



BOULEVARD PARK

PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ☐☐☐ Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816-0811 ☐☐☐ **October 2024**

Another Memorable Spaghetti Dinner

We had a real crowd! Attendance at this year’s spaghetti dinner broke the record set back in 2017. Then just over 200 paying guests were counted, including children. This year we had 225 paying guests and many children younger than six, all of whom ate for free. As we discovered last year, the first time we used this site, the alley park in the center of the F, G, 21st, and 22nd Street block is a perfect setting for the event, with a level grassy surface, space for the dining tables, and even a small playground that got lots of use this year.



Our thanks go to the many friends and neighbors who made the event’s success possible: Councilmember Katie Valenzuela, for providing the dining tables and chairs (and also for serving pasta, as shown in the photo of her beside Rebecca McDaniel, on the left); Lisa Folberg, for letting us set up the serving tables in her backyard and for giving us access to both of her kitchens (indoor and outdoor); Rebecca McDaniel, for pre-cooking the pasta with Lisa Folberg; Eva Harriman and Emily Herbert, for making the spaghetti sauces; Miche Petite, for providing the garlic bread; the BPNA Board of Directors, for coordinating volunteers as well as helping with other tasks; and the over 40 volunteers who set up the tables and chairs, handled the cash box, toiled in the kitchens, poured beverages, and served up pasta, salad, and bread. Many thanks as well to everyone who brought a treat to the potluck dessert table—you are all fabulous cooks!



Finally, we were delighted to welcome back not only Caroline Geiger of Balloon Twisters, who always is able to entertain the children with her balloon artistry and face-painting skills, but also Rick Newborn, founder of Top Hand Ranch Carriage Company, who took adults and children on hay-wagon rides around the neighborhood (photo on the lower left).



A Neighborhood Halloween Event on October 26

IBPNA and Marshall New Era Neighborhood Association (MNENA) are hosting a special Halloween event on **Saturday, October 26** at the old Marshall School (28th and G Streets). Join us for a spooky “trunk-or-treat” replete with games, activities, and snacks, followed by a haunted outdoor (family-friendly!) movie night. More details and updates will be shared via flyers, e-mail, and the BPNA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/blvdparksac>). **Volunteers are needed!** Please write Noah Mebane at mebanen@gmail.com or text/call 302-943-7445 if you are interested in helping with the event.



Voting Starts This Month!

Election Day falls on the first Tuesday in November, but voting in California begins in October. To learn more, see the Official Voter Information Guide on the Secretary of State's website (<https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>). The following information is from the Sacramento County Elections website (<https://elections.saccounty.gov/Pages/default.aspx>).

County elections officials will start mailing vote-by-mail ballots to all registered voters on or before **October 7**, the same day that early voting starts. Ballot drop boxes also will be available for use starting that day. For Boulevard Park residents, convenient **drop box locations** include: City Hall (Mon.-Fri., 8-5; also 8-5 on Nov. 5), McKinley Library (Tues.-Sat., 10-6; closed Oct. 9; also 7 a.m. -8 p.m. on Nov. 5), and the Welcome Center at Sacramento State (Mon.-Fri., 8-5; also 8-5 on Nov. 5).

Sacramento County vote centers will be open 11 days, from October 26 to November 5. For Boulevard Park residents, convenient **vote centers** include: CLARA Auditorium, 1425 24th St. (daily 10-6; also 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Nov. 5); Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St. (daily 8-4; also 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Nov. 5); and Modoc Hall, Sacramento State, 3020 State Univ. Dr. (daily 8-4; also, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Nov. 5). Important: this is the complete list as of mid-September. There probably will be updates as additional Vote Center locations are confirmed. Check the Sacramento County Elections website (see above).

Voters also can mail in their ballots, for free (no additional postage required). Whether mailing in your ballot or dropping it off at a drop box or vote center, be sure to follow all the instructions exactly. After filling out the ballot, put it inside the pink, postage-paid return envelope. Sign and date the pink envelope between the hole punches (remembering that this signature will be checked against the one on your voter registration record), and then seal it.

For a mailed-in ballot to count, it must be postmarked on or before November 5 and received by the County Elections office within seven (7) days after November 5.

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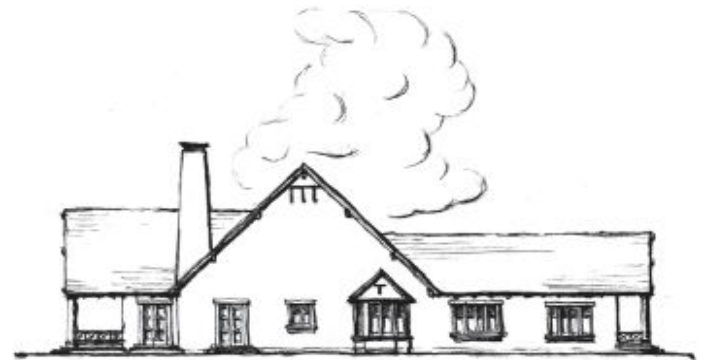
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Morris Lum	morris411@gmail.com
James McDaniel, Secretary	specterzero@sbcglobal.net
Noah Mebane	mebanen@gmail.com
Colleen Schwartz	colleenschwartz05@gmail.com

BPNA's purpose: This neighborhood association was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. In so doing, we strive to improve the quality of life of those who work and live in and around Boulevard Park, and therefore in Sacramento as a whole.

Board Assignments

Membership:	Colleen Schwartz
Preservation:	Morris Lum
Social Media:	Noah Mebane

Park Beat Production Team

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Turrill-Lupi (turrillc@csus.edu)
Columnist: David Herbert
Newsletter Designer: TBA
Block Captain Coordinator: Joe Cress (916) 628-3130
josephmcress@yahoo.com

October 2024: Places to Go, Things to Do

TIP: For more information about public events this month, go to: <https://www.sacramento365.com>.

Most weekend mornings, 9 a.m. to noon: Join volunteers in helping with beautification tasks at Sutter's Landing Park. For information, contact FOSL's volunteer coordinator, Betsy Weiland (flweiland@yahoo.com; or 279-202-4677).

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market (8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th St. between J and L Sts.; K St. between 19th and 21st Sts.). Website: <https://exploremidtown.org/midtown-markets/>

Every Sunday: Downtown Sacramento Farmers' Market: under the freeway at 8th and W Streets (8 a.m. to noon; free parking).

Thu., Oct. 3: BPNA Board Meeting, Washington Elementary School, 520 18th St. (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information.

Oct. 4-6: 61st Annual Sacramento Greek Festival, at the Church of the Annunciation, 600 Alhambra Boulevard. Food, crafts, live entertainment. Website: <http://sacramentogreekfestival.com/>

Oct. 5-6: 2024 Fall Sale, at the Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-4 on Sat.; 10-3 on Sun.). Art, crafts, jewelry, plants, food, and more.

Sat., Oct. 5: Sacramento Archives Crawl (several locations; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.). Website: <https://sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com/>

Places to Go, Things to Do (*continued*)

Mon., Oct. 7: Vote by mail ballots will be mailed to voters.

Tue., Oct. 8: Ballot drop-off locations will open. See article on [page 2](#).

Oct. 8-13: Broadway Sacramento presents *Mrs. Doubtfire* at SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center. Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/mrs-doubtfire/>

Thu., Oct. 10: *Monster House*, the first of four Halloween-themed "Movies Under the Stars" being screened at the Old Sacramento Waterfront this month (\$10 general admission; the film will start at 7:00 p.m.). Website: <https://www.oldsacramento.com/seasonal-activities>

Thu., Oct. 10: "Treasures of the Valley," annual fundraiser dinner for the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, Camp Pollock, 1501 Northgate Boulevard (6:00-8:00 p.m.; \$75). Website: <https://sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/event/tov2024/>

Sat., Oct. 12: 50th Anniversary Porcelain Show and sale, by the Camellia City Porcelain Artists at the Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-3). Hand-painted porcelains.

Sat., Oct. 12: Sac PorchFest: Live, local music in the Boulevard Park neighborhood, from 1 to 10 p.m. See article on [page 5](#).

Sat., Oct. 12: Día de los Muertos Fiesta, California Museum, 1020 O Street (6-10 p.m.; admission charged): art, music, dance, and food. For more information, go to the event website: <https://californiamuseum.org/exhibitions/temporary/upcoming/arte-de-inspiracion/>

Sat., Oct. 19: Art by Fire Show and Sale, Sacramento Garden & Arts Ctr., 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-4). Handmade pottery, glass, and metalwork for sale. Get started on your holiday shopping!

Mon., Oct. 21: Last day to register online to vote (mail-in voter registrations must be postmarked by this date). All later voter registrations must be done in person.

Fri., Oct. 25: "Farm to Fort," 3rd annual fundraiser dinner at Sutter's Fort, 2701 L St. (5:30-9:30; admission charged, \$40 and up). Signature bites from local restaurants and food trucks; live music; and a raffle! Website: <https://farmtofort.org/>

Sat., Oct. 26: BPNA/MNENA Halloween event: article on [p. 1](#).

Oct. 27-Nov. 1: 47th Annual Festival of New American Music, Sacramento State. All concerts are free. See article on [page 4](#).

And looking ahead to early November . . .

Tue., Nov. 5: Election Day!

Thu., Nov. 7: BPNA Board Meeting, Washington Elementary School, 520 18th St. (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information.



Safe Streets and Modal Filters

Do you ever drive around the neighborhood and wonder why you have to zigzag around due to half-street closures at intersections like 16th and F, 20th and E, 28th and C, and 29th and G Streets? These traffic-slowing measures, also known as “modal filters,” may seem like a nuisance when you’re behind the wheel of your car—but they actually save lives!

Named for their ability to let pedestrian and bicycle traffic through while redirecting motor vehicle traffic toward feeder roads, modal filters help create safe, low-traffic neighborhoods. Along with traffic circles and other traffic-calming measures, these installations have helped reduce through-traffic in Boulevard Park. As evidence of their effectiveness, statistics show that collisions between cars and pedestrians or bicyclists are lower here than almost anywhere else on the grid.

Not only does the creation of low-traffic neighborhoods help reduce and slow traffic, there is evidence that it also reduces crime.

While increased traffic enforcement is always on the minds of Sacramento residents, a variety of factors have caused a decrease in the availability of law enforcement personnel. Given the challenges impacting our local police department’s ability to reduce traffic incidents, it’s helpful to consider simple, low-cost solutions and infrastructure changes that can shape drivers’ behavior. Measures like modal filters also have the added benefit of being available 24/7, rather than only when an officer is available to post on a corner.

Prior to the redevelopment of Sacramento’s downtown in the 1940s and 1950s, the city streets were meant for all kinds of movement—not just cars. Thanks to recent projects like Broadway Complete Streets, Franklin Boulevard Complete Street, the addition of protected bike lanes along 19th and 21st Streets, and the recent conversion of 5th Street from a one-way street to a two-way street, the grid’s streets are becoming a great way to move and protect people—and not just those in cars!

For more information about modal filters and other street design standards, go to the Strong SacTown website: <https://www.strongstactown.org/2024/06/29/modal-filters/>

Festival of New American Music

As reported on the School of Music’s website, Sacramento State’s 47th annual Festival of New American Music will offer “high-quality performances of recently composed or improvised music by some of this country’s most exciting artists.” And, incredible as it may seem, admission to all the concerts is **free**, as is parking for people who arrive by car (be sure to read the parking information **before** driving to campus!). Between the Gala Concert on **Oct. 27** and the closing concert on **Nov. 1**, there will be an array of great events in Capistrano Hall, including masterclasses and artist forums with individual musicians every day; student competitions on Monday and Wednesday afternoon; and a concert every evening. All Festival concerts will be livestreamed on the School of Music’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/sacstatemusic/live>).

For more information about the Festival, a complete schedule, and a waived-fee campus parking permit, go to: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/music/spotlight/fenam-festival.html> (the photo below was taken in 2023).

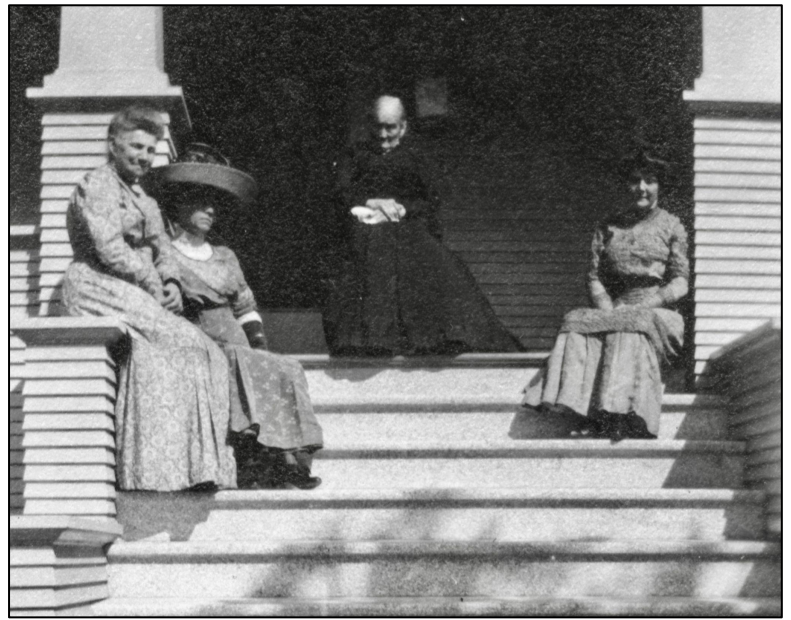


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Historic Groth House: 725 Twenty-First Street

Several pages and photographs in the book *Sacramento's Boulevard Park* are dedicated to the fine Craftsman style house at 725 21st Street. It had the good fortune to remain in the possession of the same family for 55 years. The next owners took pride in it as well, with the result that the house suffered less alteration than other Boulevard Park residences from the early 1900s. One of the changes that happened before the 1980s was the painting of the woodwork. The current owners spent several years stripping layers of paint off the baseboards, wainscoting, doors, window frames, and built-in furniture. They then sanded, stained, and tung-oiled the woodwork to restore the original dark, lustrous finish (as reported in *The Sacramento Bee*, July 4, 1992).

The house was constructed for Louise (*née* Pesron) Groth fifteen years after the death of her husband, County Supervisor James Groth. According to the building permit that she secured in September 1910, the two story, ten-room house was projected to cost \$4,900. From the day Louise Groth moved into her new home, she shared it with several adult family members, among them her mother, Madame Justine Pesron (died in 1913); her daughters Berta and Emma (both of whom were public school teachers); her niece, Blanche Beau; and Emma's first husband, Albert Pait. In 1915, Emma and Albert divorced. A few months later Emma married her attorney, Arthur E. Miller, and he moved into the Groth family home. Miller, who had been living across the street in one of the first houses to be built in Boulevard Park (730 21st), also was the first owner of the lot where Louise Groth built her house in 1910. Louise, Berta, Emma, Arthur, and Blanche all spent the rest of their lives at 725 21st Street. After Blanche died in 1966, the house and all its contents were inherited by two men who had boarded there since the early 1950s. She also left behind a fascinating notebook filled with lace knitting patterns and knitted sample pieces. These later were the basis of a book by local author Nancie Wiseman, *Lace from the Attic: A Victorian Notebook of Knitted Lace Patterns* (1998).

Designed for comfort, the Groth house had five bedrooms, three sleeping porches, three and one-half bathrooms, a study, parlor, dining room, butler's pantry, and kitchen. No architect or contractor is named in the newspaper summaries of the building permit. Judging by its exterior, the house could have been designed by Frank H. Schardin, who was responsible for the large house on the corner (2101 H Street; 1908), or by William Murcell, who had worked for L. Stuart Upson (715 21st Street; 1909).

Black and white photograph courtesy of Don Cox. It shows Justine Pesron seated on the front porch of the new home of her daughter Louise (on the far left). The two younger women seated on the steps to either side of Mme. Pesron may be Berta Groth and Blanche Beau.

Ninth Annual Sac PorchFest

This year's PorchFest will bring live, local music to the front yards and porches of Boulevard Park on Saturday afternoon and evening, **October 12**. Twelve bands will perform throughout the neighborhood from **1:00-10:00 p.m.**, starting at 21st and I Streets. The other two porch stages also will be on 21st Street, one in the middle of the block between G and H, and the other in the middle of the block between F and G. Admission to Sac PorchFest is free to all. The popular event also is a fundraiser for the Mustard Seed School, a Loaves & Fishes program that offers free classes, school supplies, and meals to unhoused children (ages 3-15). Donations are gladly accepted from the audience. For more information: <https://www.instagram.com/sacporchfest/>

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

The BPNA Board had its September 5 meeting at our new venue for neighborhood gatherings, the library at Washington Elementary School. Most of the meeting was devoted to final planning for the Spaghetti Dinner on September 14 (see article on **page 1**). Board members also discussed some ideas for a Halloween event on October 26, as noted on **page 1**. BPNA's last public event of the year will be the annual Holiday Party in December, with a venue and date to be announced soon.

Other topics discussed at the September meeting included a proposal for increasing *Park Beat's* neighborhood coverage by a few blocks, local residents' ongoing concerns about the big SMUD underground cable installation project that has caused so much disruption in Boulevard Park over the last several months, and the recent interest in the housing options provided by Junior ADU's, small (500 square feet or less) auxiliary dwelling units built inside single-family residences. For more information, go to: <https://adu.cityofsacramento.org/about-adus>

Second Call: Candidates for BPNA's 2025 Board of Directors

The BPNA seeks members in good standing (annual dues paid!) to serve on next year's Board of Directors. Being an officer on the neighborhood 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 Boulevard Park. Board meetings are held once a month, with each session lasting about 90 minutes. As announced in *Park Beat's* events calendar (**page 3**), these meetings are open to BPNA members and other interested residents.

In addition to hosting monthly meetings, the seven officers also coordinate the four public events sponsored by BPNA—the general membership meeting in January, the progressive potluck dinner for National Night Out in August, the Spaghetti Dinner in September, and the Holiday Party in December. If you are interested in serving on the BPNA Board and have questions about it, please contact any current Board officer (their names and email addresses are listed on **page 3** of the newsletter).

Because the Board election will take place at the general membership meeting in January, the deadline for submitting a letter of interest to the BPNA is **Monday, Dec. 2**. Short statements by the candidates will be printed in the January 2025 newsletter.

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