



## BOULEVARD PARK'S *PARK BEAT*



# Excellent Speakers Highlight BPNA's 2025 General Membership Meeting

Boulevard Park residents and BPNA members got together in the cozy setting of the local Washington Elementary School library on a cold January 14 evening to hear informative and inspiring speakers, discuss topics of general interest, and cast their votes for the 2025 BPNA Board of Directors. 2024 Board secretary James McDaniel introduced the first guests, two staff members from the office of new District 6 California Assembly member, Maggy Krell. Lorena Moya and Nathaneil Mendoza encouraged folks with an interest in introducing new California bills for consideration, to do so before the January 24 deadline. They were followed by Troy Sankey from Strong SacTown, a local non-profit, advocacy group whose goals are a safe, livable, inviting Sacramento ([strongsactown.com](http://strongsactown.com)). Lynette Hall, the City's Community Engagement Manager, spoke next. She encouraged all Sacramento residents to use the "Linktree" website to access City programs, resources, and opportunities. Easily accessible current programs include the ADU Resource Center, the Stockton Boulevard Plan, the 311 Customer Service, free professional financial counseling for residents who are 18 years and older, an animal foster care program, a neighborhood clean-up grant program, and a volunteer engagement program ([linktr.ee/ceteamsac](http://linktr.ee/ceteamsac)). The last guest speaker was Police Lieutenant Matthew McPhail. Speaking on behalf of the Central Area Command office (Police District 3), Matt detailed how new technology

is helping with local crime prevention and criminal apprehension. His subjects included advanced camera linking, resolving the recent parking meter robberies, and benefits of the passing of Prop. 36.

BPNA Board member Noah Mebane led the next segment of the meeting, which sought input and involvement from the attendees. They were invited to write down suggestions for the BPNA to consider or act upon. The wish list posted on the BPNA Vision Board included requests for a neighborhood grocery store or food co-op, improved street and sidewalk lighting at night, more community events (including a 4th of July celebration or parade), and more public EV charging points. Attendees also were encouraged to join one of the BPNA event committees for 2025 (for more information, see the article on **page 4** of this issue; questions can be sent to [BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com](mailto:BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com)). Finally, all neighborhood residents are encouraged to follow BPNA's activities on social media and via the *Park Beat* newsletter (see **page 4** of this issue).

The General Meeting concluded with the announcement of the names of the seven candidates elected to the 2025 Board of Directors. They are Liz Edmonds, David Herbert, Miranda Love, Madeline Mabry, James McDaniel, Noah Mebane, and Alison Southard (for their email addresses, see **page 4** of this issue).



A Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a bird found in Sacramento and throughout North America. Photo uploaded to [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org) by Mark Shields.

## 28th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

You can be part of an international bird census by reporting on birds that you see or hear almost anywhere between **February 14 and 17**. As explained on the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) website, the observations provided by participants in this annual event “help scientists better understand global bird populations” ([birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org)). Very little work is required, and, if participants prefer to stay on or near their own turf, very little travel is involved. For Boulevard Park residents, the fields and riparian areas at Sutter’s Landing Regional Park (north end of 28th Street) offer great bird-watching opportunities.

Here are some bird-watching suggestions from the GBBC sponsors: On at least one day during the four days dedicated to the count, spend 15 minutes or more taking note of the birds that you can see or hear around you. Identify them, count them, and then submit your information, using one of these digital tools: the Merlin Bird ID app, the eBird Mobile app, or the eBird website (all three are described on the GBBC website). The information collected by participants will help scientists to better understand global bird populations before their annual migrations.

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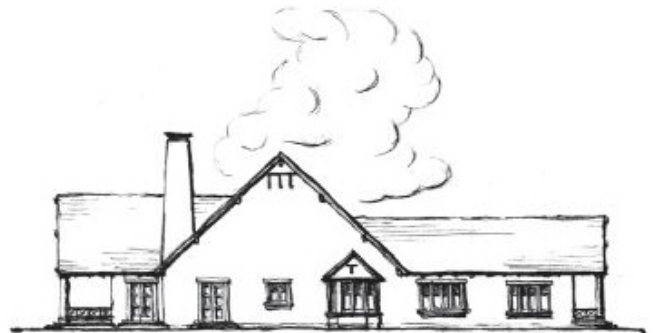
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# February 2025: Places to Go, People to See

TIP: For more information about public events this month, go to: [sacramento365.com](http://sacramento365.com).

**Most weekend mornings, 9 to Noon:** Join volunteers in beautification tasks at Sutter's Landing Park. Contact FOSL's volunteer coordinator, Betsy Weiland ([flweiland@yahoo.com](mailto:flweiland@yahoo.com); or 279-202-4677).

**Every Saturday:** Midtown Farmers' Market (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th St. between J and L Sts.; K St. between 19th and 21st Sts.). Website: [exploremidtown.org/midtown-markets/](http://exploremidtown.org/midtown-markets/)

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

**Sat., Feb. 1:** "Gold Rush History," 3-mile hike in Deer Creek Hills Preserve, sponsored by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy (9 a.m. – noon; advance registration and payment required by 6 p.m. on Fri., Jan. 31). Website: [sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/event/hist-20250201/](http://sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/event/hist-20250201/)

**Mon., Feb. 3:** End of Leaf Season! After this date, piles of yard waste cannot be left along the curb (green waste containers must be used instead). Website: [cityofsacramento.gov/public-works/recycling-solid-waste/CollectionServices/Leaf\\_Season](http://cityofsacramento.gov/public-works/recycling-solid-waste/CollectionServices/Leaf_Season)

**Sun., Feb. 9:** Sacramento Antique Faire, 2nd Sunday of every month (6:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$3 admission): Sleep Train Arena lot, East Entrance only (4441 Truxel Rd., if using a navigation device). The Faire may be returning to its old location soon. Check the website first: [sacantiquefaire.com/](http://sacantiquefaire.com/)

**Thu., Feb. 13:** 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.

**Feb. 14-Mar. 2:** Performance of August Wilson's play *Fences*, at Celebration Arts, 2727 B St. (admission charged). Website: [celebrationarts.net/shows](http://celebrationarts.net/shows)

**Feb. 14-17:** Great Backyard Bird Count, a global event held annually. Anyone can participate, in their backyard or beyond (see article on [page 2](#)). Website: [birdcount.org/](http://birdcount.org/)

**Feb. 14-16:** Sacramento Ballet presents Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* at SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St. (admission charged). Website: [sacballet.org/events/romeo-and-juliet/](http://sacballet.org/events/romeo-and-juliet/)

**Feb. 18-23:** Broadway Sacramento presents *Mean Girls* at SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center (admission charged). Website: [broadwaysacramento.com/production/mean-girls/](http://broadwaysacramento.com/production/mean-girls/)

**Feb. 20-23:** Sacramento Jewish Film Festival: with 10 films screened at the Crest Theater, 1013 K St. (followed by 14 live-streamed films via the Festival's on-line portal, Feb. 24-Mar. 9). Admission charged. Website: [sacjewishfilmfest.org/](http://sacjewishfilmfest.org/)

**Feb. 22-23:** "Inspired Threads," open house and sale hosted by the Sacramento Weavers and Spinners Guild, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day; free admission). Website: [sacramentoweavespin.org/programs](http://sacramentoweavespin.org/programs)



**Sat., Feb. 22:** 4th Annual City of Trees Parade and Mardi Gras Festival, Capitol Mall (Festival from 3-9 p.m.; parade starts around 5 p.m.). Sacramento's Fourth Annual City of Trees Parade & Mardi Gras Festival, a non-profit event organized by the Curiosity Collaborative, will be on Saturday, February 22nd. The festival begins at 3 p.m. on Capitol Mall, with live performances, interactive exhibits, food trucks, and a beverage garden (fee charged for admission to the festival grounds). According to the sponsors, last year's event had over 1,300 performers, and this year's event will be even larger. It is billed as California's biggest Mardi Gras event. The parade, which is free to watch, will go down Capitol Mall toward Tower Bridge. There will be light-up art cars from the Burning Man festival, floats, marching bands, dancers, and even a pet parade and costume contest. The evening will wind up with a dance party on Capitol Mall that ends at 9 p.m. For more information and updates about what to expect at this year's event, go to: [cityoftreesparade.org/city-of-trees-parade](http://cityoftreesparade.org/city-of-trees-parade)

**Sat., Feb. 22:** African American History, walking tour in Old City Cemetery (4-5 p.m.; advance registration and payment required). Website: [ticketleap.events/events/old-city-cemetery-committee](http://ticketleap.events/events/old-city-cemetery-committee)

## And looking ahead to early March ...

**Mar. 1 & 2:** Annual show, Camellia Society of Sacramento, Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St. (3-6 p.m. on Sat.; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sun.). Website: [camelliasocietyofsacramento.org/events](http://camelliasocietyofsacramento.org/events)

**Mar. 1:** "Murder Most Foul," walking tour in Old City Cemetery (4-5 p.m.; advance registration and payment required). Website: [ticketleap.events/events/old-city-cemetery-committee](http://ticketleap.events/events/old-city-cemetery-committee)

**Mar. 4-8:** Broadway Sacramento presents *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* at SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center (admission charged). Website: [broadwaysacramento.com/production/tina-the-tina-turner-musical/](http://broadwaysacramento.com/production/tina-the-tina-turner-musical/)

**Mar. 7-14:** California Arbor Week. Website: [californiareleaf.org/arborweek/](http://californiareleaf.org/arborweek/)

**Thu., Mar. 13:** 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.

## The Doctor Is In: Health Notes for Boulevard Park Residents

The neighborhood doctor is in and is ready to answer your questions! Dr. Jessica Nunez de Ybarra lives in Boulevard Park with her husband Steven and son Thomas Ybarra. She is Board Certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine and has worked at the California Department of Public Health for a couple of decades. She would like to share health resources and information that might be of interest to the neighborhood. If there are any health-related topics that you would like her to discuss in *Park Beat*, please send an email to the newsletter editor ([turrillc@csus.edu](mailto:turrillc@csus.edu)).

This month's health tip is directed towards anyone anticipating or experiencing pregnancy. Did you know that taking a daily supplement containing at least 400 mcg of folic acid, in addition to eating a varied diet fortified with folic acid and folate-rich foods (dark leafy greens, lentils, and beans) before and early in pregnancy, can prevent up to 70% of neural tube defects in babies? These defects can cause serious health problems in a baby's brain and spinal cord. Most, but not all, daily multi-vitamins sold in the United States contain the recommended daily amount. Be sure to read the label to make sure it says 400 mcg folic acid, which is different from 400 mcg DFE. For more details go to: [cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/nupa/Pages/folic-acid.aspx](http://cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/nupa/Pages/folic-acid.aspx).

### 2025 BPNA Board of Directors

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Connect with us by visiting [Boulevardpark.org](http://Boulevardpark.org) or by emailing us at [BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com](mailto:BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com).



Join the Boulevard Park Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/blvdparksac/](https://facebook.com/groups/blvdparksac/) or scan this QR code to connect with your neighbors and get the latest updates from the BPNA.

Follow the Boulevard Park Instagram at [instagram.com/blvdparksac/](https://instagram.com/blvdparksac/) or scan this QR code to connect with your neighbors and get the latest updates from the BPNA.



## Join a BPNA Event Committee for 2025!

This year we want to give neighbors the opportunity to help with the important task of organizing neighborhood events. Each event will have a planning committee chaired by a Board member and will be made up of neighborhood volunteers. The expected time commitment is about 10–20 hours over the course of the year. This year's planning committees will be responsible for the following events:

- Community Yard Sale (late Spring)
- National Night Out (first Tuesday in August)
- Spaghetti Dinner (mid-September)
- Halloween (late October)
- Holiday Party (early to mid-December)

If you are interested or have questions, please email [BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com](mailto:BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com).



Access the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association membership form online at [boulevardpark.org/membership-form](http://boulevardpark.org/membership-form) or scan this QR code with your smart phone camera.

### 2025 BPNA Membership Form

Please send this form with your dues payment (recommended: \$5-15 per adult member, per year) to:  
**BPNA, P. O. Box 160811, Sacramento CA 95816-0811**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark as appropriate:

- New Member                       Renewing Member
- Interested in Volunteering
- Would like to receive the *Park Beat* newsletter by email (paper copies are delivered only to residents living in the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood)





Left: 2100 G in a Google Street View from 2017.

Below: The living room of the Pickett Apartment pictured in the Feb. 12, 1922 issue of the *Sacramento Union*.

# The Picketts' Palatial Apartments

Boulevard Park is well known for its old single-family homes, but there are also quite a few apartment buildings in the neighborhood. Most of the ones built before 1930 are either duplexes or fourplexes. Then there are the Pickett Apartments, a prominent corner building that combines a duplex (2100 G Street) with a four-plex (701 21st Street).

Richmond A. and Annie M. Pickett, the original owners, were prominent clothing merchants in Sacramento in the 1920s. They and their daughter Virginia were among the first occupants of the apartment building they had constructed in Boulevard Park between Spring and Fall of 1921. Not surprisingly, they had one of the large flats at 2100 G Street, facing the Cranston-Geary House. As described in the local newspapers in 1922, the Pickett's "Palatial Six Flat Home Beautiful" featured a living room, sunroom, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and three bedrooms. A china closet in the dining room concealed a hide-away bed, and a small servants' room opened off the "well-appointed and artistic kitchen" (*Sacramento Union*, Feb. 12). The furniture in this and other apartments in the building came from Breuner's Home Furnishings, one of Sacramento's oldest department stores.

The Pickett Apartments were designed and built by William R. Saunders, a Sacramento contractor who was responsible for over a dozen apartment buildings (most of them fourplexes) in the Boulevard Park neighborhood between 1915 and 1927. His largest project was the three-story Delahunty (now Adair) Apartment building at 916 22nd Street. He also designed a few single-family homes in Boulevard Park, among them the residences of Alfred Folger at 713 21st Street and Dr. George Briggs at 2217 G Street.

Like other apartment buildings designed by Saunders (such as 2110 G Street and 616 21st Street), the Pickett Apartments have a stuccoed exterior, a decorative awning over the front entry, and a projecting oriel window above the awning. The Classically inspired ornamental details, such as the molded decoration above and below the ground floor windows, contribute to the "palatial" look admired by the journalist in the 1920s.



## House Queries and Stories Welcomed!

Are you curious about the histories and stories behind other buildings in the Boulevard Park neighborhood? Do you have favorite houses that you would like to see featured in the newsletter? Please send suggestions and questions to the *Park Beat* editor ([turrillc@csus.edu](mailto:turrillc@csus.edu)).





## Finding Home Amid the Boulevards

By Arjun S. Byju

When my wife and I moved to Sacramento six months ago, we had never heard of Boulevard Park. We marveled at what we later learned were the hallmarks of our new neighborhood: stately sycamores; grand early 20th century residences; the eponymous verdant medians. We had no name for this place, nor any understanding of how we would belong.

It was an odd situation – a new job, no time to scout locations – so despite the wonders of virtual house tours and Google “Street View,” we moved sight unseen. A few days later we found the yellow flyer on our doorstep. *The Park Beat*. So this place had a name.

Over the next few months we found comfort in the details of midtown life – the colorful alley names, the friendly neighbors who hosted outdoor movie nights, the much needed spots of shade. We relished the hustle of the Saturday farmers’ market, and took refuge in the tranquility of Sunday morning strolls.

Most remarkable – and perhaps easiest to take for granted – are the flora and fauna. Towering palms, bushes of jade, fragrant eucalyptus, bountiful orange and lemon trees. There are the skunks (with their less refreshing fragrance) plus the thousands of crows who hold court in the middle of streets. There are pets, too. Principal among them is Balou, the pugilistic gray tomcat who rules the corner of E and 24th and, according to lore, chases coyotes.

As we experienced the neighborhood first hand, we were guided by the BPNA. We devoured the educational opportunities – house tours and historical articles – as well as the myriad of fun, if quirky, events (Imagine explaining Spaghetti Dinner to the uninitiated. Noodles and hayrides?) From National Night Out to the Brass Quartet, the BPNA has created a warm and unassuming community, a space in which it’s possible to introduce oneself to a stranger, to make a new friend.

After bopping around the East Coast for the last decade, this transition hasn’t been painless; there are many people and places I miss. But I knew things had changed when I went on vacation in December. By the second week of my trip I started to get homesick, and when I closed my eyes and pictured home, I thought of here.

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