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Land Park News

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City Council OKs West Broadway revitalization plan

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Cover by: Lance Armstrong

Popular Land Park cooking instructor adjusts to pandemic offering weekly online cooking classes



On Thursdays at 5 p.m. well-respected Sacramento foodie, Paulette Bruce of Land Park, reinvents her popular Good Eats Cooking Classes with weekly highly anticipated online classes designed to appeal to everyone, from beginners to home chefs who know their way around the kitchen.

"With the COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place order, my live classes had to close in March 2020," said Bruce. "I had been asked many times by friends and family to begin teaching online classes as this new way of learning began to gain momentum and with help from Dane Henas Design and Penny Sylvia Photography it's come to fruition."

Utilizing four cameras positioned in her home kitchen, Bruce will offer recipe instruction with the added bonus of two way communication…members will be able to ask questions as she demonstrates each step of the recipe process.

(Classes are typically one hour with an optional interactive prep time starting 15 minutes before class)

"During this time I can observe what the members doing, give advice and answer their questions so they're completely prepared when the class starts." Some of the classes each month will be live on Zoom while others will be recorded and, like all the classes, available for viewing to current members, as long as their membership remains active.

During August, Bruce has hosted dry runs on Zoom using a test group and has launched a new web site — goodeatscookingclasses.com

September 3 was the first of four classes this month, with September featuring an emphasis on Italian cuisine. The concept is structured around monthly memberships.

The cost for monthly membership is only $29 per month, which includes:

2 Live, interactive classes via Zoom

2 Recorded classes

Recipes and a list of recommend kitchen tools

Bonus content & access to a private Facebook members page

Weekly blogs filled with tips, techniques, recipes and more

The FAQ section on the web site answers all pertinent questions and includes a link to submit further questions and a tutorial on downloading, installing and using Zoom. As with her in-person classes, these online classes will be characterized by Bruce's larger than life, affable personality that, over the decades, has built a large, faithful following.

"I love what I do. I love to bring people together and teach them something they never thought possible to do on their own. My classes are always fun and informative. I'm invested in creating more confident and better cooks, and during this challenging time, members can achieve that in the safety of their own homes."

The media is invited to Paulette's kitchen and she is available for in studio appearances as well as phone interviews. Here's a direct link to her roasted salmon class.

https://www.goodeatscookingclasses.com/salmon-intro

Starting with her education in the kitchens of her mother and grandmother, Paulette Bruce has been a leading food expert in our region, reviewing restaurants as one of Sacramento Magazine's Dining Divas. She has also presented cooking segments on every TV station in Sacramento and has been a cooking instructor in her Good Eats Cooking Classes for 30 years.





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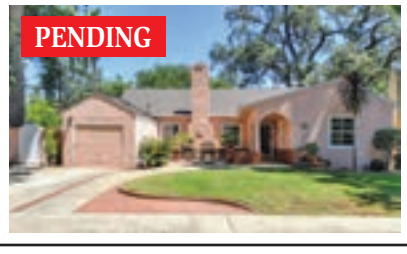
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615 Fremont Way | $529,990

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901 3rd Avenue | $799,990

City Council OKs West Broadway revitalization plan

Plan allows for possible, future demolition of nationally recognized, historic housing project

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

The Sacramento City Council on Aug. 24 voted in favor of a revitalization plan that could lead to the demolition of a large group of historically significant buildings at the west end of Broadway.

Built in the early 1940s and originally known as New Helvetia, this 360-acre public housing project was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. The site is currently known as Alder Grove.

Located along the south side of Broadway, between 6th Street and Muir Way, this complex of 62 brick veneer-faced buildings is the city's oldest public housing.

Although built as public housing, the structures initially served as defense housing during World War II and have spent the rest of their existence being utilized for their original purpose.

Adding to this 360-unit complex's historical significance is its connection to Nathaniel Colley, the first black attorney to establish a private law practice in Sacramento and the former legal counsel of the local chapter of the NAACP – the nation's oldest civil rights organization.

In the early 1950s, after becoming aware that certain, mostly black residents were being segregated in 16 units at New Helvetia, Colley filed a lawsuit against the city's housing authority that led to the end that practice.

Despite efforts by various community members, consisting of activists, historians and other citizens who hoped to convince the council to not approve the city's proposed revitalization plan for the area – as it is written, with no guaranteed protection for any of the historic New Helvetia structures – the council ultimately voted, 8-0, in favor of that plan. Council Member Allen Warren was present during the meeting but did not respond to a request for his vote, possibly due to an audio issue.

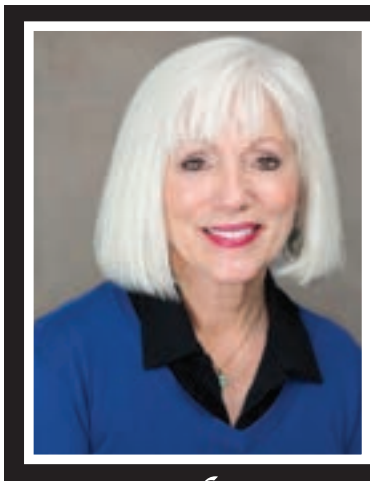
The plan – the West Broadway Specific Plan,

see BROADWAY page 4

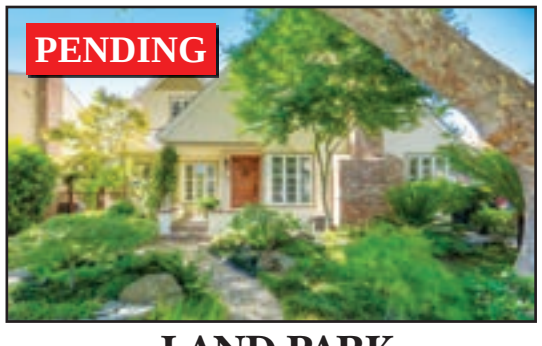


Photos by Lance Armstrong

A group of locals portraying the iconic Rosie the Riveter character of World War II are pictured in front of the Alder Grove public housing project, south of Broadway. Built in the early 1940s, these structures were originally used as defense housing during that war.



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LAND PARK

Charming remodeled Tudor in the heart of Land Park. Exterior has mature trees, stone paver driveway and iron gate. Features include dual pane windows, hardwoods, porcelain tile, stone and carpeting. Spacious and light-filled living room with fireplace. This leads to adjacent dining area w/ large windows and built-in hutch. Light and bright kitchen, custom white and walnut cabinets, granite counters and recessed lighting. Eating area has four large windows and separate breakfast bar. Mudroom with pantry, sink and wine fridge. Family room opens to kitchen with French doors to backyard. Two beds & full bath are adjacent to family room. Upstairs master suite plus two additional rooms, high ceilings, three wardrobe closets and a huge walk-in closet. Master bath includes over-sized shower, jetted tub, double vanity sinks and granite counters. Upstairs laundry has storage, granite counters and 1/2 bath. Lush backyard is beautifully landscaped with brick and flagstone patios.
1776 10th Avenue $1,300,000



GREENHAVEN

This home is in original condition and features a large tiled entry, formal living room with fireplace and vaulted beamed ceiling. Separate formal dining room, also with fireplace, opens to yard. Spacious kitchen with corian counters, dining bar and eating area that opens to yard and the family room. Family room has fireplace and a wet bar w/ refrigerator. Three bedrooms, two baths plus a den. Oversized master bedroom with large shower and great closet space. Backyard with covered patios.
6640 Havenside Drive $585,000



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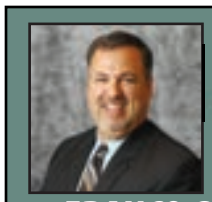
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A group gathers at the southwest corner of Muir Way and Broadway on Aug. 24 in support of the preservation of the structures of the historic New Helvetia public housing project at that site. This event, which included speeches, occurred a day prior to the Sacramento City Council's vote on a revitalization plan in that area.



Community activist Jay Brown speaks in favor of the preservation of the historic New Helvetia structures, on Aug. 24.



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Broadway:

continued from page 3

which includes the New Helvetia Historic District – is a document designed to set policy for future development for the next 20 years, within a 279-acre area that is generally bounded by Highway 50 and Broadway on the north; Muir Way and 5th Street on the east; 4th Avenue on the south; and the Sacramento River on the west.

The plan also allows for other income-level housing in this area.

According to a city press release, the plan is designed with the intention of improving the area's connectivity with Land Park, the Sacramento River and the central part of the city. Within the plan are new city streets that would run through Alder Grove and necessitate the demolition of its historic structures.

The boundaries of the plan also include the 391-unit Marina Vista low-income, government-owned housing project, which, along with Alder Grove, is managed by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA). Marina Vista was built in the 1950s.

That agency is the largest public funder and provider of affordable housing in Sacramento.

SHRA Executive Director La Shelle Dozier told the council that maintaining the agency's public housing structures has been a struggle.

"There has been a disinvestment and it has been difficult for us to maintain them with the resources that the federal government has provided," she said.

Maintenance issues have been an ongoing concern for many Alder Grove residents. Those issues include plumbing and electrical problems and a lack of air conditioning in some of the units.

Because of the ongoing deterioration of Alder Grove and Marina Vista, Dozier said that "something drastic" will have to be done in the future, whether that be renovation or demolishing those buildings.

Although SHRA obtained U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) authorization for the rehabilitation of all of its public housing throughout the county, that plan does not guarantee the preservation of this area's public housing.

Because of the larger size of Alder Grove, rehabilitation of those buildings would not begin until 2030. Marina Vista's rehabilitation is scheduled to begin in 2023.

Dozier noted that the exterior of the buildings would be preserved through these renovations.

Council Member Steve Hansen, whose District 4 includes the West Broadway plan area, stressed that this plan does not include a requirement for the demolition of the historic New Helvetia buildings.

"In the end, it's not clear that we're going to demolish any of the buildings, because there is no project," he said. "However, it is clear that in the future, these conversations are going to have to continue.

"And whether it's the (Nathaniel) Colley Coalition plan (to save a large portion of the buildings), which is feasible under the proposal before us, an alternative plan that changes the site, only through renovation or something else, this plan encompasses all of those options."

Hansen added that whatever happens with this area's historic public housing buildings, public housing will remain a part of that area.

"This plan retains the public housing and brings

see REVITALIZATION page 5

Revitalization:

continued from page 4



People hold signs in support of the preservation of New Helvetia on a portion of a sidewalk just north of Alder Grove.

more mixed-use and affordable senior housing into the project," he said.

He noted that the Choice Neighborhoods initiative plan requires that the public housing units "be replaced at least one for one."

Hansen recommended that the Alder Grove site include a center for teaching children about segregation and community activists, "like Nathaniel Colley." He also suggested that Sacramento's future, $4 million courthouse be named after Colley, and that it include a civil rights exhibit.

Contrary to other members of the council, Warren referred to the revitalization plan as the "wrong project at the wrong time," and a "step in the wrong direction."

"The burden that will be bore by this project moving forward is going to be a major displacement issue for African Americans and people of color and lower-income people," he said. "It is inconclusive what will happen to people that live in this project currently.

"There are no guarantees about if any of them will come back or even find housing. There (are thousands of) people on the waiting list for housing right now. I've not seen anything that would assure them the ability to be in Sacramento, let alone in this community."

He also shared his belief that the demolition of Alder Grove's structures would add to the number of the city's homeless.

Warren, who noted that he was successfully represented by Colley during his youth and is a friend of the Colley family, also said that it would be a "major slap in the face" to Colley to have Alder Grove demolished.

"It's a tremendous loss for the city of Sacramento, let alone black people," he said. "Again, it really, to me, demonstrates the lack of understanding, cultural sensitivity.

"The council will do what they're going to do, but this, to me, is another example of the insensitivity of our city as it relates to people of color. We see it in law enforcement, we see it in employment, in the city of Sacramento, and we see it in housing."

Responding to Warren, Mayor Darrell Steinberg mentioned that if he believed that the revitalization plan would lead to more homelessness, he would not support it.

Dozier added that it is both a HUD and City Council requirement that arrangements be made for relocating tenants for any major plan or renovation of public housing.

She also noted that on average, public housing tenants would be displaced for about 45 days.

Council Member Larry Carr shared his belief that many residents and others do not understand the details of the city's West Broadway plan.

Supporting Carr, Council Member Angelique Ashby presented her own thoughts.

"When you put something in the city's 20-, 30-year, 100 million-year plan, whatever, it's very broad and it has a lot of discretion, and that's concerning," she said. "It uses the word, demolish, and yet the current project plan, as described by Executive Director La Shelle Dozier, doesn't intend to demolish anything."

Initialized through Carr's motion, the council conducted a preliminary vote on whether to delay their vote by one month, so that additional public outreach could be conducted.

The result of that vote was 6-3, with the dissenting votes coming from Carr, Warren and Ashby.

Prior to voting against the 30-day extension, Council Member Rick Jennings spoke in favor of denying that motion, passing the revitalization plan that evening, and continuing to educate the community about that plan.

"For this particular plan – not project – we need to make sure that we go back out and effectively communicate to the residents and to the surrounding community, because for whatever reason, there's conflicting information that has been given," he said.

Jennings added that there is time to relay the city's message, given that Marina Vista's rehabilitation is not scheduled to begin until 2023.

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Fight to save historic New Helvetia housing continues

Local nonprofit considers lawsuit to avoid possible demolition

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Supporters of the effort to save the historic New Helvetia public housing complex at the west end of Broadway say that fight did not end with the Sacramento City Council's Aug. 25 unanimous vote to approve a revitalization plan for that area.

Among those supporters, Dan Visnich, said this fight could ultimately result in a lawsuit.

Visnich, who is the acting chair of the nonprofit organization, Nathaniel S. Colley Sr. Civil Rights Coalition, told this publication last week that the coalition is currently contemplating suing the city to have at least a portion of those buildings preserved, and change the location of proposed streets that are permitted, through the revitalization plan, to run through the property and necessitate the demolition of its historic structures.

"We have not decided yet on whether to sue the city, make that clear," he said. "It's something that we're going to be talking about. We're holding a meeting next week and one of the issues we're going to take up is whether we should bring a suit against the city based on demolition and the street grid."

The city's revitalization plan – the West Broadway Specific Plan, which includes the New Helvetia Historic District – is a document designed to set policy for future development for the next 20 years, within a 279-acre area that is generally bounded by Highway 50 and Broadway on the north; Muir Way and 5th Street on the east; 4th Avenue on the south; and the Sacramento River on the west.

Included in that plan is specific language relating to the possible demolition of Alder Grove – the current name for the old New Helvetia buildings, which were constructed in the early 1940s.

A city press release mentions that the West Broadway Specific Plan is designed with the intention of improving the area's connectivity with Land Park, the Sacramento River and the central part of the city. That connectivity could be accomplished with city streets that would extend through Alder Grove.

Beyond their age and decades of use as homes for low-income residents, the 62, brick veneer-faced, historic New Helvetia buildings, between 6th Street and Muir Way, have other historical significance.

Although built as homes for some of the lowest income residents of the city, New Helvetia was initially used as defense housing during World War II.

Also of significance to the historic New Helvetia housing is its connection to Nathaniel Colley, the city's first full-time, black attorney and the former legal counsel of the local chapter of the NAACP – the nation's oldest civil rights organization.

In the early 1950s, Colley fought to desegregate this housing project, which is Sacramento's oldest public housing.

After becoming aware that certain, mostly black residents were being segregated in 16 units at New Helvetia, Colley filed a lawsuit against the city's housing authority that led to the end of that practice.

In recognition of New Helvetia's historical significance, the New Helvetia Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014.

The ongoing fight to save the historic New Helvetia buildings has included a peaceful protest held at Alder Grove on Aug. 24.

That event featured speeches and a socially distanced gathering of people who held signs that were visible to passing motorists along Broadway. Those signs included such messages as "Save Alder Grove," "No future demolition," "Historic and Important" and "The people have spoken."

In fighting for the preservation of the historic New Helvetia, the Nathaniel S. Colley Sr. Civil Rights Coalition is opposed to the possible complete demolition of these historic buildings.

The coalition adopted an alternative plan to save more than half of those buildings, while still meeting the density needs that were outlined in the city's draft proposal for this district.

This alternative plan also presents the establishment of the Nathaniel S. Colley Sr. Center, which would educate the public about the life of Colley and past and current civil rights and community issues.

As for the West Broadway revitalization plan, Visnich expressed disappointment in portions of that document, on behalf of the Colley Coalition.

"The Colley Coalition is disappointed that (the word), demolition, is still in the plan, as well as the street grid, which would result in demolishing the New Helvetia Historic District," he said. "The plan permits the complete demolition of the historic district.

"When a new (Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency) development proposal eventually comes forward, our coalition would continue to urge the council to remove that demolition (wording) from the plan and revise the new street grid."

Visnich additionally commented on SHRA's stated plan to rehabilitate the historic New Helvetia buildings in 2030.

"Our coalition, they don't buy that claim," he said. "During the hearing, they indicated that they neglected proper maintenance at New Helvetia for the past several years. That's despite the fact that the public housing tenants there have complained and protested that repairs were needed then and now.

"SHRA, they continuously contended for the past eight years in policy documents and now in this approved West Broadway Specific Plan that demolition is still their first choice."

Visnich noted that he believes that SHRA will be proposing and advocating for the demolition of the Alder Grove/New Helvetia buildings within the next five years.

In addition to contemplating a lawsuit against the city, the coalition plans to work with SHRA, the mayor and the City Council in their attempt to have a significant portion of Alder Grove preserved and a cultural center honoring Colley and other civil rights leaders created on that site.

Chris Lango, an archival historian who produced a documentary on Colley in 2013, said that he is concerned with the continued existence of the word, demolish, in the city's revitalization plan document.

"I know that this whole situation is turning on the

see HOUSING page 7

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Housing:

continued from page 6



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Alder Grove – historically known as New Helvetia – is located south of Broadway, between 6th Street and Muir Way.

word, demolish," he said. "(It is a) fact that it's still in the document, but yet verbally, the powers that be are saying, 'Well, we're really not focusing on demolish' or 'We're not going to demolish.'

"(The city's document notes that demolish) is not required, but it's allowed. And I know it gets tricky and very nuance in terms of how this is being communicated. And I think that is what is driving the frustration and the concern of a lot of residents whose homes face an uncertain future."

Lango added that with his admiration of Colley that includes his recognition that New Helvetia became the site of an early victory in the civil rights movement through the work of Colley, he is supporting the Colley Coalition's alternative to save more than half of the buildings and establish the Nathaniel S. Colley Sr. Center.

Berry Accius, a community activist and an active voice for the local African American community, mentioned that he is concerned for Alder Grove's residents, the majority of whom are people of color.

"Gentrification is something that has already happened in Sacramento communities of color," he said. "I just don't really believe that the best interests are of the people. The best interests are for the developers and how rich that land stock is."

Accius also shared his concern regarding the deterioration of Alder Grove's buildings.

"Wouldn't it just be under the management for upkeep?" he asked. "Do they necessarily have to displace people? Do I believe there needs to be a full-on rehab? For sure. But why are they creating this deal as being the only way this could happen? There should have been (rehabilitation) ongoing.

"It's a right of the tenants to make sure management is doing the particular things that they are supposed to do that's in their contract to do, but not create this idea that this rehab is going to come in a way of demolition and destroying everything. And rebuilding it and having the idea that we're going to bring everybody that lives here back. I just don't see that."



THIS 'n' THAT

by Carol Bogart

Do You Get Dressed These Days?

Not a few people I know admit they now stay in their pajamas all day long. Without jobs to go to or kids to take to school, even styling one's hair can be a bother. Especially if you reeeeeeally need a haircut.

This is not the first time I've experienced the 'too much time, too little structure' dilemma. Here's a story.

Back when I was a TV news reporter and working in Chicago, contracts there were 'renewed' every 13 weeks. Thirteen weeks! Little more than three months in, you could be fired. Before the Internet ruined everything (because people can find stuff out all by themselves), TV station ownership was a license to steal. For advertisers, TV commercials, especially during prime time news shows and the Superbowl, were both effective and VERY pricey. News people themselves were 'overhead'. The cost of TV anchors and reporters cut into a station's bottom line.

But, with money to burn, TV stations did such things as, gasp, pay moving expenses! Really! Even for reporters! With each, the station hoped to improve the 'product' in its news division. The flip side: Huge markets like Chicago would move someone they wanted from one end of the country to the other at the drop of a hat – and drop a 'flop' (say the sales manager didn't like a talent) just as quickly.

Throughout the year, but especially during 'ratings' periods (when 'eyes watching' are being measured), 'audience research' could and often did determine a new, or even long-time, tal-

see This 'n' That page 11

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Get your free trees: Soon it will be tree planting season

By Devin Lavelle

We're all spending a lot more time at home these days. That inevitably gets us thinking about the things we could do to make our homes nicer, more pleasant places to spend our time – how to make our yards a cool, relaxing retreat that we really love. My favorite part of our backyard is the big redwood tree shading our home and yard. It almost feels like I'm in a forest, shadier, cooler and more relaxing than the suburban neighborhood that lies just on the other side of our house.

If you already have great trees at your home, you probably know what I'm talking about, but if not, there is a great opportunity to transform your yard – for free!

I spoke with Victoria Vasquez from the Sacramento Tree Foundation about their shade tree program and the important role trees play in making Sacramento a wonderful place to live.

Devin: Hi Victoria, thanks for taking the time to chat with me. Can you start by telling me a little about yourself?

Victoria: I'm the NeighborWoods organizer for South Sacramento, working to address air pollution and inequities in South Sacramento and the way we do that is with trees.

I'm the mother of two daughters, both of whom has asthma, so the work is really important to me. I've lived in Sacramento for most of my life, grew up along the river, spent my childhood playing there and built the foundation for a lifelong love of trees. Working for a nonprofit is really important to me, especially because it allows my girls to see the impact of the work that I do. I'm a nine year Girl Scout troop leader, teaching young women about the environment and their community and how to be active members of society.

Devin: That's really fantastic. You're clearly a great role model. So as neighbors are spending time thinking about home improvement, what would you recommend they think about?

Victoria: When we're sequestered in our homes and thinking about how we can improve our backyards, trees are a great option. Planting trees brings a lot of important value in terms of shade, clean air and neighborhood beauty. The Sacramento Tree Foundation can provide up to ten free shade trees for your home. It's totally free of charge, we are just looking for areas to expand our urban forest in the City of Trees.

Devin: I thought you might say that! So just order a tree, dig a hole and we're done?

Victoria: Well it's a little more complicated than that, but not by that much. Probably the most important service we offer is a free professional consultation to ensure that you are planting your trees in the right location to ensure that they grow in a way that provides great shade but doesn't interfere with sidewalks, solar generation or other infrastructure.

All of the trees that are offered are specifically and strategically chosen because they grow well in the region. They will use the appropriate amount of water for your yard and be the hardiest species of tree for your personal location. Often time people think that they like their neighbor's tree and want the same one. But that leads to issues with biodiversity. If all the trees are the same species, a disease can come through and wipe out the whole block. We'll make sure the place you plant the tree doesn't lead to roots destroying your entire backyard, they'll pinpoint the exact spot for your tree. It can even be done virtually using GoogleEarth.

We'll encourage you to call 811 before you dig because you never know what's under the ground right there. It's super important and you'll suddenly know where everything is under your house. They'll all come out within just a few days. It's a wonderful free service as well.

see TREES page 9

Trees:

continued from page 8

The tree that arrives will be a 5 gallon tree. It will seems small, but we know that the smaller the tree, the hardier it will grow. Don't be discouraged if it seems small when it comes to your door with consistent deep watering you will see growth. We'll even leave a laminated booklet with easy instructions on caring for the tree.

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Devin: Absolutely, we've worked together on several tree plantings in District 7 parks and, although I started as a complete amateur, it was easy to learn – so easy my 4-year-old Henry can do it! There's a tree at Seymour Park that we consider "his" tree. It was the first one he helped plant. He's very proud of it. It's a great project to share with kids or grandkids.

Victoria: Definitely, my girls help out sometimes too. They love to point out the trees they've planted when we drive through town. I know a lot of people are scared of planting trees, because they are concerned that the tree will damage the sidewalk or other infrastructure leading to higher costs in the future. But that can really be alleviated by a free consultant with a professional, ensuring the right tree is planted in the right spot. Also, the hole is never more than 18 inches deep, it's not very labor intensive.

Devin: That's great, when you're putting in a tree that will live and grow for decades, you definitely want to make sure you do it right. Speaking of doing it right, it seems like there's huge variation in the number of trees in different neighborhoods.

Victoria: That's right. Decades ago when the city was built, the City decided which neighborhoods were going to get planting strips and which did not. Neighborhoods that do not have large front yards or planting strips have had decades of inequity. When you think of neighborhoods that are more lush like Land Park or East Sac, what you may not realize is that the city owns those trees and maintains those trees. After Prop 13, the city bought easements in wealthier neighborhoods to allow them to continue that maintenance.

Lower income neighborhoods don't typically have trees maintained by the city and today we see a direct effect on the residents who live there. They have the most asthma in the region, the highest temperatures, higher rates of heat death and lower birthweights, even more allergies. The heat island effect is a serious issues in many neighborhoods without shade canopies but the hot air doesn't stay in those neighborhoods and heats the surrounding neighborhoods in the region as well. Instead of having city maintained trees in planting strips, these lower income neighborhoods are expected to pay to plant and care for their own trees.

Devin: That hardly seems fair. The city doesn't care for my trees.

Victoria: The long term goal is to raise the tree canopy in a socially equitable way so that all Sacramentans can enjoy cleaner air and better health.

Can I tell you an interesting story?

Devin: Please do!

Victoria: The indigenous residents of this area's whole lives depended on the oak tree. They used it for shade, jewelry, food, everything. The song rock a bye baby comes from this area, which was really about the trees. They made their cradles from the young branches and tied them into the trees when the children began to walk, watching the baby and the tree grow together. The song ends, as the bow breaks, the cradle will fall. This is talking about the life cycle of the trees, which is an important thing to think about. Trees have long lives, but they still need to be replaced and that's our responsibility.

We have often lost that connection with nature. We have grocery stores and buildings and pushed the trees away. We went from completely depending on trees, to pushing them away to replace them with hardscape. Now we're starting to understand the benefits of trees and understanding that trees are a nice, holistic way of improving the environment, capturing air pollution, improving public health. Standing next to a tree can even lower our blood pressure.

Right now, as we're stuck at home, if we're lucky enough



to have our own yards, by planting trees we're doing our part, cleaning our air, cleaning our neighbor's air, it's really a team effort.

Since we have more time at home with our children now, we're showing them how we're investing in their future and caring about them by planting trees that will help fight climate change and showing them how to care for their own futures.

Devin: That's so true, thanks for your time Victoria.

Victoria: Thank you and be sure to call us at 916-924-TREE (8733) or visit sactree.org to learn more.

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Herbert Yee receives national recognition for volunteer service

By LANCE ARMSTRONG



Photos by Lance Armstrong

Herbert Yee, seated, is joined by members of his family at the event.

Dr. Herbert Yee, a retired Sacramento dentist, on July 25 received the President's Volunteer Service Award.

This award, which was founded by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation in 2003, is a civil award bestowed by the president of the United States. It recognizes individuals whose service has made a positive impact on communities throughout the nation, and those who inspire others to take action.

Yee, 95, was presented the award during a ceremony held before a small, socially distanced group of mostly members of his family. The event was held in the backyard of his South Land Park home.

David Yee, who presented the award, described his grandfather as a "fitting recipient of this prestigious award."

While standing the currently recommended social distance of 6 feet from Herbert, David further praised his grandfather.

"We are here to celebrate an American icon, Dr. Herbert Yee, also known as Grandpa, for his exemplary service to the community," he said.

After completing a short speech about Herbert, David presented him with the President's Volunteer Service Award certificate of achievement and a letter signed by President Donald Trump. He also received a gold medallion as part of this recognition.

The gold medal represents the highest level of achievement of this award. The award also includes silver and bronze medal recipients.

David later told this paper that Herbert earned this recognition due to his strong dedication to serving and inspiring others.

"He has volunteered his service and time in endeavors, not only related to his profession but also in other disciplines," he said. "As the president of the International College of Dentists, he advanced education and established relations with China and Vietnam during a difficult political climate.

"He has also served on boards of the Sacramento County American Cancer Society and the California State Railroad Museum, and as district governor of the Lions Club (District 4 C5)."

His leadership positions also included serving as president of the California State Board of Dental Examiners.

David noted that his grandfather has been an inspiration in his own life.

"Ever since I was a kid, I wanted to be like Grandpa and make him proud," he said. "During his life, I can only imagine the barriers that he had to overcome, paving the way for subsequent generations."

Herbert, who was born near Sing Tong Village in Toishan, China, immigrated to the United States through Angel Island at the age of 6 in 1931.

At the age of 20, Herbert enlisted in the U.S. Army at the Presidio of Monterey, and he would later become a founding member of Gung Ho American Legion Post No. 696 in Sacramento. He currently serves as the commander of that post.

A 1948 graduate of Stanford University's College of Physicians and Surgeons as a dental surgeon, Herbert worked in the dental profession for more than a half-century.

As a humanitarian and philanthropist, in 1981, Herbert became the first overseas Chinese to have a school built in China near his village. He also had a cultural center and library constructed in the same area in 2007.

Herbert, who is a descendant of California Gold Rush pioneers, additionally helped fund the restoration of his great-grandfather's herb store, which was built in Fiddletown in 1851.

In response to his then new role with the International College of Dentists, in 1984, Herbert received praise from President Ronald Reagan.

"This honor reflects your commitment to your profession and to the organization paying tribute to you," Reagan wrote. "By your service as a dentist and as a member of your community, you have made outstanding contributions. In every area where you work, whether as a member of your profession or as a concerned citizen, your dedication is greatly respected."

Herbert was previously no stranger to Reagan, as his 54 years as a dentist includes his time as the official dentist for the staff of two governors – Reagan and Pat Brown.

He additionally served as president of the Sacramento Chinese Benevolent Association, the Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Association, and the Yee Fung Toy family association.

Herbert's longtime commitment to service also includes being inducted into the California School Board Foundation Hall of Fame and being named Humanitarian of the Year by the California Dental Association.

His notable positions also include his service as counselor of the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Education.

Herbert is also awaiting another award: the Congres-

see YEE page 11





The President's Volunteer Service Award gold medal is pictured in the hands of one of its most recent recipients, South Land Park resident Herbert Yee.



David Yee, right, gives a speech at the ceremony while standing the currently recommended social distance of 6 feet from his grandfather, Herbert Yee.

Yee:

continued from page 10

sional Gold Medal for Chinese American World War II veterans. But due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, that award has been delayed until further notice.

In the meantime, Herbert received his latest award, with the accompanying letter signed by Trump.

"Each generation of hard-working and kindhearted volunteers helps to write a new chapter of American greatness, and our nation is proud for your commitment to this honorable tradition," Trump wrote.

Asked what he thought of receiving his latest recognition, Herbert responded with humility.

"I don't think I deserve it, but I'll accept," he said.

The award, David noted, "kind of recognizes (the) life's work" of Herbert, who was married to his wife, Inez, for more than 70 years, has four children, nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

David added that his grandfather is a role model to him.

"I was very happy to see grandpa happy (during the July 25 ceremony)," he said. "I try to honor his legacy and try to walk in his footsteps, but it's hard to walk in footsteps of a giant."

In summarizing his grandfather's many accomplishments, David said, "His life exemplifies the American dream."

This 'n' That:

continued from page 7

ent's fate. If said 'product' proved unpopular, every 13 weeks, the news department could unload it. That happened to my friend, Sheila.

I met Sheila in Miami when I was interviewing for a job at her then-station. She was friendly, smart and funny. Sheila, very poised, black, quick and stylish, was from New York City. I was a country bumpkin from a farm.

We became fast friends.

At WLS, stylish Sheila 'adopted' me. My '60s bell-bottoms, she said, would have to go. So, too, my '60s hairdo. After work, a group of us would meet up on Rush Street. As we walked along, Sheila joked, "I love hanging out with Carol. She makes the rest of us look so good!" I knew it was true and it made me laugh.

Maybe three cycles into my 13 weeks contract, WLS let Sheila go. She refused to let me be sad. She told me about the time a car slowed down and an excited someone called out: "Aren't you Sheila Stainback!?" (In Chicago, on-air talents are celebrities.) Sheila said she shrugged and said, "I used to be." Someone else asked, "So what are you doing now?" She shrugged again and said, "My hair. My nails." (Gotta love her, dontcha?)

This brings us to the subject of this column. If you don't even bother to get dressed, do you do your

see DRESSED page 12

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by Regional Water Authority Staff

Residents can now save $150 on a Rachio 3 Smart Sprinkler Controller through a new instant rebate program offered by the Regional Water Authority and local water providers.

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The Rachio 3 Smart Sprinkler Controller typically retails for about $220 for an eight-zone system and $270 for a 16-zone system, but both are being offered at a reduced rate of $75 plus tax. (Installation is not included.)

Rebates are available for a limited time on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted. Rebate details, eligibility requirements and a link to purchase the controller are available at BeWaterSmart.info.

Dressed:

continued from page 11

nails? I've been somewhat amused by hair and nail places that insist they are "essential businesses." But that's because I've RARELY done my nails, and I've cut my own hair for years. (When one is indigent, one saves money where one can.)

The only time I paid much attention to my nails was seeing a replay of my first TV liveshot. Front and center, my white knuckled fingers gripping the microphone), ragged nails and all.

A little background: As a toddler, I was a finger sucker. Mom tried slathering my right index finger with 'Thumb' – a horrible tasting liquid meant to deter a kid from thumb sucking. A sucked thumb could mean braces later to correct bucked teeth.

I preferred my right index finger. Liked it SO much that when I took piano lessons at age 7, the finger stuck straight out. To be honest, it still kind of does, even though I gave up finger sucking early. As soon as I could master getting ANY finger in my mouth, I took up nail biting. And then that TV liveshot horrified me.

Although I don't paint my nails, I do admire perfectly manicured fingertips. For very special occasions, I might buy a fresh bottle of nail polish. In my bathroom, I have a small collection of not-fresh polish. I should discard those bottles. But they're so full, and it seems so wasteful.

"How were you able to break yourself of nail-biting?" you might ask.

Vanity. Pure vanity.

Carol has had fake nails applied just once so as to have a perfect French manicure for her wedding. Then, her terrier dog in Denver dug out from under her privacy fence and got hit by a car one street over. To get to 'Annie' quickly, Carol climbed the 6-foot fence – and promptly broke three nails. The manicurist did an emergency fix. The nails looked alright in the wedding photos. But for Carol, that was it: Active tomboy or perfect nails? Tomboy won, hands down. Questions, comments? Contact Carol at carol@bogartonline.com.

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PGCA held a food closet produce drive





By Devin Lavelle

Did you notice a small group of people standing around in the School of Engineering & Sciences' (SES) parking lot next to a table full of produce? The Pocket Greenhaven Community Association (PGCA) organized a produce drive on July 29 to help neighbors send extra produce grown in their home garden or their plots in the community garden to other community members experiencing need.

"The Pocket Greenhaven Community Association recognized through our connections in the community that many neighbors had extra fresh produce that was being given away. PGCA Board member GariRae Gray and I collaborated regarding reaching out to our fellow gardeners in the Sojourner Truth Community garden and the local crop swap group for fresh produce donations to help those in need," said Will Cannady, PGCA President, who had previously organized a drive focused around excess produce grown in the SES student plots at the community garden.

Gray described the "very generous donations of several varieties of plums, probably about 75-plus pounds of plums, plus tomatoes, cucumbers, and zucchini. In addition, several people donated six bags of nonperishables, including various pastas and mac 'n' cheese, pasta sauces, rice dinners, jars of peanut butter and jams."

PGCA coordinated with the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP) Food Closet, which serves food insecure neighbors in South Sacramento, including the Pocket-Greenhaven area.

"Produce grown by the community, going back into the community," as described by Simon Yeh, SSIP Food Closet Manager.

It was a beautiful thing. It was, yet, another example of how it always feels good to give back to the community.

"I was gratified at how generously people responded, some with large boxes, some with small bags, but all wanting to give their backyard produce to help others who are having difficult times during this pandemic that has financially impacted so many people," Gray said.

"I was very proud of the amazing generosity of our Pocket-Greenhaven neighbors. During these hard times our neighbors have done an extraordinary job of stepping up to support one another and this is an excellent example of that," Cannady added.

The PGCA invites any of our neighbors who have any other ideas about how we can support those in need during these difficult times to please contact us at info@pocket-greenhaven.org.





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Sacramento's Original Comedy Club is changing comedy after almost 40 years in the business

Laughs Unlimited takes the Jokes Outside in Silent Disco meets Comedy meets Block Party Style

Jennifer Canfield, co-owner at Laughs Unlimited, has come up with a new idea to keep comedy alive, the new show is like a Silent Disco using headphones for outdoor comedy. Thursday through Saturday each week in Old Sacramento you can join the fun and witness a clear representation of the kind of innovation businesses need to survive the pandemic.

The new show known as "Inside Jokes Outside Laughs" is an outdoor comedy experience in response to the outdoor requirements of restaurants to ensure the safety of patrons due to COVID-19. This new format ensures social distancing and outdoor seating under the stars while enjoying much needed laughter to lift people's spirits.

Audience members watch the show with headphones reminiscent of a silent disco to decrease distractions from the surroundings. The headphones provide a surround sound experience that creates the close intimacy of laughter in the group setting of a comedy show without the concerns of the general public hearing jokes they didn't sign up for. Comics can remain no holds barred while they enjoy one of the most popular forms of free speech.

Canfield said that laughter is important in any healing process and Laughs Unlimited has been bringing that to Sacramento for 40 years. She wanted to find a way to continue to do so safely and still have fun.

Standup comedian Carlos Rodriguez calls it a great idea. "This is a new innovative step in standup and I can see this possibly being the way we do shows even after the restrictions of COVID-19 have lifted."

As the 11th longest running comedy club in the nation, Laughs Unlimited first began providing a home for performers and audiences in Old Sacramento in 1980. They are dedicated to supporting artists and the Sacramento art community by bringing some of the nation's top comedic talent to the city. Popular and national touring headliners are featured as well as independent showcases and more each week on the Laughs Unlimited stage. Newly remodeled, (Summer 2019) Laughs Unlimited celebrated its 40th Anniversary on August 6, 2020.

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Get Ready for Dynamic & Diverse "Sac Open Studio" Virtual Experiences Starting Next Week

Presented by Verge Center for the Arts, A Series of Exciting Online Activities Take Place September 9-13 & 17-20

Verge Center for the Arts is excited to present the 15th Annual Sac Open Studios event with a dynamic and diverse variety of live online activities scheduled for September 9-13 and 17-20, 2020. Sac Open Studios is a free self-guided tour designed to showcase artists who live and work in the greater Sacramento region. The ever-evolving event is the region's oldest, largest and most prestigious artist studio tour program that provides a platform for the community to connect with and support regional artists while making new discoveries along the way.

With 120 artists participating from throughout Sacramento County and the City of West Sacramento in 2020, the community can watch and/or engage in a variety of ways, including a Sac Open Studios kick-off event, interactive "Conversations with Artists" opportunities, various "Artist Livestreams" when the community can watch artistry in action, individual events offered by some of the participating artists, and more.

"While the format may be a bit different this year, significantly more people will now have the opportunity to discover the depth of amazing talent that exists in our artist and maker community," said Liv Moe, Founding Director of Verge Center for the Arts. "This year, all that is needed is a computer or smartphone to engage, experience and enjoy a creative getaway live from the comfort of living rooms everywhere or from virtually anywhere."

Sac Open Studios Kick-off – Wednesday Evening, September 9 at 6 p.m.

To jump-start the series of Sac Open Studios activations, the community is encouraged to be a part of a virtual evening kick-off event. Interested community members will have the opportunity to connect with each other, learn the easy steps about how to navigate the virtual tour, view artwork from the Preview Exhibit, and e-meet the people who have made this program so special throughout the years. For more information and/or to register for the kick-off event, please visit https://sacopenstudios.com/kick-off/.

Conversations with Artists and Artist Livestreams – September 10-13 & 17-20 (times vary)

Conversations with Artists is a series of virtual events held on Zoom consisting of conversations and moderated audience Q&A sessions with Sac Open Studios artists. The community is invited to participate in themed sessions to learn more about artists' artwork, inspirations, studio practice, and more. During Artist Livestreams, Sac Open Studios artists will broadcast live from their studios on Facebook Live or Instagram Live. This is a rare chance to get an exclusive peek into the daily lives of artists in their studios, watch their process, learn their techniques, and ask questions. For more information and a specific schedule of Conversations with Artists, please visit https://sacopenstudios.com/conversations-with-artists.

Individual Artist Events

To complement the virtual events as part of the official Sac Open Studios effort, a number of artists will host their own, virtual events throughout September as well. The community is welcome to attend these events for singular artistic experiences created by our community of regional artists. For a complete artist directory, please visit https://sacopenstudios.com/directory.

How to Watch & Engage

To find and/or watch the live events, e-attendees simply visit sacopenstudios.com during the scheduled times to watch the action live. Conversations with Artists will broadcast live via Zoom and Artist Livestreams will broadcast live from artists' individual Facebook and Instagram accounts. Participants can also choose to follow the social media accounts of participating artists to receive in-app notifications when they begin their Artist Livestreams. The Artist Listings of the guide is a great resource to find the Facebook pages and Instagram user names for favorite artists.

Sac Open Studios Guide

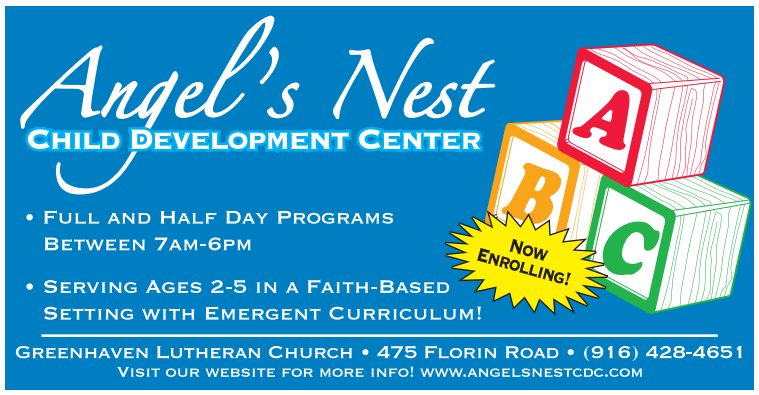
For more detailed tour information, a comprehensive and user-friendly 60-page Sac Open Studios guidebook/magazine will be available soon at various locations around the region, or can be downloaded online at https://sacopenstudios.com/view-the-guide/.

Sac Open Studios Preview Exhibition – September 10-27

An exhibition showcasing a sampling of local artistry will be on display for a limited time at Verge Center for the Arts for in-person viewing at 625 S Street in Sacramento. Artwork on display is for sale with proceeds benefiting the artists and Verge. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, social distancing measures and health precautions will be in place including mandatory masks to be worn by all visitors. Interested guests are encouraged to visit www.vergeart.com for regularly updated information about visiting the center in person.

Originally established in 2006 by the Center of Contemporary Art Sacramento (that later merged with Verge Center for the Arts in 2014), Sac Open Studios allows tour goers the opportunity to engage directly with artists while enjoying and experiencing a self-guided, art-focused exploration of the greater Sacramento region, whether that means in-person as in previous years or virtually in 2020.

A unique collaboration between Verge Center for the Arts, local artists, arts organizations, schools and colleges, and local businesses, Sac Open Studios is generously sponsored by the following: Blick Art Materials, Capital Public Radio, Mondavi Center, Phillip M. Cunningham, Warehouse Artist Lofts (WAL), Inside Sacramento and Sacramento365.com. Additional support is provided by the Office of Arts and Culture of the City of Sacramento, the City of Sacramento and the County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors.





Wine for Wildlife Care this October

A Virtual Tasting Event with Voluptuary and Lucid Wines



Photo by Chamong Xiong

Taken in 2019 at the Merced Wildlife Refuge, this is a very rare picture of a Leucistic Black Phoebe. Normally all black, this genetic anomaly is rarely seen in this California native bird.

Pour a glass for wildlife rehab with a special edition of the virtual wine tasting kits from the innovative Sacramento vintner Kevin Luther.

His special blends will raise funds for the volunteers at the non-profit Wildlife Care Association this October. Order a wine tasting kit to be delivered directly to your door and join WCA volunteers and Ambassador Animals in a special Facebook Live & YouTube video event on Saturday, Oct. 24 at 5 p.m.

Order your kit at www.voluptuarywine.com/virtual-tasting and $5 from every order goes directly to save wildlife at Wildlife Care Association. Order Now!

see WINE page 19

Kevin Luther: Owner & Winemaker Voluptuary & Lucid Wines



Background

Kevin Luther was drawn to winemaking due to its confluence of his passions for nature, agriculture, and craftsmanship.

After earning his degree in Viticulture & Enology from the renowned UC Davis program, Kevin apprenticed around the world throughout his 20s to master the craft.

He then returned to California and spent ten years building start-ups into successful wineries for other people, while also returning to school and obtaining a degree in Wine Business and a WSET diploma while launching his wine consulting business.

Finally, Kevin decided it was time to launch his own winery, and started Voluptuary Wines to focus on his passion for organic & experimental small-batch winemaking. After his first release quickly sold out, Kevin launched the sister brand Lucid Wines to bring his wine to a crowd-pleasing style.

Near Business Death, Success

After launching his brands in 2019, Kevin finally quit his "day job" running wineries for other people. He rented a single roller door in an industrial lot in urban Sacramento, his hometown and put his entire life savings into launching his brand from side project to proper business.

The launch party for the new winery was set for March 28th, 2020.

On March 24th, the stay-at-home order for COVID was issued locally. On the verge of losing everything, Kevin quickly pivoted and announced that in lieu of a launch party, he would do a virtual wine tasting on Facebook & Youtube, which folks could join by purchasing at-home wine tasting kits. The first 100 kits sold out in 24 hours after his social media post.

From there, the hockey-stick growth curve kicked in. Interest in the kits & tastings blew up, and interest in private Zoom tastings took off as well.

Now, Kevin & his staff host 20 or more virtual group tastings weekly for everything from the general public, private events such as weddings and baby showers, non-profit fundraisers, team-building, staff happy hours, conferences, and VIP events.

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Shifting the power structure

Real leadership exists from the bottom-up with young, people of color organizers pushing for change

By Connie Reeder

From the middle of March until the middle of May, Sacramento's streets were totally empty. We were all holed up at home, trying not to die and trying not to kill our loved ones. Then, out of this collective cocoon, came all the outrage after George Floyd was murdered. Everyone was in the streets protesting a history's worth of police brutality against Black people. And we're going to keep fighting.

How much violence and resistance have we witnessed from the powers we're seeking to change? We're still seeing videos of officers gassing and shooting rubber bullets on protesters.

We're watching people getting kidnapped.

We've seen high schoolers arrested.

We've seen our friends bruised and bloodied bodies, sunset hour curfews, not to mention the National Guard's presence sent here to intimidate and potentially kill us.

To say leadership at the top is "bad" would be a gross understatement. We've been in a top-down leadership crisis under capitalism, and it gets worse everyday.

"So supposing we hit the body with a tremendous-whether its ultraviolet or just very powerful light, and I think you said that hasn't been checked-but you're going to test it. Supposing you brought the light inside the body! Then I see the disinfectant where it knocks it out in a minute. One minute. And is there a way we can do something like that, but injection inside or almost a cleaning? Because you see, it gets in the lungs. I'm not a doctor, but I'm like a person that has a good you-know-what." Points at his own head.

And death tolls are on the rise.

And George Floyd was killed over a counterfeit check. Cops in riot gear plow vehicles into crowds of protesters and Trump praises himself and law enforcement for doing a "tremendous job."

But we're not having it – not from Donald Trump, not from the cops, not from Darrell Steinberg.

Strong Mayor is an insult. Especially since The #BLM movement is stronger than it's ever been and he's done nothing, but place law enforcement and property and profit over Black lives. Strong Mayor is an insult.

Thankfully, our community leaders are strong. We have real leadership from the bottom up. Working class leadership. If I could say one good thing about the pandemic, it would be that it shed light on the gross devaluation that capitalism places on the most valuable people.

We're in the midst of a new power structure. Not power-over but power-together. The balance is shifting.

We saw this with #MeToo when groups of people, often overlooked and unheard, showed us something that our public "servants" would not. Not that it was a huge secret since so many of us have experienced sexual assault and harassment first-hand, but what I'm trying to say is that The People are our guides.

Our role models are our community organizers. Young, people of color organizers pushing for change. We can't wait for Fall for things to change. It has to happen everyday with us.

Wine:

continued from page 18

Wines include "Pollination" Chenin Blanc, "Urban Flora" Rose, "The Source" Pinot Noir/Grenache blend, "Da Vinci's Wings" Zinfandel and "Wanderlust" Dark Red.

Delivered to your door 1-2 weeks prior to the live event.

You may also make a direct donation to support volunteers who take in more than 6,000 injured, orphan or displaced birds and small animals every year at WCA at this link-

https://www.voluptuary-wine.com/new-products/wca

Double the donation as Voluptuary Wines will match every additional dollar donated!

Then join the fun as WCA volunteers showcase their work with the Animal Ambassadors, discuss vineyard owls and environmentally friendly, organic pest control and taste wines led by Vintner Kevin Luther, owner and winemaker at Voluptuary and Lucid Wines on Facebook and YouTube video.

For more than 45 years the Sacramento Wildlife Care Association volunteer, non-profit wildlife rehabilitation group has helped balance the environment and maintain regional quality of life by giving thousands of birds and small animals a second chance to live!

Visit www.wildlifecareassociation.com to learn more. Become a volunteer when you email- volunteer@wildlifecareassociation.com

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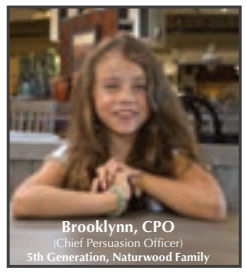
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