



PARK BEAT
The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association

Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816

August 2022

Be a Part of History!

Come to BPNA's Spaghetti Dinner at 2101 G Street on September 10

Held for the first time in 1994, our neighborhood's most popular social gathering would be celebrating its 28th anniversary this year, had it not been for the pandemic that led us to cancel the event in 2020 and 2021. The spaghetti dinner began as a late Spring celebration, then was moved to September in 1999, a year after the Bramson family started hosting the event in their big backyard. Their historic house, built for the Cranston family in 1909, is now the home of our new hosts, Maximillian Beach and Roxane Duka.



The same menu has been in place for decades. Spaghetti will be served with a choice of tomato sauces (with or without meat), dusted with parmesan cheese, and accompanied by a green salad

and French bread. There also will be a variety of desserts and beverages. The **2019** prices for the dinner will be in effect: **\$10** for adults and **\$5** for children aged 6-12 (*children who are 5 years old or younger eat for free*). Beer and wine are **\$5**; sodas are **\$2**. Water and lemonade will be free. The dinner course will be made and served by volunteers, using ingredients purchased by the BPNA; the dessert table will be stocked with donations from attendees (please bring some fruit or a favorite sweet to share!). The bar will open at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5:30 until 7:30.

Dinner is not the only item on the agenda. There also will be a children's entertainer to distract the kids, and rides on a horse-drawn hay-wagon for everyone. If our driver follows the same route as before, passengers will enjoy a lovely saunter north on 21st Street, east on C Street, then south on 22nd Street, then west on G Street. The whole ride takes several minutes and the experience of passing early 20th century houses under real horsepower is something to treasure.

Lastly, two very important questions for our readers:

Volunteering: For the Spaghetti Dinner to be a success, we will need more volunteers to help with a variety of tasks—setting up the tables and chairs on **Saturday morning**, working at the supper on **Saturday evening**, and putting our hosts' backyard back in order on **Sunday morning**. Supper shifts typically last about 45 minutes, and can be at the cashier's desk, at the bar, in the kitchen, at the serving tables, or on the clean-up crew at the end of the evening. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to: BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com (*please include your contact information so we can reply*).

Attendance: Do you think you will be able to come to the event? We are wondering how many folks will be at the dinner this year (in the past, we have had as many as 200 guests). The information will help us make final decisions about the quantities of food and drink to have on hand. RSVP to: BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com (*you only need to reply if you plan to come*)

National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 2! See the article on page 4.

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

The first two items on the July 7 meeting agenda, dominating most of the evening's discussion, were final planning for the annual "National Night Out" neighborhood get together on August 2 (see the article on **page 4**) and advance planning for BPNA's annual Spaghetti Dinner on September 10 (see the article on **page 1**). Other topics discussed at the Board meeting included the recent announcement that two of the four lawsuits challenging the massive Capital Annex project had been defeated; a report from the Central City Command about the Police Department's ongoing efforts to reduce stop sign running, reckless driving, and speeding in Sacramento's central city; and the many problems posed by sidewalk encampments in midtown and downtown neighborhoods. The last issue also was addressed at the meeting of the City's Law & Legislation Committee on June 21, where Councilmembers reviewed a staff report about a new ordinance that would amend the City Code about sidewalk obstructions.

Rite Aid Property Sold This Summer

The July 13 issue of *Sacramento Business Journal* had a news story of great interest to Boulevard Park residents: the sale of the commercial property in the half block bounded by Eggplant Alley, 22nd Street, F Street, and 23rd Street, better known around here as the Rite Aid property, even though it was not owned by the Rite Aid Corporation. Instead, Realty Income Properties, a national real estate investment trust, was the seller. The good news is that the purchaser is a local company, Sutter Capital Group. In an email to *Sacramento Business Journal*, a principal of the company stated that they were "exploring re-tenanting the existing building with a neighborhood grocer, as well as redeveloping the site." To that end, Sutter Capital will be working with a local architectural firm, Vrilakas Groen Architecture (very local, in fact—Ron Vrilakas is a Boulevard Park resident). Sutter Capital and Vrilakas Groen recently collaborated on another mixed-use project at 1629 S Street, for which development permits were filed this past March. We look forward to discussing the 2211 F Street project further with Sutter Capital, which already has reached out to the BPNA.

African American Experience Project

The City's Historic Preservation staff is developing a city-wide historic context statement and survey focused on the historical African American/Black experience in Sacramento from its early days to the recent past. This grant-funded project will encompass both written and oral history, with the goal of creating a living archive of the Black experience. Residents who are interested in learning more about the project and how they can contribute are encouraged to attend a public meeting at the Sacramento Youth Center, 1901 Del Paso Boulevard (**Thurs., August 4; 6 p.m.**). They also can go to the website: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Urban-Design/Preservation/African-American-Experience-Project>

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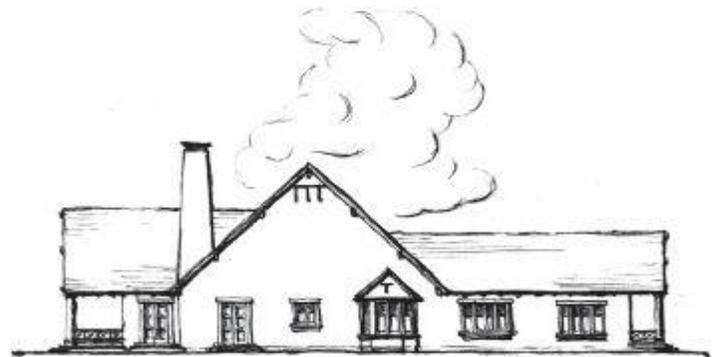
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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life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

Committees

Membership:	Ellen Hunt
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
Newsletter Designer: Pete Bramson
Social Media: Sher Singh
Block Captain Coordinator: Joe Cress, (916) 698-7938
josephmcress@yahoo.com

August 2022: Places to Go, Things to Do

TIP: For more information about public events being held this month, go to: <https://www.sacramento365.com/>. Be sure to check individual organization websites for announcements and updates. 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/>). On the first and third Wednesdays of each month (through September), there is a seasonal "Sippin' at Winn Wine Garden" from 5-7 p.m., sponsored by the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-Op.

Every Wednesday: Informal gathering on the 21st Street median between E and F—no host, no agenda, just the opportunity to meet neighbors of all ages, orientations, and pronouns (5:30-7 p.m.).

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market (8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th Street between J and L; also, K Street between 19th and 20th Street). Website: <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: *Because of the extra time needed to manage the National Night Out event in August and the Spaghetti Dinner in September, the BPNA Board will **not** hold a meeting in August.*

Places to Go, Things to Do (cont.)

Tue., Aug. 2: National Night Out. See article on **page 4**.

Thu., Aug. 4: Public meeting about the African American Experience Project, 1901 Del Paso Blvd. (article on **page 2**).

Aug. 5-7: Gem Faire, Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H St. (12-6 on Fri., 10-6 on Sat., 10-5 on Sun.; admission charged).

Website: <https://gemfaire.com/event/sacramento-ca-18/>

Sat., Aug. 6: SacTown History Quest, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. See article on **page 4**.

Sat., Aug. 6: Harvest Day 2022, hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County at Fair Oaks Horticultural Center, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. (8 a.m.-2 p.m.; free admission).

Website: https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Harvest_Day/

Sun., Aug. 7: "Of Love and Longing: A Classical Indian Dance Festival," presented by Kaladhara Arts Academy at the Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave. (2 p.m., with doors open at 1 p.m.; admission \$5).

Website: <https://bstreettheatre.org/music/classical-indian-dance-recital/>

Aug. 9-14: Broadway at Music Circus presents *The Secret Garden* at UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H Street.

Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/>

Sat., Aug. 13: Preservation Roundtable, a Webinar conducted via Zoom (10 a.m. to noon), with a presentation by author Victoria Kastner about her book about Julia Morgan, California's first licensed female architect. Advance registration required.

Website for information and updates: <https://www.facebook.com/PreservationSac/>

Sat., Aug. 13: "Murder & Mayhem," themed tour about Sacramento's Wild West years, at the Old City Cemetery.

Website: <https://historcoldcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sat., Aug. 20: SacTown History Quest, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. See article on **page 4**.

Aug. 23-28: Broadway at Music Circus presents *The Color Purple* at UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H Street.

Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/>

Sat., Aug. 27: 23rd Annual Race of the Arts, with a *free* Arts Festival, at William Land Park (first race starts at 8:10 a.m.). Website: <http://raceforthearts.com/>

Sat., Aug. 27: "Medicine Bag," a themed tour about Sacramento's physicians of the past, at the Old City Cemetery.

Website: <https://historcoldcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

... And looking ahead to early September:

Sat., Sep. 3: 11th Annual Brazilian Carnival, at the Brazilian Center, 2420 N St. (4-11 p.m.).

Website: <https://www.braziliancentersac.org/annual-brazilian-carnaval>

Thu., Sept. 8: Sac Open Studios 2022 Kick Off Party & Preview Exhibition Reception, Verge Center for the Arts, 625 S St. (5:30-9 p.)

Thu., Sept. 8: 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.

Sat., Sept. 10: Boulevard Park's Spaghetti Dinner (5-9:00 p.m.): see article on **page 1**.



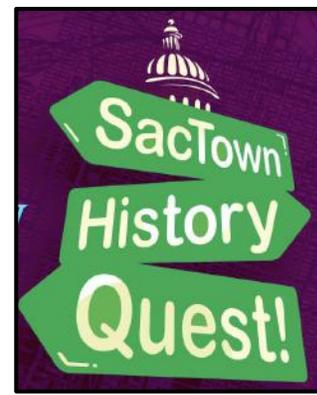
39th Annual National Night Out: August 2

Held annually on the first Tuesday in August, National Night Out is intended to be community-building event. Although one of its goals is to encourage police-community partnerships, the main purpose is to promote neighborhood camaraderie by bringing residents together. NNO also gives residents the opportunity to meet socially with city employees and public officials. Website: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Police/Events-Notices/National-Night-Out-2022>

For several years, the Boulevard Park and Marshall School/New Era Park Neighborhood Associations have co-hosted a progressive potluck dinner for their NNO event. It is a great way to see old friends and make new ones, and we are delighted that we can have the full event this year, for the first time since 2019. A few of the beat officers are likely to be present, and city representatives usually attend too, as they make the rounds of the different NNO events occurring throughout Sacramento. Several neighborhood associations will be participating this year.

Please come to all three courses if you can (join the informal parade as we walk between venues), and please bring a favorite dish to share at any one of the courses. Especially during the *hors d'oeuvres* course, participants may want to bring bug spray and bottled water (other beverages also will be provided). It can be hot on the grassy median in the early evening, despite the tree canopy, and there may be a few mosquitoes around.

- **6 p.m.:** *Hors d'oeuvres* course on the 22nd Street median, between Fig Alley and G Street
- **7 p.m.:** *Entrée* course in the courtyard outside the Hull and Allair home, 2431 H Street
- **8 p.m.:** Dessert course in Marshall Park, near the tot-lot (28th and I Streets)



SacTown History Quest (August 6 and 20)

So, you think you know local history? Here's a great way to test your "Sacramento Smarts" and have fun with family and friends at the same time. As explained on the website of the Sacramento History Museum, which is hosting the event, the game will be played by teams who will be given a custom map and smartphone app, then sent out to hunt for clues in downtown Sacramento. Markers hidden along the route will activate the app on the smartphone, and questions will be posed to team members who will try to earn letters, solve the secret phrase, and win a prize. The cost for participation is \$30 per team (\$20 per team for Sacramento History Museum members) and the adventure starts at 10 a.m., when the museum opens. Teams will have until 5 p.m. to compete their quest and return to the Sacramento History Museum (101 I Street). Website: <http://sachistorymuseum.org/events/sactown-history-quest/>

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Boulevard Park, Sutter Terrace, and Master Builder W. T. Murcell

Sacramento experienced a wave of home building construction in the first two decades of the 1900s, with new residential tracts under development in what were then considered suburbs, but which are now regarded as parts of Midtown. These included Boulevard Park, East Boulevard Park, and New Era Park on the north side of town, and Sutter Terrace on the south side of town. Of these tracts, Boulevard Park and Sutter Terrace (today better known by an old nickname, Poverty Ridge) had the highest prestige and the most substantial residences, many of them designed by licensed architects and built by prominent contractors. One contractor associated with both neighborhoods was William T. Murcell, a native of Newfoundland who had settled in Sacramento in the 1890s and set up shop as a house builder (“original designs a specialty,” according to one newspaper ad).



Madeley House, 610 22nd Street



Shields and Murcell Houses, 2009 and 2015 23rd Street

A property owner and home designer in Boulevard Park during the first two years of its development, W. T. Murcell built three houses on 21st and 22nd Streets between 1905 and 1906. These were the Miller residence at 730 21st Street (replaced by a commercial building in 1961) and two “artistic homes” at **425 and 501 22nd Street**. In 1911, after going into partnership with a brick contractor named John W. Haley, Murcell got the job of building a brick firehouse at **417 20th Street** (designed by architect E. C. Hemmings). In May 1912, Murcell & Haley were contracted to both design and build the impressive Mission Revival style home of Thomas W. Madeley, one of the founders of the California Fruit Exchange (**610 22nd Street**). It dates from the same years as the two Prairie Style homes that Murcell & Haley constructed in Sutter Terrace Park, an eastward extension of Sutter Terrace, where Haley had built a home in 1910 (2022 22nd Street). Murcell moved into one of the two new houses, 2015 23rd Street. The one next door, 2009 23rd Street, was acquired by Judge Peter Shields. The Haley, Murcell, and Shields residences have all been included on historic home tours sponsored by Preservation Sacramento (*see the article below*). The Madeley house has provided a wonderful setting for BPNA’s holiday party in past years.

Preservation Sacramento’s 46th Annual Home Tour

The **Sutter Terrace/Poverty Ridge** neighborhood will provide the in-person component of this year’s historic home tour, to be held on **Sunday, September 18** (10 a.m.-4 p.m.). One of the three private properties open to tour participants that day will be the Craftsman-style house built in 1908 for James S. Remick. His wife Kate was the sister of brick contractor John W. Haley, one of the two men responsible for the design and construction of the Madeley house in Boulevard Park (*see the article above*). The two other properties open to tour participants are the oldest house in Poverty Ridge, the Italianate Victorian residence of John Stevens (built in 1881); and the new accessory dwelling unit (ADU) and redesigned backyard behind a Tudor Revival style house from the late 1920s.



Tour participants also will be able to enjoy **virtual visits via video** to three other historic homes in three different neighborhoods (available on demand for two weeks following the in-person tour, until **October 2**). All six houses will be described in the tour brochure, and docents will be present at each of the three open houses to answer visitors’ questions. Tickets are now on sale (\$25 for members of Preservation Sacramento; \$30 for non-members). For more information and updates about the home tour, go to Preservation Sacramento’s website (<http://www.preservationsacramento.org/hometour>) or to its Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/PreservationSac/>).

Ocean Wildlife Come to Sacramento



Tourists visiting Pier 39 at Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco expect to see California sea lions basking in the sun, quarrelling, barking, and diving for fish. It may seem unlikely that sea lions would leave their familiar saltwater environment and swim all the way up the Sacramento River to frolic and sunbathe near the Tower Bridge. Nonetheless, many sea lions (typically males) have done just that on a regular basis in recent years. They also swim up the American River to the Sutter’s Landing Park area, where Boulevard Park resident Robert Sewell took these two photographs.



Why **Sacramento** and why **now**? Sea lions were once widely hunted, and their population was diminishing until the Marine Protection Act was passed in 1972. In the past fifty years, their numbers have increased dramatically, rising from about 70,000 in the mid-1970s to 355,000 in 2021. As a result, there are many more sea lions looking for food in our coastal waters. They love salmon, shad, steelhead trout, and other fish and find them in abundance in the Sacramento and American rivers.

California sea lions are found from southeast Alaska to central Mexico. The males weigh more than 600 pounds and are about 8 feet long, whereas females weigh less and are about 6 and a half feet in length. Sea lions will swim far and dive deep to find food, and they can consume great quantities of fish. Keep your eyes open for a glimpse of these beautiful creatures in the Sacramento or American River, but don’t get too close to them, and please restrain your dog from plunging into the water in pursuit. Although they are highly intelligent and very trainable, sea lions are wild and can be dangerous. There are, however, a few documented incidents where sea lions have helped humans, such as when a San Francisco man jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge in 2000 and was kept afloat by a sea lion until he was rescued by the Coast Guard.

For a story and short video about a sea lion encounter near Sutter’s Landing Park in 2021, go to the website:

<https://www.friendsoftheriverbanks.org/forb-blog/archives/12-2021>

Other nature-related blogs, videos, and photographs are posted on the website of Friends of Sutter’s Landing Park:

<http://www.sutterslandingpark.org/>

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