

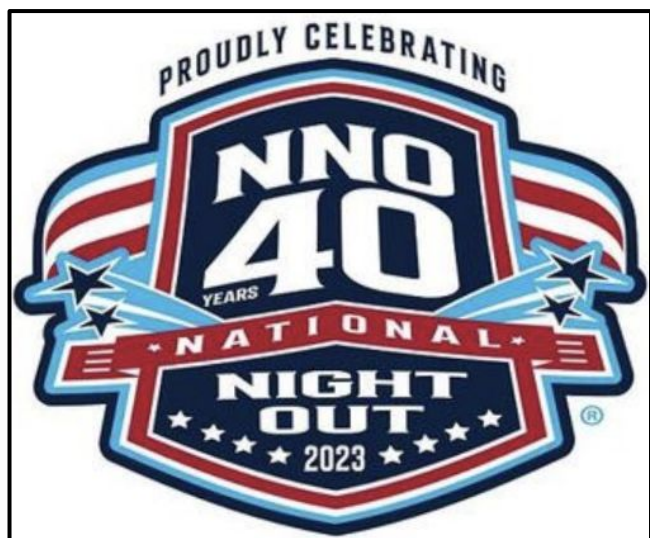


PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ☐ Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816-0811 ☐ August 2023

40th National Night Out: Tuesday, August 1



Held annually on the first Tuesday in August, National Night Out is intended to be a 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.

For several years, the Boulevard Park and Marshall/New Era 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. Several police officers are sure to be present, and City and County representatives usually attend also, as they make the rounds of the NNO events occurring throughout Sacramento.

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)

And, a special request: If you have a light installed on your front porch, please leave it on this evening. It will help illuminate the sidewalks for NNO participants. Actually, front porch lights always make the neighborhood more welcoming and the uneven sidewalks easier to negotiate. Please turn them on *every* night,

Next Neighborhood Events: A Programming Change

Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, the historic Cranston-Geary property (northeast corner of G and 21st Streets) will **not** be available for the traditional spaghetti dinner this year. We are very grateful to Max Beach and Roxanne Duka for hosting the event last year. As of mid-July, Board members are discussing a possible substitute or alternative for the spaghetti dinner—some kind of family-friendly event involving food that may be smaller in scale, but which will still offer residents of all ages a chance to gather together. And we are all looking forward to the holiday party. As announced in the May issue of *Park Beat*, it will be on **Saturday, December 16**. Further details about the holiday party and its location will be announced closer to the date of the event.



Preservation Sacramento's 47th Annual Home Tour

For the first time since 2019, Preservation Sacramento's annual home tour will be entirely in-person, much as it has been for nearly a half century. This year, also for the first time, the self-directed walking tour will be held in East Sacramento. Thanks to the generosity of their owners, several historic houses on 38th and 40th Streets will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Sunday, September 17**. Tickets can be purchased online now and will be sold on site on the day of the tour.

One of the 38th Street houses on tour, shown in the photo above, was designed by Frank H. Schardin, the architect responsible for two homes owned by Boulevard Park resident J. L. Mayden (see the article on **page 5**). A fine Craftsman style bungalow on 40th Street was first owned by jeweler Guido Noack, whose family built homes in Boulevard Park (2119 G Street, built for Alex Noack; and 617 21st Street, built for Otto W. Noack).

As usual, there also will be a supplemental walking tour, with an annotated list of buildings in the tour neighborhood that are of historical and/or architectural interest, but which will not be open to the public. All of the tour sites are described in an illustrated brochure that will be given to tour ticket holders.

For more information and updates about the 2023 tour, go to: <http://www.preservationsacramento.org/hometour> (see also Preservation Sacramento's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/PreservationSac/>).

Sac Open Studios: Mark Your Calendars!

The ever-popular Sac Open Studios will be held during the weekends of **September 9 and 10** (studios west of I-80/Hwy 99) and **September 16 and 17** (studios east of I-80/Hwy 99, plus all of Elk Grove and areas south of it). The studios will be open from 10-5 each day, providing visitors with the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of artists (typically over 250 participate). Website: <https://sacopenstudios.com/>

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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:	Geoff Embler
Preservation, Planning, and Land Use:	Morris Lum

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Columnist:	David Herbert
Newsletter Designer:	<i>Position Open</i>
Social Media:	Sher Singh
Block Captain Coordinator:	Joe Cress, (916) 628-3130 josephmccress@yahoo.com

August 2023: Places to Go, Things to Do

TIP: For more information about public events this month, go to: <https://www.sacramento365.com>. Be sure to check individual organization websites for announcements and updates.

Every Wednesday: “Wednesdays at Winn,” a certified farmers’ market in Winn Park, May.-Nov. (28th and P Sts, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.). Website: <http://exploremidtown.org/wednesdays-at-winn/>.

Every Wednesday: Informal gathering on the 21st Street median between E and F Streets.—no host, no agenda, just the opportunity to meet neighbors of all ages, orientations, and pronouns (from 5:30 to dusk; on very hot days, the gathering may start at 6:30 instead).

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers’ Market (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th St. between J and L St.; K St. between 19th and 21st St.). Website: <https://exploremidtown.org/midtownfarmersmarket/>

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 (fweiland@yahoo.com) or phone (279-202-4677).

Tue., Aug. 1: National Night Out. See article on **page 1**.

Thu., Aug. 3: Sac Open Studios Guide Release Happy Hour, Verge Center for the Arts, 625 S Street (6-8 p.m.). Refreshments, a DJ, and artists. Website: <https://sacopenstudios.com/>

Places to Go, Things to Do (continued)

Thu., Aug. 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.

Aug. 4-6: Gem Faire, Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St. (\$7 admission; Noon-6 on Fri., 10-6 on Sat., 10-5 on Sun.). Website: <https://gemfaire.com/event/sacramento-ca-21/>

Sat., Aug. 5: Harvest Day 2023, hosted by the UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners at Fair Oaks Horticulture Center, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. (8 a.m. – 2 p.m.).

Sat., Aug. 5: “Artist to Artist,” conversation with artists Ester Hernandez, Malaquias Montoya, and Vincent Valdez, all represented in the concurrent show, *Estampas de la Raza*, at the Crocker Art Museum (2 p.m.; admission charged). Website: <https://my.crockerart.org/1074/1082>

Aug. 8-13: *Ragtime: The Musical*, presented by Broadway at Music Circus at the UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H Street (evening and matinee performances). Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/ragtime-2023/>

Aug. 11-27: *Mother Juliet and Her Romeo*, presented by Celebration Arts Theatre, 2727 B Street (evening and matinee performances). Website: <https://www.celebrationarts.net/>

Mon., Aug. 21: BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet, “the best Cajun band in the world,” at the Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave. (7 p.m.). Website: <https://bstreettheatre.org/music/beausoleil/>

Aug. 22-27: *RENT*, presented by Broadway at Music Circus at the UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H Street. Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/rent-2023/>

Sat., Aug. 26: 24th annual Race for the Arts and Art Festival, William Land Park: Come out for the race (starting at 7 a.m.) and stay for the free festival, with food, hands-on booths, and lots of entertainment. Website: <https://raceforthearts.com/>

Sat., Aug. 26: “Dr. Bob’s Medical Bag,” thematic tour of the Old City Cemetery (6 p.m.; \$10 plus service fee). Advance ticket purchase required. For more information, go to the website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

... And looking ahead to early September:

Sept. 2-4: 33rd Annual *Chalk It Up!* Chalk Art & Music Festival, Fremont Park, 1515 Q St. See article on **page 4**. Website: <https://chalkitup.org/festival/>

Thu., Sept. 7: Sac Open Studios Kick Off Party, Verge Center for the Arts, 625 S Street (6-9 p.m.). Website: <https://sacopenstudios.com/>

Thu., Sept. 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.

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

The chief item on the BPNA Board's agenda for the monthly meeting on July 6 was the impact of the increased number and size of encampments in the Boulevard Park and New Era Park neighborhoods. Dave Herbert and many other residents attended the "Homelessness Workshop" hosted by the City Council on June 27. The workshop was intended to provide the general public with information about the City and County's response to the ongoing homelessness crisis. Representatives from both the City and the County were present, as was Mayor Steinberg. Dave and other participants were able to voice their concerns and opinions (for a video recording of the entire Council meeting and the public comments, go to the City website: http://sacramento.granicus.com/viewpublisher.php?view_id=21).

Acting in response to Measure O, the BPNA Board drafted a "Notice of Violation and Demand to Abate Unlawful Camping and Storage" that it later submitted to the City Clerk, with copies to Councilmember Katie Valenzuela and other City officials. Board members also hope to collaborate with other Central City neighborhood associations that are dealing with similar problems. In our case, the two most problematic areas are the large encampments at the north end of 22nd Street (beside Grant Park) and on the east and south sides of the Armory building located at 28th and C Streets (near Stanford Park). Other topics discussed at the July Board meeting were the recent request for a City permit to allow entertainment until 2 a.m. at the Sultani Palace, formerly known as the Palace Hookah Lounge (2321 J Street), which is opposed by many residents living near the business; the controversial demolition of the Capitol Annex; and plans for our next public event, National Night Out (see article on [page 1](#)).

33rd Annual *Chalk It Up!* Festival (Sept. 2-4)

One of the longest-running and most popular art and music festivals in Sacramento, **Chalk It Up!** has been held at Fremont Park for over thirty years, and always over the 3-day Labor Day weekend. That is **September 2-4** this year. Participating chalk artists will set to work on Friday evening or Saturday morning and continue working through the weekend while the public comes to watch. The park will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. This free, family-friendly event celebrates art and artists while encouraging the creative use of chalk on the sidewalks at Fremont Park. There will be sponsored chalk artists, local musicians performing live music, local food and craft vendors, and plenty of refreshments and fun for everyone. As stated on its website, Chalk It Up! is a 501(c)3 non-profit established in 1991 that promotes and supports youth arts by offering small grants to K-12 classrooms and to youth arts projects throughout the Sacramento region. Its funds are derived from public sponsorship of the chalk squares made during the festival. For more information, go to: <https://chalkitup.org/>.



Congratulations to Midtown Bakery!

The special 100th issue of *Sactown* (July/August 2023) celebrates the "Best of the City," and one of the gustatory highlights featured in the magazine is right here in the Boulevard Park neighborhood. Midtown Bakery, which opened at 23rd and J Streets during the pandemic (spring 2021), is still serving up a range of tasty sweets and savories. Rob Turner, *Sactown* editor and author of the entry honoring Midtown Bakery, raved about the shop's buttery French Puff muffins. Owners Angela and Thomas Harris have maintained their shop's weekend schedule, so if you want to sample the French Puff muffins, the coconut macaroons (a personal favorite of *Park Beat's* editor), or any of the many fresh-baked cookies, cakes, pies, and tarts listed on the website, you need to head to the blue door on 23rd Street between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For information and updates, go to their website (<https://midtown-bakery.com/>) or their Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/MidtownBakeryatJ/>).

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Historic House: 2101 H Street

This handsome Colonial Revival and Craftsman style residence, built in 1908, is one of five Boulevard Park houses to retain its original cast iron hitching post. It also is notable for its inclusion in a front-page news story in October 1913 (“Trusted Manager of Baker & Hamilton, Said to Be Short In Accounts, is Missing”). The *Sacramento Bee* journalist tackled the story with gusto, writing: “The beautiful home of J. Lincoln Mayden, 2101 H Street, is deserted. Dust has gathered on the porches and the once well-kept lawns are littered with newspapers. The mailbox contains several postal cards and a magazine. The window curtains are tightly drawn, and the windows are locked. It is apparent, however, that the home was deserted in haste, because the Maydens neglected to turn off the lights.”

Although he fled from the city, J. L. Mayden did not escape his accusers, and by the end of the month he had been formally indicted for embezzlement. He ended up with a suspended sentence of seven and a half years. He also moved away from Boulevard Park, selling his spacious home to Alden Anderson, president of the Capital National Bank. Anderson and his family lived here until 1924. For the next several decades, 2101 H was operated as a boarding house, like several other large residences in Boulevard Park.

2101 H was one of two houses designed for Mayden by Frank H. Schardin, who trained under pioneer architect Nathaniel D. Goodell (famous for the Governor’s Mansion) before going into partnership with him, and who later lived in Goodell’s house. A specialist in residential architecture, Schardin also worked on other projects, such as the transformation of the E. B. Crocker home into an extension of the Crocker Art Gallery (1920). Schardin’s second house for Mayden, located at 1300 41st Street, was built in 1921-22 and was said to embody “the most modern ideas and appointments” of architecture in that era.

2101 H Street



1300 41st Street (1922 photo)



Sally Flory O’Neil



Boulevard Park lost a favorite person on June 6, with the passing of Sally Flory O’Neil after a long illness. A long-time resident of Midtown, Sally was a very active member of the BPNA from its earliest days. She served on its Board for several years, taking on the secretary’s role and tackling unpopular tasks such as cleaning up the Bylaws. She was deeply involved in BPNA’s other activities too, from the annual Spaghetti Dinner (which she organized and oversaw three times) to the maintenance of the plantings in the traffic circles, as a member of the Green Thumb Brigade. She also “adopted” one of the traffic circles and cared for it on her own, watering and weeding it regularly, and she planted the purple iris that bloom every year in the planters at the center of intersections on G, H, and I Streets.

Sally’s community involvement and volunteer service were not limited to her neighborhood. She was a house captain and docent for the annual historic home tours, a docent and weekend Team Leader at the Crocker Art Museum, and a member of the Kingsley Art Club, serving on its board for several years. She and her husband Paul were also inveterate travelers, and she took her adventurous spirit into all her many activities. She was a lovely, witty person with a great heart, and is greatly missed.



A Sacramento Area Plant to Watch Out For: Poison Oak

By Dave Herbert

I ran across a large patch of poison oak while bicycling on the American River Parkway in July. There it was, just off the pavement—an attractive glossy green shrub or vine (as shown in the photo on the left), with three leaflets in each leaf group, much like true oak leaves, and often seen rambling along the ground or climbing up a tree.

Poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), widely distributed in western North America, is of the sumac family. It causes itching and allergic rashes in most humans when touched or when smoke or ash from burning plants is inhaled.

The leaves and stems of poison oak contain a toxin called urushiol that causes this reaction. Because the chemical is drawn back into the sap before the plant sheds its leaves, contact with the branches and twigs also can cause irritation. Strangely, deer, squirrels, birds, and other native animals are not affected by the poison. Many birds use the berries for food and the plant for shelter. Horses, livestock, and dogs also are not affected. Native Americans derived many interesting things from poison oak, such as a black dye for tattooing, an antidote for rattlesnake venom, and a cure for ringworm. They used the stems and shoots for basket making.

Park Beat Readers: Are You Also Subscribers?

Paper copies of BPNA's monthly newsletter are distributed by volunteers to doorsteps throughout the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood (whether or not someone is a member), but if you would like to receive a **digital copy** via email, all you need to do is join BPNA (membership fees are minimal—pick whatever amount you can afford) and include your email address with your application. It is easy! See the membership form below. If you have been a member of BPNA and are unsure if you are up-to-date with your annual payments, please send us an email (BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com).

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