Vigo

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Flavor of the Month in November:

RUM RAISIN!

Annual Fall Festival provides treats of all kinds for Bret Harte families

On the evening of Oct. 27, students, families and staff attended the popular Fall Festival on the Bret Harte Elementary campus. This was the second such festival since students returned to school after the pandemic and a welcome celebration for the new school year and holiday season. The annual event also gives new families a chance to meet one another and get to know their Bret Harte community. This year, participants also enjoyed the upgraded blacktop and shade structure completed over the summer, along with the new school murals completed last November.

The Bret Harte PTA began planning for the event in early September and recruited parent and teacher volunteers to help. PTA President Adam Gothard said planning the 2023 event went smoothly thanks to the efforts made during the inaugural festival.

“Last year’s festival we spent a lot of time planning, organizing materials and making repairs (to games and equipment), he said. “We also took note of what was successful and what could be improved upon, which made planning this year’s event much easier.”

Children played minigolf, bowling and Plinko.



**LAUREN
GOTHARD
and
LINDSEY
SIN**

The carnival-style games were made by hand and donated by a Bret Harte parent several years ago. The games were staffed by sixth-grade volunteers who enjoyed assisting younger students. Other activities for kids and families included musical cakes where participants had a chance to win donated baked goods. Additional entertainment included a photo booth, music, dancing and temporary tattoos.

“The best part about the Fall Festival is being able to be in the same space with all the families enjoying the festivities and bonding as a community,” said school Principal Roxanne Wolfe.

To make the event more equitable for all families, the PTA opted against a silent auction and instead hosted a raffle that allowed everyone to participate.

“By changing the format of fundraising, our hope was that the event felt inviting for everyone,” said



Nathan Moody, Bret Harte Mascot (Daniel Moody) and Elizabeth Moody.
Photos by Janet Moody

Gothard. Earnings from the raffle will go toward future school events for all students.

Trunk-or-treat, an annual favorite, returned this year. Teachers decorated the trunks of their vehicles and filled them to the top with trinkets and candy. Children enjoyed showing off their Halloween costumes and walking to each vehicle for a fun treat.

Another favorite also returned for this year’s festival: tacos made to order by Bret Harte’s long-time yard duty staffer, Ms. Letty. Like last year, she also enlisted her grown children to help and, as expected, the taco line was non-stop for the entire event.

Another highlight this year was Bret Harte parent Christopher Mack and his food truck, For The Love Of Malta. The newcomer shared his love of Maltese food with the community and donated 100% of his commission back to the school. Mack’s food offerings were a welcome addition to the gathering of hungry students and families. Popcorn, hotdogs, nachos and cotton candy also were available. The event was a huge success, thanks to the many parent, teacher and student volunteers who made it possible.



Teachers at trunk or treat during the 2022 Fall Festival
L-R: Ted Richardson, Heather Bunney, Sonia Carrillo and Karen Lim

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