



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association # Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 # August 2020

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

Conducted virtually, the July 9 Board meeting combined committee reports with a wide-ranging discussion of the ongoing pandemic and its effects on our neighborhood. Board members also talked about the lingering impacts on Midtown from the vandalism that occurred throughout the City during the weekend of May 30. We considered how we might support struggling local businesses and maintain communication with neighbors, family, and friends in these very difficult times. Reports made by Board members touched on a variety of City issues, starting with the unanimous approval of the final report of the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change on June 29. In its recommendations, the Commission set forth strategies for achieving net zero greenhouse emissions in both Sacramento and West Sacramento by 2045 (<https://www.lgc.org/climatecommission/>). Jon Marshack reported on "ministerial approval of infill housing," a new system that parallels State Bill 35, designed to streamline new housing project approvals City wide. Jon cautioned the Preservation Director that prescriptive infill housing design standards attached to the ministerial approval ordinance would adversely impact historic districts. He argued that these districts deserve their own prescriptive infill design standards. The City Council is expected to decide this issue at its meeting on July 28. Finally, it was suggested that the BPNA board should arrange a future meeting with our new central city police captain in order to maintain good communication and relations with local police officials. This virtual meeting would be in lieu of the face-to-face discussions that usually occur at neighborhood events in August and September, and which will not be occurring this year due to the pandemic.

Supporting Our Neighbors and Community During the Pandemic

Over the past several months, using many different modes of communication, people have shared ideas about how to support one another during the on-going COVID crisis. Following are some suggestions culled from a variety of local sources:

- **Keep up with shut-ins:** Check in regularly with friends and neighbors who are unable or reluctant to leave their homes. Phone calls may be welcome even if face-to-face visits are not. Here the occupants of high-water bungalows may have an advantage: they can maintain a safe distance from visitors simply by sitting on their front porches or at the top of their steps.
- **Shop locally:** Sacramento stores need our business. Many of them are making special accommodations—reserving a specific day or time-slot for older or high-risk customers, for example. If their doors still are closed to the public, they may offer curbside pick-up and/or free shipping. Some stores also may sell gift-cards for future use.
- **Dine locally:** Try to patronize the restaurants in our area. If you are not comfortable using the outdoor seating at a restaurant, consider looking into their take-out and curbside delivery options instead.
- **Go to the Farmers' Markets:** Regional growers need our support too, and the fresh produce can't be beat. Alternately, sign up for home delivery of fruits and vegetables from local farms (three businesses in this category are Farm Fresh to You, Full Belly Farm, and Good Humus—all were briefly profiled in an article in the May 20 issue of *Sactown Magazine*).

If you are looking for local volunteer opportunities, go to the website of HandsOn Sacramento, the regional center for volunteering (<https://www.handsonsacto.org/>). As of mid-July, several organizations were seeking volunteers to help with food distribution at drive-through centers and elsewhere. Another place to check is Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, which offers a wide variety of services to county residents (<https://www.sacramentofoodbank.org/>). Finally, if you prefer to make a financial donation, consider supporting Donate4Sacramento (<https://sierrahealth.org/donate4sacramento>).

A Few Distractions from the Pandemic

Years ago, family drives to the summer vacation cottage or campsite seemed endless, at least for the children in the car's backseat (*cue for chorus*: "Are we there yet?"). In the era before digital devices and video monitors, resourceful parents often packed some additional distractions to keep their offspring from imploding midway through the journey—perhaps a deck of cards, or a game of car bingo. We may have reached a point in this ever-ongoing pandemic when residents of all ages could use some new distractions, just like the kids in the car. Following are a few suggestions from Boulevard Park residents:

- **Gardening:** It is almost autumn, but it's not too late to tend to your garden. Debbie Arrington and Kathy Morrison offer many useful seasonal tips in their popular blog (<https://sacdigs Gardening.blogspot.com/>)
- **Lifelong learning:** According to its website (<https://www.road scholar.org/virtualllearning/>), Road Scholar offers free, informative online lectures on a wide range of topics of all types, from Vikings in France to Biodiversity in Baja California (both live webinars and recorded lectures).
- **Local time machine:** The Center for Sacramento History offers a series of "Staff Picks" from the Center's rich film archives—many vintage film clips that show the city and its residents decades ago (the 1950s are well represented): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9igOZwsJjH5IZibIH8WIGg>. On the same YouTube site, there are videos of some lectures that were hosted by the CSH. See also this website, which offers a 1930s film about Marshall School <https://archive.org/details/centerforsacramento history> (For school: https://archive.org/details/casacsh_000012)
- **Museums without walls:** The Crocker in Sacramento and the Shrem in Davis are two of several regional museums that are continuing to bring art to the public via the internet: <https://www.crockerart.org/fromhome> <https://manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu/museum-at-home>
- **Music, maestro!** There is a growing list of websites with live-streamed and recorded concerts of all types. Here are a few suggestions:
- **"Live Music Project":** Live-streamed music from around the world—popular, jazz, classical, choral, symphonic, etc. (many free, some for a fee). For more information, go to: <https://livemusicproject.org/calendar/>
- **"Live with Carnegie Hall,"** offering videos of concerts, master classes, etc., at NYC's Carnegie Hall. Website: <https://www.medicivt/en/partners/carnegie-hall-on-medicivt/>
- **"Fridays at Five":** weekly videos of concerts of jazz music, hosted by SF Jazz (by subscription; monthly fee of \$5). Website: <https://www.sfjazz.org/watch/>
- **Theater plus:** The Sofia has a wide range of virtual offerings for adults and youth—music, plays, comedy, and more, according to its website (<https://bstreettheatre.org/>)

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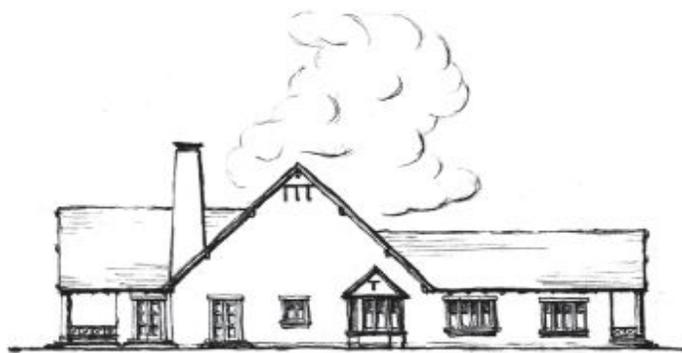
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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life for others who work and live in and around Boulevard Park, and therefore in Sacramento as a whole.

Committees

Membership:	Ellen Hunt
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August 2020:

Places to Go, People To See (Really & Virtually)

NOTE: As of July 20, no live entertainment events were listed on the City's 365 website. It still is possible that restrictions will be eased and opportunities may arise between now and mid-August. Check websites for updates. Below are a few events, programs, and dates to remember.

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market (8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th St. between J and K Streets). Before you go, be sure to read the current health precaution guidelines posted on the Explore Midtown website (<http://exploremidtown.org/midtown-farmers-market/>).

Anytime in Sacramento: "Anytime Tours" of the Historic City Cemetery and the Old Sacramento Waterfront (free, 50-minute digital tours conducted by guides in period costume). For more information, to: <https://anytimetours.oncell.com/en/index.html>

On-line and streamed events in Sacramento: The Sac 365 website offers information about virtual entertainment and activities (<https://www.sacramento365.com/categories/online-streaming/>). Also check Sac365's Online/Virtual space website for information about lectures or other programs being conducted online (<https://www.sacramento365.com/venue/online-virtual-space/>).

Sat., Aug. 1: "Virtual Harvest Day 2020," a live Q&A session hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County (free; 9 a.m. to noon). Website: http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Harvest_Day/

Aug. 3-7: Sacramento Ballet hosts "A Midsummer Night's Dream Camp," with dancing and crafts, for children aged 5-7 (Mon.-Fri., 9-11 a.m.; taught entirely online; fee charged). Website: <https://www.sacballet.org/summer-programs-2020/summer-camps-2020/>

Places to Go, People To See (cont.)

Aug. 3-7: Verge Center for the Arts is hosting two online art camps for children this month (fee charged): "Art, Advocacy, and Activism" (ages 8-14) and "UPCYCLED: Turning Waste into Art" (ages 10-14).

Website: <https://www.vergeart.com/classes/>

Thu., Aug. 6: BPNA Board Meeting (6:30-8 p.m.). Usually Board meetings are open to a limited number of BPNA members and other interested residents. The August event, like those held from April through July, will be done via Zoom.

Fri., Aug. 7: Vitalant Blood Drive at Cal Expo (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; register in advance for your appointment; bring your own cloth mask or face-covering). For more information, go to the website: <https://calexpostatefair.com/digital-festival/vitalant-blood-drive-aug-7/>

... And, looking ahead to early September:

Thu., Sep. 3: BPNA Board Meeting: open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors (6:30-8 p.m.). Contact Dave Herbert for location or to suggest agenda items.

BPNA and Social Media: An Update from Sher Singh

In addition to delivering nearly 1,500 printed newsletters to the doorsteps of neighborhood residents every month, BPNA is refining other ways of communicating with the membership. We want to let you know about our website and Facebook page. In the interest of keeping all BPNA members informed and connected, we are working hard to refresh and expand these online modes of communication.

Visit our website (<https://www.boulevardpark.org/>) to take a virtual tour down memory lane by browsing a selection of issues of *Park Beat* that were sent to BPNA members between 2010 and 2019 (filed under "About BPNA"). Check out our "Photo Gallery" and admire the colorful reminders of the beautiful Boulevard Park neighborhood. There is also a membership form with a PayPal link for your convenience if you prefer to start or renew your membership online (filed under "About BPNA"). In the future, the website also will offer an expanded historical section with information about the origins and development of Boulevard Park.

Visit our organization's Facebook page ([facebook.com/BPNABoardMember](https://www.facebook.com/BPNABoardMember)) for information and announcements about topics of current interest to neighborhood residents. It is constantly being updated, so please log on often. You can use either the Facebook page or the website to communicate with us (look for the "email us" link). Let us know if you have an interesting story for possible inclusion in a future issue of *Park Beat*, or if you have photos to share via our website (both historic and current photos are welcome).

The Trees of Midtown: Black Locust

The black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) is a medium-sized hardwood deciduous tree native to parts of the eastern USA and is a relative of the pea and the bean. These trees are rarely planted beside the city's streets but can be found in our parks, along the American River bike trail, and in vacant lots. Black locust grows to a height of 40 to 100 feet. It prefers sun but is shade tolerant. Early summer flowers appear in large, intensely fragrant 4 to 8-inch cream white clusters with a high nectar content and a scent similar to that of orange blossoms. The black locust is a major honey plant in the eastern USA and in many European countries its flowers are the source of the prized "acacia honey."

Black locust firewood is highly valued because it burns slowly with little smoke and, like anthracite coal, has a high heat content. The wood is durable and highly resistant to rot, making it great for furniture, flooring, paneling, fence posts, and small watercraft. Fence posts made from black locust can last in soil up to 100 years. Because its shallow aggressive roots hold soil, black locust is useful for soil control. The roots also have built-in nitrogen-fixing bacteria that provide the tree with its own fertilizer.

Tough, fast-growing, and able to thrive in poor soil, the black locust has become an invasive species in some regions. In the Midwest, grassland ecosystems have turned into forest ecosystems due to the displacement of grasses by locust trees. A similar process is now occurring in the planted area around the duck pond in McKinley Park, near the playground. Without regular weeding or maintenance, the new landscaping has been taken over by locust and other weeds. They are crowding out the more desirable trees and shrubs that were part of the recent renovation. The photo below, taken just outside the park's playground, shows the new, unwelcome underbrush that has sprung up beside the pond.



If you are interested in learning more about Sacramento's trees, these three websites might be helpful:

California Native Plant Society: this website offers an illustrated list of 23 trees that are native to Sacramento (<https://calscape.org/loc-Sacramento,CA/cat-Trees/ord-popular>)

Sacramento Tree Foundation: its website offers a wide range of information (<https://www.sactree.com/>)

UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento: go to this website for a brochure (2001) about landscape trees commonly found in the Sacramento area (<http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Publications/>).

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Would You Like to be a Census Taker? *The Bureau May Still Be Hiring!*



Census taking in 1930 versus census taking in 2020

As of mid-July, the U.S. Census Bureau anticipated that it still might be hiring temporary part-time workers in August. Sacramento County Census Takers will receive paid training, earn \$21.00 per hour (paid weekly), and are provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitizer. Applications for these jobs are submitted via the government website, where you also will find more information about the process (<https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html>).

“What Style Is My House?” Part I: Italianate



2308 H Street (1878)

Residents of our corner of Midtown are fortunate to live among a variety of architectural house styles, which together create a rich heritage. Have you ever wondered about the style of your house? This is the first in a series to explore Boulevard Park and New Washington School house styles. In this article we explore the oldest house style in these two historic districts, **Italianate**.

Italianate is one of the **Victorian** house styles (occurring during the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain, 1837-1901). In northern California, the style was popular from the mid-1860s to the 1880s and many examples are found in the residential neighborhoods of San Francisco. Drawing from classical Italian architecture, these one to three story houses have a pronounced vertical emphasis, with narrow, tall windows and doors, often with arched or eyebrow tops, sometimes with keystones or, in later examples, elaborately decorated hoods. Ceilings are often ten to twelve feet high. Many Italianate houses have one or two-story deeply projecting bay windows on the front and/or on one side. In addition to arched or eyebrow window and door openings, the style's most prominent feature is likely a shallow-pitched hipped roof with cornices of widely overhanging eaves supported by large decorative brackets. A few Italianate houses have gabled roofs. Ornamental trim is typically more subdued than in the later, often exuberant, **Queen Anne** style.

The entrances of the earliest Italianate houses are shaded by compact porticos with flat roofs and bracketed eaves supported by classical columns. Later Italianates have broader porches, sometimes wrapping part way around one side of the house. Porches and front staircases normally have classical turned balustrades and newel posts supporting their railings. Building corners of earlier Italianates are comprised of stacked wooden blocks called quoins that mimic masonry corner stones. Later versions replace these with wide vertical wooden corner boards, often with decorative designs.

Italianate houses within and adjacent to the Boulevard Park and New Washington School Historic Districts include the following examples, most of which are designated as individual Historic Landmarks by the City of Sacramento:

517 19 th St. (Landmark)	1824 F St. (Landmark)
313 20 th St. (Landmark)	1830 F St. (Landmark)
321 20 th St. (Landmark)	1905 F St.
404 21 st St.	1723 G St. (Landmark)
809-811 21 st St. (Landmark)	1826 G St. (Landmark)
308 22 nd St.	1827 G St. (Landmark)
324 23 rd St. (Landmark)	2120 H St. (Landmark)
	2308 H St. (Landmark)
1701 E St. (Landmark)	2312 H St. (Landmark)
1710 F St. (Landmark)	2319 H St. (Landmark)
1818 F St. (Landmark)	2001 I St. (Landmark)

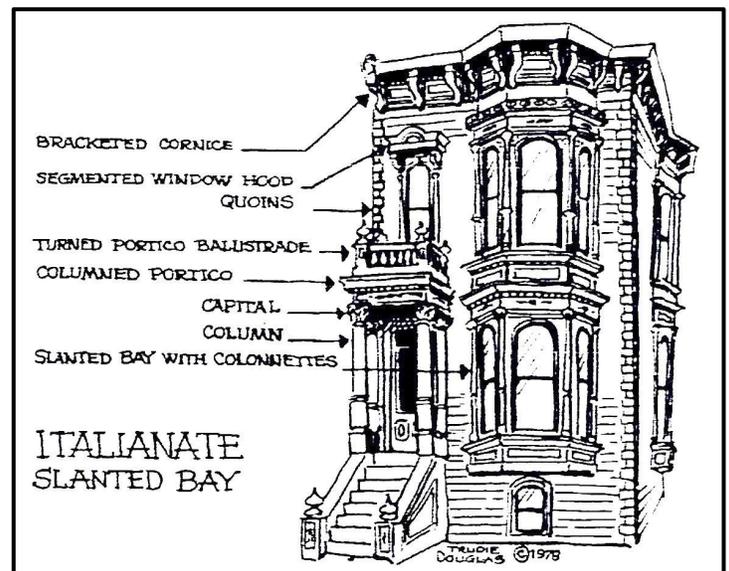


Diagram of an Italianate house

For more information about these houses, see the article on p. 6.

Curbside Delivery of City Library Materials Is Now Available

Readers rejoice! As of July 14, scheduled curbside delivery of Sacramento Public Library materials is available at twenty-five locations throughout the city, including McKinley Library. Arranged in advance and by appointment, the service is offered on Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m.. After patrons have used the library website to place a hold on the items that they want to check out, they will be notified by email or phone when that item is available for pick-up at the library where it is located. To return library materials, patrons must use the designated receptacle at one of the curbside locations during branch hours of operation (no appointment is necessary to return books). For more information, go to the Sacramento Public Library website (<https://www.saclibrary.org/About/News/2020/Curbside-service-Expands>)

Tracking Down the Transplanted Italianates of Boulevard Park

Because the area developed as Boulevard Park (bordered by 20th, 23rd, C, and H Streets) was occupied by the Union Park racetrack from the early 1860s until the first years of the 1900s, almost all of the Victorian houses that now stand within our neighborhood's historic boundaries were moved here from other locations in the city. So far, the original addresses of three of these relocated Italianates have been identified, as indicated below:

- **313 20th Street:** this two-story house originally was located at 410 P Street, near the old Lincoln Primary School. After submitting a successful bid for the house in 1922, William H. Basler applied for a permit to move it to the vacant Boulevard Park lot that same year. The new address was first reported in the 1923 city directory.
- **321 20th Street:** Harry S. Fenton applied for a permit to move a one-story frame dwelling to the vacant lot at this location in 1921. The house's original location has not yet been identified.
- **404 21st Street:** Angelina Amoruso applied for a building permit prior to moving a house to this lot in 1950. Its original location has not yet been identified.
- **809-811 21st Street:** Based on city directory entries and rental advertisements, this two-story, two-flat house was moved to the vacant lot at this location in about 1905. Its original location has not yet been identified.
- **308 22nd Street:** This house originally was located at 1414 E Street, and in fact closely resembles its old neighbor, 1416 E Street (still in place). William H. Basler, the wood merchant who was responsible for relocating the house now at 313 20th Street, had the E Street house moved to 22nd Street in 1923. The new address was first listed in the 1925 city directory.
- **324 23rd Street:** Insurance agent William U. Lybarger paid \$950 to have a house moved to the vacant lot at this site in 1924. He also was the first occupant of the house at its new location, living here for about two years (as reported in the city directories for 1926-27).
- **2001 I Street:** Originally located at 1812 H Street, this two-story house was moved to the corner of I and 20th Streets in 1977, about a century after it was built. Like 809-811 21st and 324 23rd, it is outside Boulevard Park's historic boundaries.

If you are looking for old photographs of Sacramento's Italianates and other Victorian houses, take a virtual tour using the albums assembled by Boulevard Park resident Eugene Hepting in the 1940s-1960s. They are at the Center for Sacramento History, together with other important photo collections (<http://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org/collections/photographs>). Also available there is the photo archive assembled by the AAUW in connection with the book, *Vanishing Victorians* (1973).

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