



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association

Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816

October 2022

Finally, Another Festive Spaghetti Dinner at 2101 G Street!

Nostalgia for a long-deferred neighborhood event (last held in 2019), curiosity about an event not yet experienced (for the many residents who have moved here in the last three years), and simple delight in the opportunity to dine outdoors on a mild evening (after a string of torrid ones) all may have combined to draw a large crowd of participants to Boulevard Park's historic Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, September 10. Based on ticket sales and unofficial counts of the many toddlers (who dined for free), well over 220 people attended—a record number. Residents of all ages enjoyed the leisurely hay-wagon rides around the neighborhood, provided by Top Hand Ranch (with the able and amiable company of horses Pearl and Stash). Carolyn Geiger, the founder of Balloon Twisters, kept many children amused with face painting and balloon sculptures throughout the evening.



We were delighted to welcome several City and State officials among our dinner guests. They included Councilmember Katie Valenzuela, who also volunteered as a spaghetti-server; Assemblymember Kevin McCarty; his wife Leticia Garcia, a member of the Sacramento City School Board; and staff members from Katie's and Kevin's offices, all of whom stayed on well into the evening. We also were happy to have the opportunity to offer the annual "Volunteer of the Year" award to Robert and Lyvonné Sewell, long-time residents of C Street who have made so many contributions to the neighborhood and community over the years.



The spaghetti dinner could not happen without the help of neighborhood volunteers who cheerfully take on the innumerable chores that are essential for the event's success. This year over 50 residents helped out for an hour or more before, during, and after the dinner. The kitchen was superbly managed by Pete Bramson (with the able assistance of Franco Garcia). Jan Pugh donated all the sliced garlic bread; Eva Harriman donated the meat sauce (she has been making it for years); Emily Herbert donated the vegetarian sauce; and the spaghetti pasta was precooked by Liz Edmonds, Hal Edmonds, and Catherine Turrill Lupi. Ellen Hunt and Sher Singh handled the membership table; Max Mack oversaw the beverages table; Dave Herbert, in charge of supplies, made an endless number of trips between his house and 2101 G Street; and Jon Marshack oversaw the final clean-up on the morning after the dinner. There is not space enough in the newsletter to thank all the other volunteers, but please know that we are very grateful. We also thank the anonymous donors of the tasty treats to the dessert table.

Most of all, we thank the homeowners—Max Beach, Roxane Duka, and their daughter Sophia—for their generous hospitality. The spacious yard behind their historic house has been a perfect venue for the annual spaghetti dinner for nearly 28 years.

Second Call, Candidates for the 2023 Board of Directors

Every autumn the BPNA solicits members in good standing (annual dues paid) to serve on the following year's Board of Directors, which is replenished annually. Once a slate is formed (probably in early November), the names of all candidates will be announced in the December issue of *Park Beat*, where the candidates' statements also will appear. Voting for the 2023 Board will take place at the general membership meeting in January.

Being an officer on the BPNA board is a great way to serve the community while also learning more about the issues that affect the quality of life of everyone in the neighborhood. Board meetings are held monthly, and each session lasts about an hour and a half. In collaboration with other BPNA members, the seven officers coordinate the four public events sponsored by the association each year—the general membership meeting in January, the progressive dinner for National Night Out in August, the Spaghetti Dinner in September, and the Holiday Party in December. The neighborhood yard sale, usually held every other year, also is coordinated by the officers. Finally, the officers are the leading contributors to *Park Beat*, although submissions and suggestions from other BPNA members always are welcome.

If you are interested in serving on the BPNA Board and have questions about it, please contact any current Board officer (their names are listed on **page 3** of the newsletter).



For Your Bucket List

As announced in *The Sacramento Bee* on September 20, the City has extended the time period for the distribution of free kitchen countertop buckets used for collecting food waste at home. Over 22,000 of these plastic compost bins were given away by the City between June and September, so another 15,000 buckets were ordered. They will be given out until **Friday, Oct. 14** (or as long as supplies last). City residents can arrange to get one of these buckets (one per household) at a specific location and time by going to the City website (<https://app.squarespacescheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=26285454>). For Boulevard Park, the closest distribution place is the **Ethel Hart Senior Center**, 915 27th Street.

The Wednesday “Socials” Will Return Next Year

To the many folks of all ages who attended the informal “no host, no agenda” gatherings on the 21st Street grassy median between E and F Streets from May through September: Thanks for a joyous season of neighborly community and connection with no-longer-strangers. Watch for signs on the street and a notice in the *Park Beat* events calendar in April or May 2023.

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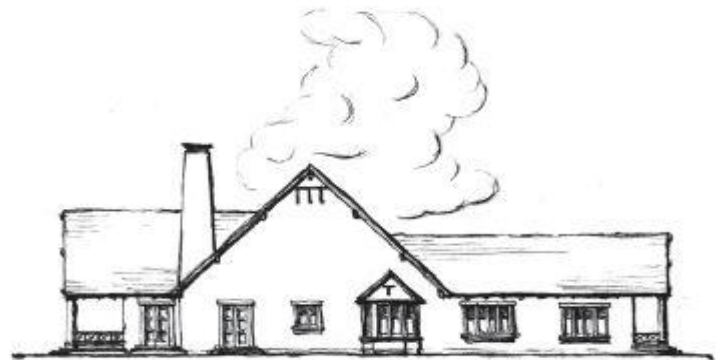
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Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@att.net
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Catherine Turrill Lupi	turrillc@csus.edu

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
Preservation, Planning, and Land Use:	Jon Marshack
District 4 Homelessness Task Force:	Travis Silcox silcox5@gmail.com

Park Beat Production Team

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Columnist: David Herbert
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josephmcress@yahoo.com

October 2022: Places to Go, Things to Do

TIP: For more information about public events being held this month, go to: <https://www.sacramento365.com/>. Below are a few events, programs, and dates to remember.

Every Wednesday: "Wednesdays at Winn," a certified farmers' market in Winn Park (28th and P Streets, 3 - 7:30 p.m.; website: <http://exploremidtown.org/wednesdays-at-winn/>).

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market (8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th St. between J and L; also, K Street between 19th and 20th St.): <http://exploremidtown.org/midtown-farmers-market/>

Most weekend mornings: Join other volunteers in tackling a variety of beautification tasks at Sutter's Landing Park. For more details, contact FOSL's volunteer coordinator, Betsy Weiland, by email (flweiland@yahoo.com) or phone (279-202-4677).

Note: For a list of October events at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Boulevard, see the article on **page 4**

Oct. 1-16: "Beer and Ballet," performances by Sacramento Ballet at Clara (E. Claire Raley Studios), 2420 N Street (8 p.m. on Saturdays and weekdays; 2 p.m. on Sundays; admission charged). Food trucks and beverages will be available. Website: www.sacballet.com

Sat., Oct. 1: River City Toy Train Show, at the Scottish Rite Temple (6151 H St.; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.). Free parking; \$5 admission.

Sat., Oct. 1: "Drugs in the Old West," themed tour in the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (5 p.m.; \$5 tickets must be purchased in advance through www.brownpapertickets.com)

Places to Go, Things to Do (cont.)

Sat., Oct. 1: Sacramento Archives Crawl, featuring four sites (Calif. State Archives, Calif. State Library, Center for Sacramento History, and the Sacramento Room of the Central Library; 10-4; free admission). Website: <http://sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com/>

Thu., Oct. 6: 2022 Burnett Awards, honoring five iconic Sacramento businesses. Benefit for the Sacramento History Museum, 101 I Street (5-7 p.m.). Website: <https://www.burnettawards.org/#>

Thu., Oct. 6: BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents (completion of COVID vaccinations required). Contact Dave Herbert for information.

Fri., Oct. 7: "Starlight Movie Nights in the Park," sponsored by Katie Valenzuela's District 4 office: *Jurassic Park* will be screened in Fremont Park, 1515 Q St. (6 p.m.). Free admission.

Fri., Oct. 7: *Dracula*, by Steven Dietz: performed at Celebration Arts Theater, 2727 B Street, from October 7-30. Website: <https://www.celebrationarts.net/>

Oct. 7 & 8: Oktoberfest, presented by Sacramento Turn Verein (6-11:30 p.m. on Fri.; 3-11:30 p.m. on Sat.): German beer, food, music, and dancers; kid-friendly activities, all at 3349 J St. Website: <https://sacramentoturnverein.com/events/>

Oct. 7, 8, 9: Sacramento Greek Festival, Annunciation Church, 600 and 616 Alhambra Blvd. (11-10 on Fri. and Sat.; 11-8 on Sun.; \$5 admission). Website: <http://sacramentogreekfestival.com/>

Sun., Oct. 9: 12th Annual Vendor Faire, New Era Community Garden, 206 26th St. (10-2). See article on **page 6**.

Fri., Oct. 14: Last day for the City's distribution of free kitchen compost bins (see the article on **page 2**).

Fri., Oct. 14: Día de los Muertos Fiesta, California Museum, with an exhibition opening (6-10 p.m.; admission charged). Website: <https://www.californiamuseum.org/event/fiesta2022>

Thu., Oct. 27: California Preservation Awards Virtual Celebration (6-7 p.m.; free admission). For more information, go to the website: <https://californiapreservation.org/programs/awards/>

Fri., Oct. 28: *Voice of the Cello*, performed by the Sacramento Baroque Soloists, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1430 J St. (7:30 p.m.). Website: <https://www.sacramentobaroque.org/21st-concert-season>

... And looking ahead to early November:

Nov. 1: Start of "leaf season" and the winter watering schedule.

Nov. 3: BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents (completion of COVID vaccinations required). Contact Dave Herbert for information.

Nov. 6-10: 45th Annual Festival of New American Music, Capistrano Hall, Sacramento State, with a gala concert on Nov. 6. Website: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/music/spotlight/fenam-festival.html>

The Trees of Midtown: Coast Redwood

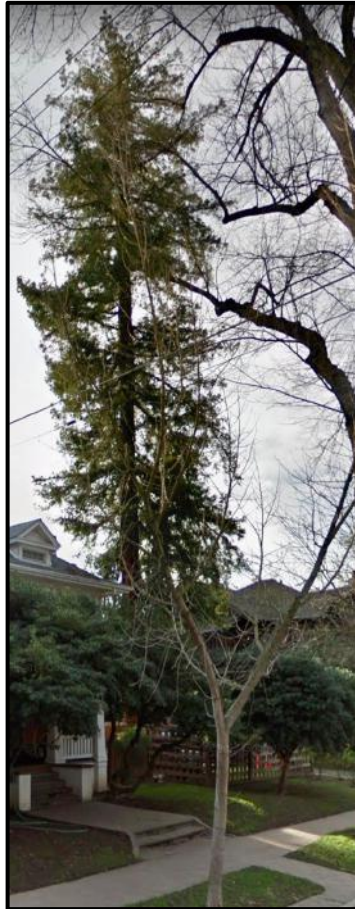
When they weren't gazing down into plates of pasta or chatting with their neighbors, attendees at last month's Spaghetti Dinner might have noticed the variety of plants, shrubs, and trees on our hosts' property, beginning with those in the front garden at the corner of G and 21st Streets. The previous owners of the house, the Bramsons, were the first family in Sacramento to have a perennial garden designed by renowned British horticulturalist Adrian Bloom. Local nurseries and volunteers from the Perennial Plant Association collaborated on the project back in 2003, when the P.P.A. had its summer conference in Sacramento. Plants used in the new front garden included ornamental grass, a Japanese maple, a butterfly bush, and coneflowers.

The yard on the north side of the Cranston-Geary house, where the children were entertained by Carolyn Geiger during the Spaghetti Dinner, is shaded by a towering coast redwood. Like other redwoods in Sacramento—for example, the one in front of the old Crocker mansion and

museum, at O and Second Streets—this venerable tree is doing its best to survive in an alien environment.

The ideal place for redwoods is the narrow strip of the northern California coast where rain and fog are plentiful. This is because the more moisture there is in a coastal area, the taller, larger, and older the redwoods tend to be. In the right environment, coast redwoods can grow up to 380 feet in height and 30 feet in diameter and live from 1200 to 2200 years. Redwood tree groves at the bottom of deep gullies often benefit from additional moisture from streams that flow year around. Furthermore, even without lots of rain, coast redwoods in these areas can take in great amounts of moisture from fog.

Unfortunately, recent drought conditions have put much additional stress on Sacramento's coast redwoods, as can be seen while driving on our local freeways, where these trees are often used as landscaping. Stressed trees also are more vulnerable. This may explain why the coast redwood at G and 21st Street lost its crown a couple of years ago. The top of the tree fell violently to the ground, narrowly missing the house next door, 617 21st Street, while damaging the pavement in front of it. The photograph above was taken in November 2017, when the tree was still intact.



Happenings at the Ivy Gard Shepard Garden & Arts Center in October

Located at 3330 McKinley Boulevard, the Shepard Garden & Arts Center hosts meetings and events every month, many of them open to the public (for information, go to: <https://www.sgaac.org/calendar.php>). October offers a typical menu of varied programs. With one exception, all of this month's events have free admission.:

Oct. 1 & 2: Fall Sale: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday (free admission).

Oct. 8 & 9: Camellia City Porcelain Artists Show & Sale: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat. and Sun, (free admission).

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/camelliacity/>

Oct. 17: Ikebana International, Sacramento: Demonstration by Mitsuko Maruyama, Sub Grand Master of the Ohara School and President of the Ohara Ikebana School of Northern California Chapter. Noon to 3 p.m. (\$5 admission).

Website: <https://www.ikebanasacramento.com/events>

Oct. 22: Sacramento Potters/Art by Fire Show, with a wide selection of handmade pottery, glass, sculpture, and other works of art: Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (free admission)

Website: <https://artbyfire.org/>

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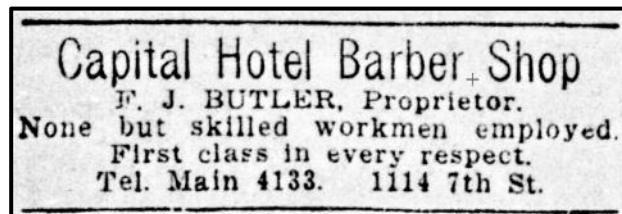
From Barber to Blueprinter: Frank J. Butler of Boulevard Park

Frank J. Butler, the first owner-occupant of the two-story house at 2015 F Street, was recognized as a “pioneer barber” of Sacramento. He was preceded by his father, Norris Butler, who came to Sacramento in 1846 and was operating the Union Shaving & Hair Dressing Saloon by the 1850s. Twenty years later, Frank Butler opened the Ale Vaults Barbershop at 3rd and J Streets. In the early 1900s, his shop, called Butler & Monroe, was at the Golden Eagle Hotel on K Street.

Frank, his wife Helen, and their son Frank moved from the Butler family N Street into their new Boulevard Park home in 1910. The neighboring property was owned by Ernest Small, another prominent member of the Black community whose sister, Laura, was the wife of shoemaker Philip F. O'Reilly, first owner-occupant of the house at 2218 E Street (built for the O'Reilly family in 1911). All three men—Butler, O'Reilly, and Small—were part of a large Black delegation that asked the City Commissioner to prevent the owner of the Clunie Theatre from showing D. W. Griffith's racist epic, “The Birth of a Nation” (the film then known as “The Clansman”), in 1915. Like their counterparts in Los Angeles, they were not successful. Griffith's film was screened in Sacramento from 1915 until 1916.

When he moved into the new house at 2015 F Street, Butler was operating the Capital Hotel Barbershop, his last venture in this profession. Popularly known as “Frank's Shop,” it was widely patronized by prominent politicians and civic leaders, among them James McClatchy, David Lubin, H. A. Weinstock, James L. Gillis, and several state governors. It was Governor Hiram Johnson who encouraged Butler to change careers and take up blueprinting at a time when the State needed someone in that field. Butler learned the trade in San Francisco, returned to Sacramento, and opened the State's first blueprint room in about 1912. At his insistence, it was equipped from the start with a “modern continuous press.” He ran the blueprint office until his retirement from the State in 1935. He and his son Frank were both blueprinters for the Division of the State Architect and the State Division of Highways in the 1920s and 1930s.

Frank J. Butler's F Street home, where he lived from 1910 until his death in 1941, belongs to the popular type known as a “Four Square,” of which there are several examples in Boulevard Park. It has four tall Tuscan columns in its front porch, a balustrade on the porch roof, and a prominent gabled dormer window above the facade



Join the Crowd: Be a Member of BPNA

You don't have to be a member of the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association to attend our annual Spaghetti Dinner (it is open to everyone), but without the BPNA, that dinner would not happen. Please consider joining BPNA if you are not already a member (and if you are a lapsed member, please consider renewing!). Membership dues go towards BPNA's public activities—its printed newsletter, its support of local school programs, its annual events (National Night Out, the Spaghetti Dinner, the Holiday Party)—and its basic expenses as an organization (insurance, a postal box, a website, etc.). BPNA members receive the monthly newsletter via email (if they want to, that is) as well as email announcements that are issued periodically by the Board when there is important information to share with the membership.

Please note that being a member of BPNA is not expensive. The annual dues are designed to fit every budget. The amounts listed on the BPNA Membership Form on the last page of every issue of *Park Beat*--\$5 to \$15 per adult member of a household—are suggestions only. Members can pay more or less than these amounts each year, depending on what they feel they can afford. All paid-up adult members are eligible to vote in the annual election for the BPNA Board.

Being a member of BPNA is not just about writing an annual check. It is about being a part of a community with a long history of neighborhood activity and civic engagement. Please join us! To become a member of BPNA or to renew an existing membership, fill out and mail the form on page 6 of any issue of this newsletter or go to the BPNA website (<https://www.boulevardpark.org/membership-form>). Be sure to indicate whether you are interested in volunteering and also whether you want to receive the monthly newsletter by email.

Neighborhood Fun on Sunday, October 9 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)



Come and sample all kinds of wares at the Vendor Faire at the New Era Community Garden (206 26th Street), now in its twelfth year. The **Miridae Mobile Nursery** will be there, and other vendors also will be on hand. You will find art, stickers, ceramics, hand-crafted skin care products, hand-dyed wool, books, handmade jewelry, coffee and tea (by **Pittadore Brews**), and more. By coming to the Faire you can support the Community Garden while shopping at local small businesses. Please walk or bike if you can. If you come by car, please park near Stanford Park (2700 block of C Street). If you bring your dog, please know that pets are not allowed inside the garden. Thank you for helping keep the impact on our neighbors minimal during this fun event! For more information about the Faire, send an email to: tlsimpson7@aol.com. For more information about Miridae, the "taco truck of nurseries," go to: <http://www.miridae.com/mobilenursery>

Midterm Elections: Things Start Happening in October!

As reported in a Sacramento County news release on September 7, "vote by mail" ballots will be mailed to all registered voters starting on **Monday, October 10**; Ballot Drop Boxes will begin opening that same day; and Vote Centers will begin opening on **Saturday, October 29**. Voter registration will close on **Monday, October 24**. All voter registration forms must be postmarked by this date or delivered to the Voter Registration & Elections office by 5p.m. that afternoon (7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento 95823). **Note:** if you miss the October 24 voter registration deadline, you can still vote under *Conditional Voter Registration (CVR)*. See the County website for more information.



Some Ballot Drop Box locations near Boulevard Park include: **McKinley Library**, 601 Alhambra Boulevard; **Sacramento City Hall**, 915 I Street; Central Library, 828 I Street; and the **Sacramento County Administration Building**, 700 H Street (enter on I Street). Their open hours are posted on the Sacramento County website (<https://elections.saccounty.net/VoteCenters/Pages/locations.aspx>).

If you have not received a Vote by Mail ballot by **November 1**, you will need to pick up a ballot at the VRE office or any of the 87 Vote Centers. All Vote Centers will be open throughout Sacramento County on **Saturday, November 5**. Election Day is **Tuesday, November 8**.

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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

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