



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

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



Dinner *Will* Be Served! The Pasta Is Back on Track

Our neighborhood's annual Spaghetti Dinner will be happening after all! Please mark Saturday night, **September 30**, on your calendars. There will be pasta in abundance (plus other food and beverage) in the backyard of Lisa Folberg's house, **617 21st Street** (see article on **page 5**). Dinner guests will enter the property from the 21st Street end of Fog Alley. Last year's schedule and prices will be repeated. The ticket sales and beverage tables will start taking customers at **5:00 p.m.**; dinner service will begin at **5:30**. The meal will cost only **\$10** for youth and adults (anyone aged 13 and above) and **\$5** for children aged 6-12 (younger children eat for free). Beer and wine will be **\$5**; soda will be **\$2**. Cold water and lemonade will be free. Payment options will be cash, check, or Venmo (*sorry, we cannot accept credit cards*). Following tradition, the dinner course will be made and served by volunteers; the dessert table will be stocked with donations provided by the attendees. Thank you in advance for bringing some fruit or a favorite sweet to share with your fellow diners.

Dinner—spaghetti, sauce (two types: with meat and without), salad, garlic bread, and condiments—will be served by volunteers from 5:30 until 7:30. The event will probably start winding down between 8:30 and 9:00. For those of you who stay on into the evening, any help you can offer with cleaning up the dining area after the meal is over will be most welcome. Final clean-up will resume on Sunday morning, when a group of volunteers will return to fold up the tables and chairs for removal by the City.

Carolyn Geiger of Balloon Twisters, one of our favorite entertainers, will be back again to distract the children. The membership and information table will be staffed by BPNA members who will be happy to answer questions and collect dues (NB: You do not need to be a BPNA member to come to the spaghetti dinner—it is open to everyone).

Interested in helping at the dinner? Volunteers still may be needed. Send an email to: BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com

Sac Open Studios: Two September Weekends

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). For more information and a free copy of the guide to the open studios, go to: <https://sacopenstudios.com/>

Boulevard Park Kids' Day (Sunday, September 24)

Families of the Boulevard Park neighborhood are invited to Grant Park at 21st and C Streets on Sunday, September 24th from 10 a.m. to noon for another **Boulevard Park Kids' Day**. Come gather with neighborhood families and share fun experiences with new friends! Bring a blanket or chairs for seating, and a favorite lawn game to add to the fun. Chalk, bubbles, hula hoops, and other lawn games will be provided. Snacks and drinks also will be available.

Activities will include a family movement and yoga session led by a neighborhood yoga instructor. Bring yoga mats or blankets to participate. Two 15-minute sessions will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Get creative at a craft station and decorate a fairy door to take home for the fairies in our neighborhood! Fairy doors, paint, and paintbrushes will be provided. Please bring any shells, beads, jewels, buttons, etc. to use or share.

Boulevard Park Kids Day is a home-grown, community-led event. A suggested donation of \$10 per family to help with planning expenses for this and future kids' day events is appreciated (both cash and Venmo are accepted).

Our neighborhood is home to many families with young children. Let's come together at Boulevard Park Kids' Day to play, talk, and connect with one another.

Another Successful NNO Event

There was an excellent turn-out of neighborhood residents and City and State representatives at this year's progressive potluck dinner for National Night Out (NNO), held annually on the first Tuesday in August. As usual, the festivities began in the heart of Boulevard Park with appetizers served up in the 600 block of 22nd Street, continued with a dinner course at H and 25th Streets, and ended with dessert at Marshall Park. We are grateful to the many residents who attended and brought treats to the tables, and we are very grateful to Fred Hull and Susan Allair for welcoming us into their courtyard for the dinner course. Thanks also to the members of the Marshall-New Era Neighborhood Association for hosting the dessert course.

As reported in the article on **page 4**, one of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the first Travis Silcox Community Service Award. Many thanks to Councilmember Katie Valenzuela and her team members, Zachary Freels and Mikayla Taylor, for making that meaningful ceremony part of our NNO event this year.

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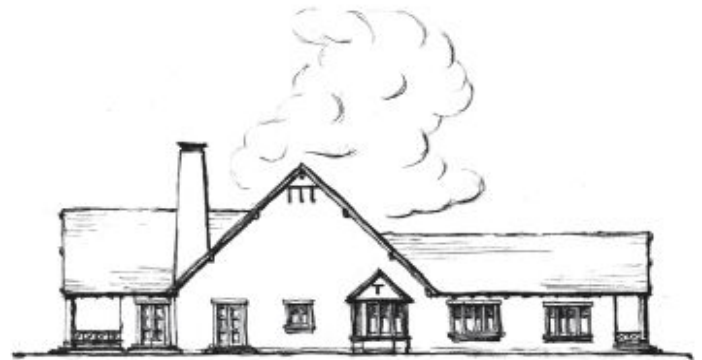
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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life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

Committees

Membership:	Geoff Embler
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Newsletter Designer:	<i>Position Open</i>
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September 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 (5:30 to dusk; on hot days, the event may start at 6:30).

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

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

Thu., Sep. 7: Sac Open Studios Kick Off Party, Verge Center for the Arts, 625 S Street (6-9 p.m.). Website: <https://sacopenstudios.com/>. For the Open Studios schedule, see **page 1**.

Places to Go, Things to Do (continued)

Thu., Sep. 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.

Sep. 9 & 10: *Begonias: Diamonds in the Shade*: 75th anniversary show and sale hosted by the American Begonia Society, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (1-5 on Sat.; 10-4 on Sun.).

Sat. Sep. 9: Celebrate Biodiversity Day by "Rewilding at Camp Pollock," 1501 Northgate Blvd. (8:30-12:15; pre-registration is required before 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 8). Website: <https://sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/event/cpsd-20230909/>

Sat., Sep. 9: *A Dozen Ways to Die*: thematic tour at the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (3 p.m.). For advance ticket purchase: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sep. 16 & 17: Gesneriad and African Violet Society Sale, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-4 on Sat.; 11-4 on Sun.)

Sat., Sep. 16: *Did You Know?* Thematic tour at the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (6 p.m.). Website for advance ticket purchase: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sun., Sep. 17: 47th Annual Historic Home Tour, hosted by Preservation Sacramento (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; admission charged). See article on **page 5**.

Sat., Sep. 23: "Think Like an Archivist: Finding Genealogy Records in Library & Archives," with speaker Nancy Loe (Zoom format, 1-2:30 p.m.). To register, go to: <https://saclibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=376863>

Sep. 23 & 24: 2023 California Capital Airshow, Mather Airport: Air Force Heritage Flight, aerobatic flights, old-time barnstorming flights, U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, and more. (advance ticket purchase required). Website: <https://californiacapitalairshow.com/>

Sat., Sep. 23: **Sac Porchfest**, live music on front porches in the Boulevard Park neighborhood (Noon-10 p.m.). For information: <https://www.instagram.com/sacporchfest/?hl=en>

Sat., Sep. 23: *Labor History*: Thematic tour at the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (6 p.m.). Website for advance ticket purchase: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sun., Sep. 24: Boulevard Park Kids' Day, Grant Park (21st and C Streets, 10 to noon). See article on **page 2**.

... And looking ahead to early October:

Thu., Oct. 5: BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information.

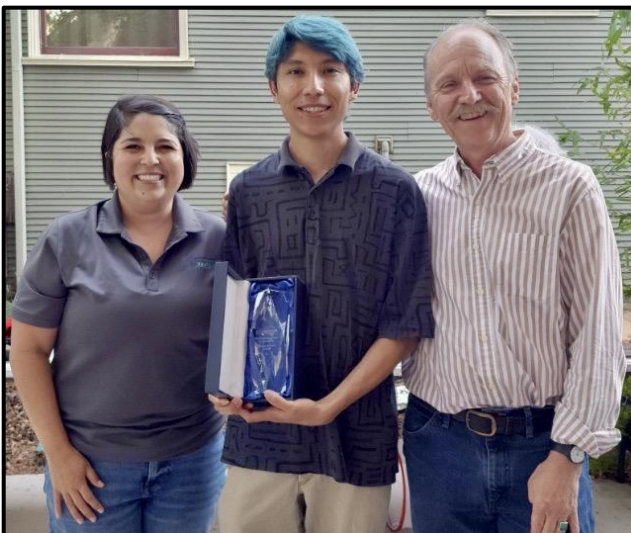
Brandon Martinez Bailon
Honored with the First Annual
Travis Silcox Community Service Award
by the District 4 office

Travis Silcox was a beloved Sacramento resident and community leader. She passed away last January, leaving behind her husband Preston, her mother Betty, and a countless number of friends and loved ones. Travis was also very dear to Councilmember Katie Valenzuela, who started the Travis Silcox Community Service Award to honor her memory and celebrate her passion for lifting people up and advocating for positive change.

At last month's Marshall/New Era and Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's National Night Out progressive potluck dinner, CM Valenzuela was joined by Preston to present the first annual Travis Silcox Community Service Award to Brandon Martinez Bailon.

Brandon was nominated by his neighbors because of his advocacy for local horticulture and environmentalism. Since 2004 Brandon has organized with groups like the Sacramento Climate Coalition, 350 Sacramento, United Latinos, and the Sacramento Valley Native Plant Society. He participated in demonstrations to keep the midtown Mandela Community Garden open, volunteered for his school garden, participated in advocacy campaigns to stop crude oil transport by rail, taught people how to make their own indoor air filters, worked to restore South Sacramento's tree canopy and native plant ecology, and much more. Given his robust history of service and passion for racial and environmental justice in our community, Brandon was a perfect candidate for this inaugural award.

Several of our amazing community members were nominated for this award, but Preston and CM Valenzuela agreed that Brandon stood out as a perfect candidate to honor in Travis' memory.



*Left to right: CM Katie Valenzuela, award-winner
Brandon Martinez Bailon, and Preston Rudy*

Report from the BPNA Board

Three guests attended the Board's monthly meeting on August 3. Boulevard Park resident Kathryn Icelow was the first to speak, informing us about plans for additional "Boulevard Park Kids' Day" events. The first one was held in May; the next one will be on Sunday, September 24 (see article on **page 2**). Kathryn and her fellow organizers hope to offer these events on a bi-monthly basis. Their goal is to provide entertaining and educational activities for children and their families. They also hope these events will help build community and make connections. Mikayla Taylor and Zachary Freels, representing Katie Valenzuela and the District 4 Council office, spoke next, answering questions and providing us with updates about a number of initiatives of interest to Boulevard Park residents, starting with efforts to help homeless individuals and to deal with encampments in the City. The City's 311 service is overtaxed and needs more people to respond to calls; the Department of Community Response is short-staffed and still lacks a director. The DCR is the preferred alternative to the police when dealing with non-emergency situations (ones not requiring police or fire presence). The District 4 office also has been paying close attention to the status of the project involving the former Rite Aid property. They are advocating for a neighborhood grocery store at this location, as Boulevard Park residents have requested.

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715 25th (in 2020)



2101 G (in about 1912)



617 21st (in about 1912)

One Great Neighborhood Event, Three Different Venues

This month, one year before its 30th anniversary (1994-2024), Boulevard Park’s Spaghetti Dinner will be moving to a new location for the first time since 1998, when it switched venues from 715 25th Street to 2101 G Street. As noted in the article on **page 1** of this newsletter, the 2023 Spaghetti Dinner will be held at 617 21st Street.

According to long-time residents, the first neighborhood dinners were May or June events, held outside **715 25th Street**, then the home of Patsy and Gary Schiff. The first event was in 1994 and took place in the big garden that is still one of the most distinctive features of the property. Beside it is a dignified two-story, stuccoed building with two apartments inside. Local contractor William R. Saunders, who was responsible for several multi-family residences in Boulevard Park (most notably the luxurious Pickett Apartments at 2100 G Street), was hired by James W. Shumate, the superintendent of the California Packing Corporation, to build the duplex in November 1924, making this building the youngest of the three “Spaghetti Dinner houses.”

In 1998, George Bramson, then the owner of **2101 G Street**, offered to host the spaghetti dinner in his big backyard. The family of his son Pete continued the tradition for the next 21 years. The Bramsons lived in the large Craftsman-style house built for mining engineer Robert Cranston and his wife Mary in 1909. George C. Sellon, one of Sacramento’s most famous architects of the early 20th century, designed the house, one of two Boulevard Park residences that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This year’s dinner has been moved from 2101 G to the backyard of the house next door, **617 21st Street**. It was built for jeweler Otto W. Noack in 1910. He and his wife Katherine lived here until their deaths in the early 1940s. They shared the home with Katherine’s sister Pauline and her husband, Charles W. Kuchman. He died in 1935; she remained at this address until her death in 1952. Both Katherine Noack and her brother-in-law Charles worked as department store managers, first with Weinstock & Lubin, and later with Hale Brothers. Otto Noack’s passion was music. He played with several different local bands before conducting his own orchestra. He also is said to have introduced the glockenspiel to Sacramento. His brother Alex, who lived around the corner at 2119 G Street, also was a musician. The Noack/Kuchman house is in a Colonial Revival style, with symmetrical features and a smooth, stucco-covered exterior. It makes an interesting contrast to the Cranston house next door (see the vintage photos above).



Historic Home Tour on Sunday, September 17 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Several years after launching Boulevard Park, the developers Wright & Kimbrough went on to build a new and larger neighborhood about twenty blocks to the east, called Tract 24. It extended from 40th to 47th Street. Originally called Yardley Avenue, 40th Street is one of two East Sacramento streets whose homes are showcased in Preservation Sacramento’s Historic Home Tour this year. The other one is 38th Street, originally known as Maple Avenue. Tour ticket holders will be able to explore four historic residences that day, all dating between 1912 and 1924. As shown in the four photographs above, they are **1081 38th Street**, **1125 38th Street**, **1308 38th Street**, and **1121 40th Street**. The handsome Craftsman bungalow on 40th Street was first owned by jeweler Guido Noack, whose Uncle Otto built his home on 21st Street in Boulevard Park (see the article above). Ticket holders also will have the option of signing up for guided walking tours in the tour neighborhood, a new feature this year. For more information and for advance ticket purchases (\$25 for Preservation Sacramento members; \$30 for others), go to the P.S. website (<http://www.preservationsacramento.org/hometour>).



A beaver photographed on the American River Parkway

Animals in Our Area: The North American Beaver

Bicyclists riding along the American River Parkway occasionally see metal cyclone fencing wrapped around the lower sections of tree trunks. Someone is trying to protect those trees from beaver activity. North American beavers, the largest rodents in North America, use trees as a food source (preferring to dine on aspens and other poplars) and to build dams and lodges. For the most part, little harm is done by the beavers with their wood-cutting and dam-building. Their dams even can be beneficial, providing an ideal home environment not only for the beavers, but also for other animals and plants.

In earlier times, the beaver's lush, workable fur was prized by people for making many products, especially fur hats. Fur trappers and the demand for fur drove North American beavers to near extinction, until they were saved by the change in clothing styles. Beavers are also sought for castoreum, an oily substance from the castor sacs near the base of their tails. It is used in the perfume industry to create "notes of leather" in certain perfume varieties.

First Call, Candidates for the 2024 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 (90 minutes). The seven officers also coordinate the four public events sponsored by BPNA—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. 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). You also can speak to the 2023 Board members at the Spaghetti Dinner on **September 30**. Everyone should be there.

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