



## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ■ Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 ■ September 2021

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### Neighbors Together, At Last!

Several dozen residents cheerfully shared appetizers, snacks, and conversations on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street's grassy median on Tuesday, August 3. We were joined by a good number of elected officials and other city representatives, and they lingered longer than usual because the BPNA party was one of very few National Night Event events scheduled in Sacramento that evening. Our guests included District 4 Councilmember Katie Valenzuela and her Council Representative, Skyler Henry; District 7 California State Assembly Member Kevin McCarty; representatives from the offices of Senator Richard Pan and



Mayor Darrell Steinberg; and several police officers—so many, in fact, that a few passersby wondered if they had stumbled across a major crime scene when they saw the squad cars parked along the 600 block of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. We are grateful to the residents who helped with the set-up, brought the refreshments, and came to the event; we also thank the city representatives for attending.

The NNO gathering may be our first and last BPNA-sponsored, in-person event this year. After careful consideration of current COVID conditions, the BPNA board regretfully decided to cancel the Spaghetti Dinner. We sincerely hope we can bring back this popular group event next year. For 2021, which is the dinner's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year (it was held for the first time in 1991, shortly after BPNA's foundation), Boulevard Park residents are encouraged to serve up pasta at home with their nearest and dearest.

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### Helping the Unhoused: Mid-August Update

The City Council unanimously endorsed the Comprehensive Siting Plan to address homelessness at its August 10 meeting. Public comment was overwhelmingly in favor of the plan, with some valuable input regarding specific sites. The City Manager was charged with implementing the 20 sites as soon as was feasible. The first round of sites was viewed as a good step forward, with a strong sense that many more sites would need to be recommended in future rounds. At the same meeting, Bridgette Dean, Director of the new Department of Community Response, provided a detailed report about her department's activities and programs, including the Office of Homeless Services (video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU9H-V3PAzg>).

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### A Few Reminders About the California Gubernatorial Recall Election

All registered voters should have received their *Voter Information Guides* by now, and many readers of *Park Beat* may already have filled out and submitted their ballots. These were mailed out in mid-August, which also is when Mail Ballot Drop Box locations opened up. McKinley Library is the closest location for Boulevard Park residents. Its Drop Box is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (on **Election Day, September 14**, it will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.). Voters also have the option of mailing their ballots, which come with pink, postage-paid return envelopes. **Important: Be sure to sign, date, and seal the pink envelope before dropping it off!** Mailed ballots ONLY will be accepted if they have the voter's signature, are postmarked on or before Election Day (September 14), and are received by the Elections Office within seven (7) days after Election Day. The Vote Centers will be opening their doors on September 4. Some will be in operation from September 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, others will be in operation from September 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. For a complete list of Ballot Drop Box Locations and Vote Centers, go to the Sacramento County website: <https://elections.saccounty.net/votecenters/pages/locations.aspx>

## A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

Board members made several reports and discussed a range of issues at their August 5 meeting. Jon Marshack described two favorable outcomes involving residential development projects that had been of concern to Boulevard Park residents. Modifications made in each project were the result of negotiations between residents (assisted by BPNA), City planning staff, and the developers. Jon also had good news about the fate of the Capitol Mall Fountain near the west side of the Capitol building, which had seemed headed for demolition. The State has determined that the fountain will not only be saved but will be completely renovated and put back into service (for more information, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/PreservationSac/>). Another “good news” item in the preservation and development category was the recent decision of the Sacramento City Unified School District’s Board to extend the negotiating agreement with the developer who may be undertaking the long-awaited rehabilitation and reuse of the historic Marshall School building on G and 28<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Two BPNA Board members have taken on additional community service. Sher Singh has been selected for membership on Sacramento County’s Continuum of Care Board. She will be serving on the System Performance Committee, which is responsible for ensuring that the overall housing and service system meets the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Dave Herbert has signed up with the Sacramento Tree Foundation’s Save the Elms Program (STEP). He and other volunteers will help spot the beginning of Dutch elm disease in the Central City’s heritage elm population (see article on **page 4**).

Lastly, Board members discussed the successful National Night Out event in Boulevard Park (August 3; see article on **page 1**).

## First Call, Candidates for the 2022 Board of Directors

Every autumn the BPNA solicits members in good standing (annual dues paid) to serve on the next year’s Board of Directors. Once a slate is formed with at least seven BPNA members, the names of all of the candidates are announced in Nov. or Dec. The candidates’ statements are printed in that month’s issue of *Park Beat*, and voting takes place at the membership meeting in January.

Being a Board member 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 two hours. In collaboration with other BPNA members, the seven officers coordinate the four public events usually 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).

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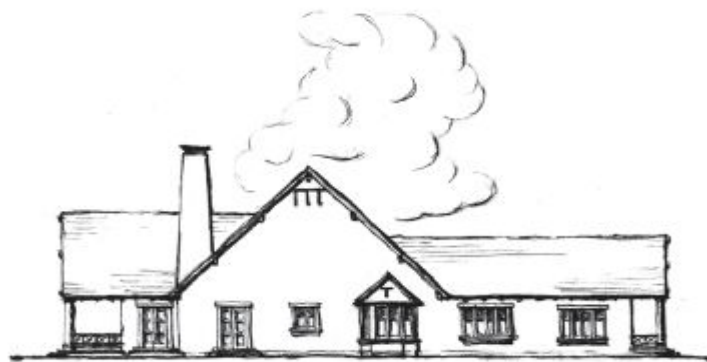
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# BPNA Board of Directors 2021

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Ellen Hunt	<a href="mailto:ellenhunt@gmail.com">ellenhunt@gmail.com</a>
Max Mack, Secretary	<a href="mailto:max@driventodrive.co">max@driventodrive.co</a>
Jon Marshack	<a href="mailto:jon.marshack@att.net">jon.marshack@att.net</a>
Sher Singh	<a href="mailto:alexis.sher.singh@gmail.com">alexis.sher.singh@gmail.com</a>
Catherine Turrill Lupi	<a href="mailto:turrillc@csus.edu">turrillc@csus.edu</a>

*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

<b>Membership:</b>	Ellen Hunt
<b>Preservation, Planning, and Land Use:</b>	Jon Marshack
<b>District 4 Homelessness Task Force:</b>	Travis Silcox <a href="mailto:silcox5@gmail.com">silcox5@gmail.com</a>

## Park Beat Production Team

**Newsletter Editor:** Catherine Turrill Lupi  
**Newsletter Designer:** Pete Bramson  
**Social Media:** Sher Singh  
**Block Captain Coordinator:** Joe Cress, (916) 698-7938  
[josephmcress@yahoo.com](mailto:josephmcress@yahoo.com)

## September:

### Places to Go, Things To Do (Really & Virtually)

**NOTE:** More information about this month's virtual and live public events is posted on the web (<https://www.sacramento365.com/>). Be sure to check individual organization websites for announcements and updates. Below are a few dates, programs, and events to remember:

**Every Wednesday:** Informal gathering on the 21<sup>st</sup> Street boulevard near F Street—no host, no agenda, just the opportunity to meet neighbors of all ages, orientations, and pronouns (5:30-7 p.m.; signs are posted around the neighborhood).

**Every Wednesday:** "Wednesdays at Winn," a certified farmers' market in Winn Park (28<sup>th</sup> 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., 20<sup>th</sup> St. between J and L; also, K St. between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>). Bike valet service.  
Website: <http://exploremidtown.org/midtown-farmers-market/>

**Every Saturday morning:** Join other volunteers in tackling a variety of beautification tasks at Sutter's Landing Park. For more details, go to: <https://www.instagram.com/friendsofsutterslandingpark/>

**Thu., Sept. 2:** 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 or to suggest agenda items.

**Sept. 4, 5, 6:** 31<sup>st</sup> annual Chalk It Up! Art & Music Festival, Fremont Park, 16<sup>th</sup> and Q Streets (10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day).

## Places to Go, Things to Do (cont.)

**Sat., Sep. 4:** This is the first day Vote Centers will be open for the California Gubernatorial Recall Election. For more details, go to: <https://elections.sacounty.net/votecenters/pages/locations.aspx>.

**Sat., Sept. 4:** 17<sup>th</sup> Annual International Kids Festival, William Land Park Amphitheater, 3901 Land Park Dr. (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; free admission). Multicultural entertainment, activities, pony rides, food trucks, etc. Website: <https://www.internationalkidsfestival.org/>

**Sun., Sep. 5:** Broadway International Festival, celebrating Sacramento's cultural diversity (Broadway between 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; free entry; also, free RT transportation to and from the festival; free COVID vaccinations).  
Website: <https://www.broadway-festival.com/>

**Sept. 11 & 12:** Sac Open Studios, with in-person tours of artists' studios from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (free admission)  
Website: <https://sacopenstudios.com/>

**Sat., Sept. 11:** September 11 Memorial Ceremony, in observance of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11: Cal Expo September 11 Memorial Plaza (8 a.m. to noon). Parking (Lot B) and admission are free. Website: <https://calexpostatefair.com/event/september-11-memorial-ceremony/>

**Sun., Sep. 12:** Annual Festival, National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 1909 7<sup>th</sup> St. (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Music and fun for everyone; traditional food from Mexico, El Salvador, and Peru.

**Tues., Sep. 14:** Last day to vote in the California Gubernatorial Recall Election (vote centers close at 8 p.m.). See article on **page 1**.

**Sep. 17 & 18:** Farm-to-Fork Street Festival, Capitol Mall Greens, 1300 7<sup>th</sup> St. (4-9 p.m. on Fri.; 11 a.m.- 9 p.m. on Sat.). Over a mile of local food, regional wines, craft beer, and more; live music. Admission is free; proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID test (within 72 hours of event) is required. For further information about the festival and its health and safety protocols, go to: <https://www.farmtofork.com/events/street-festival/>

**Sep. 18 & 19:** Sac Open Studios, with in-person tours of artist studios from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (free admission).  
Website: <https://sacopenstudios.com/>

**Sep. 24-26:** California Capital Airshow, Mather Airport (3:30-7 p.m. on Fri.; 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Sat. and Sun.). Watch the skies the week before and you may see some of the arriving performers fly over!  
Website: <https://californiacapitalairshow.com/>

**Sep. 24-26:** Sacramento Reptile Show, Cal Expo (2-8 p.m. on Fri.; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sat.; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Sun.; admission fee charged but parking is free). Website: <https://sacreptileshow.com/>

**Fri., Sep. 24:** 54<sup>th</sup> Annual California Native American Day, west steps of the State Capitol (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.). Website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/481426402948890/?ref=newsfeed>

**Sat., Sep. 25:** California Native Plant Society Show & Sale, Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

*... And looking ahead to early October:*

**Thu., Oct. 7:** 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 or to suggest agenda items.

## Sacramento's Heritage Elms Are Threatened: The Community's Help is Needed!

Once home to 25,000 big elm trees, Sacramento now has about 1,900 remaining. Elm tree planting began in the 1870s when space for large trees was plentiful. In the central city today, planting spaces are often much smaller due to more dense development, where buildings often begin right at the sidewalk's edge. Fiber optic cable, 5 G, and other utility encroachments on the city scape also have had an impact on trees, as have sidewalk and curb repairs. Finally, there is the threat posed by Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Brought to the U.S. from Europe in a lumber shipment in the 1930s, and first identified in Sacramento in 1990, DED has no cure. Sacramento's American, English, and Siberian elms are all vulnerable (Chinese elms and Zelkova are far less susceptible).



*Heritage elms at 21<sup>st</sup> and F Streets*

Diagnosing DED early and removing the infected tree promptly before the disease can spread to nearby elm trees is the best way to minimize loss. In a tree-filled city like Sacramento, community involvement is essential. Accordingly, the Sacramento Tree Foundation created the Save the Elms Program (STEP). Every summer, the Foundation partners with the Urban Forestry Division to train citizen volunteers in the identification of infected elms. From May to September, these "community scientists" monitor elm trees for symptoms of DED and report their findings through a smartphone app. To learn more about STEP and to sign up as a volunteer, go to: <https://www.sactree.com/STEP>

### **EXTRA! EXTRA! BLOCK CAPTAIN NEEDED**

A new Block Captain is needed to deliver copies of *Park Beat* in the 22nd and H Street area of Boulevard Park.

If you can spare 15 minutes of your time each month and also would enjoy the opportunity to walk and talk with your neighbors, please contact our Block Captain Coordinator, Joe Cress, by phone or email (916-698-7938; [josephmcress@yahoo.com](mailto:josephmcress@yahoo.com)).



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### **New Curbside Vehicle Charging Station on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street**

The greater Boulevard Park neighborhood now boasts one of the City's several electric vehicle charging stations, recently installed along the west side of the 900 block of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The state's very first curbside high-powered charging plaza for electric vehicles was built in Southside Park in Spring 2019. It was the result of a partnership between the City of Sacramento and EVGo, the nation's largest public electric vehicle fast-charging network. The new venture also provided an opportunity for artists to design vinyl "wraps" for the EV chargers installed in the two midtown locations, 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and the 500 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Street charger wrap was designed by Yoly Petra Stroeve.

As explained on the City website, EV (electric vehicle) drivers can park for free at designated EV charging spaces. No meter fees or parking fees apply, but parking is limited to two hours. To pay for the cost of charging, drivers can use a credit card, their phone, or, if they are EVgo members, an EVgo RFID card or EVgo app.

For more information, go to:

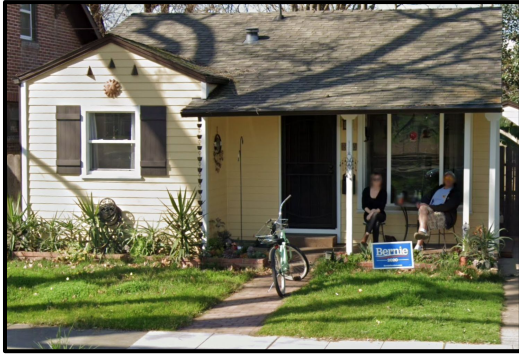
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/Electric-Vehicle-Initiatives/Curbside-Charging>



## What Style Is My House? Minimal Traditional Cottage

by Jon Marshack

The twelfth article of this series explores cottage homes in the **Minimal Traditional** style. These are small-scale, generally one-story houses with minimal amounts of added architectural detail and general simplicity of exterior design. They have low- or intermediate-pitched roofs, more often gabled, and roof eaves usually have little or no overhang. Most have double-hung windows and a concrete or brick front porch. Interiors usually consist of a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, two bedrooms and a bath.



210 21st Street (1941)



326 21st Street (1923)



2205 C Street (1933)

In his National Register nomination for the Boulevard Park Historic District (2010), William Burg explained that “these simple, economical buildings are characteristic of the northern end of the neighborhood, where lots were less expensive, and typical of standardized house plans available to working people in the 1930s to 1940s. Their architectural simplicity reflects the architectural idiom of the era and [was] a response to the demand for inexpensive workforce housing that still provided a pastoral, suburban setting in a detached dwelling. Many were standard designs promoted by pattern books, and later by Federal Housing Administration guidelines that required minimum standards for small houses that could be funded with FHA-backed loans.”

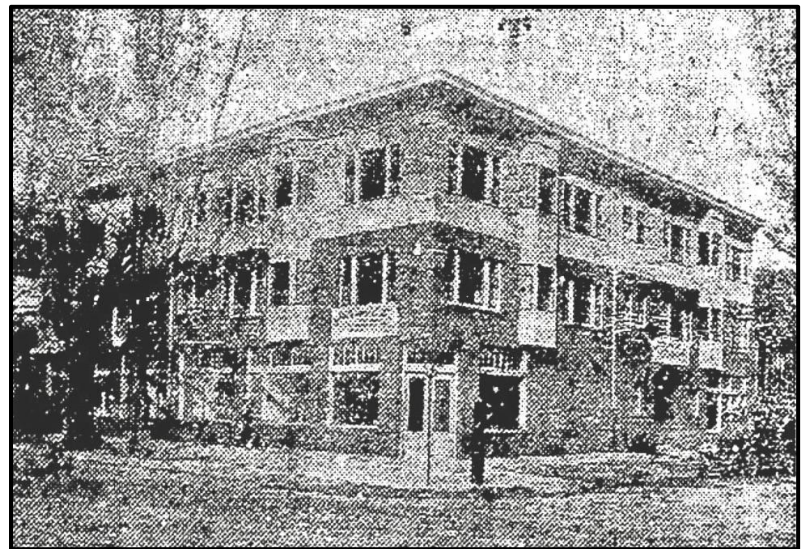
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### Florence Delahunty, Educator and Entrepreneur

Florence Delahunty (1882-1944) was one of several female school teachers who invested in real estate in Sacramento in the first half of the 1900s. After leaving the city school system in 1921, she had a fourplex built at 2020 W Street (1921; demolished in 1966) and then went on to sponsor two more substantial apartment buildings in East Sacramento and in Midtown. William R. Saunders was her contractor on all three projects.

In 1923, Delahunty had Saunders build a two-story apartment building at J Street and Mission Way (4221-4223 J Street). Because it was considered “completely electrical” (boasting electric stoves and electric air and water heaters), the J Street building was featured in articles in trade journals in the 1920s. With its gracious Mediterranean-style design and white stucco exterior, it resembled several other Sacramento apartment buildings from this decade. It also harmonized with the original Mercy Hospital building, designed by Rudolph Herold and finished in 1925.

In 1927, Delahunty and Saunders undertook an even more ambitious project, the Adair Apartments (now called The Corum). This three-story, brick and stucco building is located at the northwest corner of J and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets. As designed, it combined commercial and residential uses.



Adair Apartments (1927 *Sacramento Bee* photo)

The first floor had five stores, while the second and third floors were occupied by 48 apartments, all originally furnished by Breuner's. Saunders was both designer and builder for this project.

Eleven years later, Saunders was the contractor for the dry cleaners on the opposite corner (2201 J). And, as before, his client was Florence Delahunty. He had a long association with this last building. When the façade of the dry cleaners was remodeled in 1950 by a later owner, D. R. Woodard, he was the contractor (but not the designer) for that project too.





## Neighborhood Treats: Neon

The photograph above, taken of K Street during its commercial heyday and showing an impressive array of neon signs, could never have been taken in Boulevard Park at any time. For one thing, the original Boulevard Park neighborhood—bordered by C, H, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets—was exclusively residential by design. Although there have been a few commercial encroachments over the years (notably the supermarket/pharmacy at F and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets), businesses tended not to intrude upon the neighborhood. Instead, they hovered at its fringes, just outside the historic borders. Vintage neon signs still exist at several sites near Boulevard Park, as shown in photos posted on websites dedicated to Sacramento’s neon (see below). Moving from west to east, these include: New Roma Bakery (1800 E Street), John Ellis, Auto Repairing (910 19<sup>th</sup> Street), Wessler Body and Paint Shop (2011 J Street), and D.R. Woodard Cleaner & Dyer (2201 J Street: see article on [page 5](#)).

For digital images of Sacramento neon, go to:  
 “Signs of Sacramento,” a crowd-sourced Flickr site  
[\(https://www.flickr.com/groups/2252306@N21/\)](https://www.flickr.com/groups/2252306@N21/)

For information about neon signs owned by the Center for Sacramento History, go to:  
<http://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org/exhibits/current-exhibits/neon-signs>

## To Blow or Not to Blow: The AQI Is the Answer

In November 2020, the City Council approved an ordinance prohibiting the use of all portable leaf blowers when the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Sacramento was at or above 101 (i.e., “unhealthy for sensitive groups”). Specifically, this means the current PM2.5 (particulate matter) AQI for downtown Sacramento, as reported by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) on its “Spare the Air” website (<http://www.sparetheair.com/aqirealtime.cfm>). As stated in the August 6, 2021 issue of *Sacramento City Express*, residents wishing to file a complaint about the misuse of leaf blowers on days with unhealthy air quality should call or email the City’s 311 number: “Complaints should include the address/location where the activity is occurring as well as the name of contractor, landscaping, or gardening company, if appropriate” (email address: [311@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:311@cityofsacramento.org)).


\*\* More information is available on the City’s portable leaf-blower webpage:  
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Code-Compliance/Programs/Portable-Blowers>

\*\* To sign up for Sacramento Region air alerts, go to:  
<http://www.sparetheair.com/airalert.cfm>


\*\* To receive *Sacramento City Express* regularly by email, go to the website:  
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## Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Send form with your \$5 to \$15 check per member for the remainder of the calendar year to: P.O. Box 160811, Sacramento, CA. 95816-9179

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