



## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

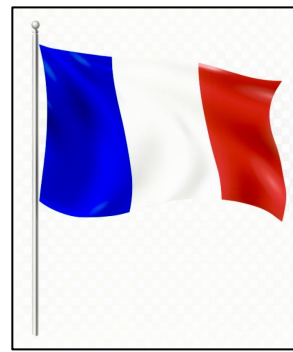
Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association :: Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816-0811 :: July 2023



### With Fanfare and Fireworks: Enjoy a Glorious July 4<sup>th</sup> in Boulevard Park

Starting at **3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4**, Boulevard Park's own **Capital Brass Quartet** will perform patriotic and other American music in the grassy park at the center of the block bordered by F, G, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets. Please enter from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street side of the park, using Fig Alley (*if you are driving, please leave your car outside the park*). You may want to bring a lawn chair, blanket, or other portable surface for sitting on the ground, as well as something to drink (**or** to share with the band—horn playing can be thirsty work on a July afternoon!).

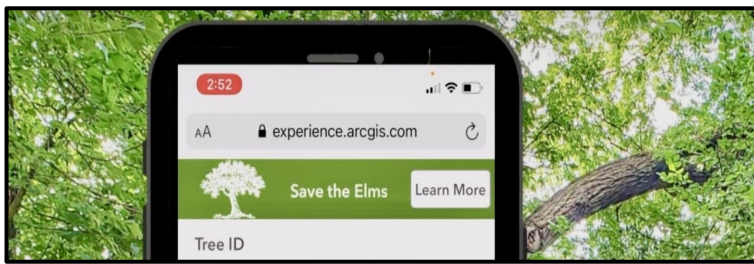
In the evening, starting at **7 p.m.**, there will be a lively neighborhood block party at 19<sup>th</sup> and D Streets, hosted by Luke Shawver of Adiken, Inc., a marketing and events agency. Everyone is invited. This year's free festivities will include gymnast performers, fire dancers and, of course, fireworks. Refreshments can be purchased at food trucks, and beverages will be sold at a full bar (alcohol will be available for adults age 21 and older: please be sure to bring proof of ID). Come early to be sure of getting a good seat for the show!



### Celebrate Bastille Day with the Alliance Française (July 14)

If America's Independence Day was not festive enough for you, or if you want to fill in the gap created by the cancellation of the traditional waiters' race in the city's Handle District, consider attending a family-friendly celebration at the CLARA center, where the Alliance Française of Sacramento has its home (1425 24<sup>th</sup> Street). This ticketed event will be held in the large auditorium and in the parking lot near it. There will be French and French-themed food, wine, and other beverages throughout the evening. Entertainment will start with games and activities for the kids (from 6-8 p.m.). A DJ, singers, and karaoke will regale all participants with "la musique française" throughout the evening. Be sure to bring your dancing shoes! Also featured at the celebration will be wineries and food vendors. Classic Citroën cars will be on display and other things may be happening too. For tickets, more information, and updates, go to: <https://www.afsacramento.org/events/save-the-date-bastille-day-14-juillet-2023/>





## Take a Walk; Save a Tree!

by Nita Davidson

Since the 1870s, elm trees have graced Sacramento's central area in parks and along streets. Nearly 25,000 elm trees shaded houses before the invention of air conditioning and gave the dusty city a lush, forested appearance. Pruning mistakes in the 1930s resulted in loss of some of the oldest and largest of these trees before 1950. Then, beginning in 1990, **Dutch elm disease** (DED) killed thousands more. Fewer than 1,900 elm trees remain in Sacramento today.

### Monitoring elms for DED:

Since 2015, the Sacramento Tree Foundation has supported a community-science program that began as a grassroots effort when DED first appeared. You don't have to be a scientist to participate, and monitoring elms during the summer is an ideal activity for secondary school students who want to earn community service credits.

### How do you participate?

Visit the Sacramento Tree Foundation's website at <https://sactree.org>. Click on the **Volunteer** section (you have to scroll down a bit), and then click on **Community Science**. From there you are guided to sign up. You can watch two short training videos and, once you're approved for the program, download a web-based app to your iOS or Android phone or tablet. You can also access the app on a computer and enter data at home.

You'll learn how to identify elms, how DED spreads, how to distinguish DED from lookalike issues such as squirrel damage, and how to use the app to report symptoms. As you visit each tree, you'll note what you're seeing directly on the app or have recorded some other way if you're entering data at home. It takes less than two minutes to monitor each tree.

### Sign up for July and August and make a difference.

Every year volunteers find a few cases of confirmed DED. The disease spreads rapidly and has no cure, so immediate removal saves other elm trees. Sacramento Tree Foundation will likely hold a brief in-person training session in July, so check its website (*URL listed above*) for details.



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# BPNA Board of Directors 2023

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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

## Park Beat Production Team

Newsletter Editor:	Catherine Turrill Lupi
Columnist:	David Herbert
Newsletter Designer:	<i>Position Open</i>
Social Media:	Sher Singh
Block Captain Coordinator:	Joe Cress, (916) 628-3130 <a href="mailto:josephmccress@yahoo.com">josephmccress@yahoo.com</a>

## July 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. (28<sup>th</sup> and P Sts., 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.). Website: <http://exploremidtown.org/wednesdays-at-winn/>.

**Every Wednesday:** Informal gathering on the 21<sup>st</sup> 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., 20<sup>th</sup> St. between J and L St.; K St. between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:fweiland@yahoo.com)) or phone (279-202-4677).

**Tue., July 4:** Free concert by the Capital Brass Quartet in Boulevard Park (3 p.m.). See the article on **page 1**.

**Tue., July 4:** Fourth of July neighborhood block party at 19<sup>th</sup> and D Streets, starting at 7 p.m. See the article on **page 1**.

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

**Thu., July 6:** 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.

**July 10-14:** California Time Traveler Camp: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. through Fri., at the California Museum, 1020 O St. (\$279 fee): tours, trips, activities for youth aged 6-11. <https://www.californiamuseum.org/time-traveler-camp>

**July 11-16:** *The Music Man*, presented by Broadway at Music Circus at the UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H St. (evening and matinee performances). Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/themuselman-2023/>

**Fri., July 14:** Bastille Day Festival, hosted by the Alliance Française of Sacramento at the CLARA, 1425 24<sup>th</sup> St. (6-10 p.m.; admission charged). See article on **page 1**.

**Sat., July 15:** Iris Society's annual Rhizome Sale, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Boulevard (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

**Sat., July 15:** Celebration Arts presents Comedy Night, hosted by D-Tyler (2727 B St.; doors open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 7; admission charged). Website: <https://www.celebrationarts.net>

**Mon., July 17:** 118<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sale of the first lots in Boulevard Park (July 17, 1905). See article on **page 5**.

**Sat., July 22:** "The Plight of the Cannery Workers Committee in Northern California," lecture by Dr. Lorena Marquez (UC Davis) at the Central Library, 828 I St. (1 p.m.; given in conjunction with the traveling Smithsonian Museum exhibition, "The Way We Worked"). Website: <https://saclibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?eventid=375317>

**July 25-30:** *The Addams Family*, presented by Broadway at Music Circus at the UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H St. (evening and matinee performances). Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/theaddamsfamily-2023/>

*... And looking ahead to early August:*

**Tue., Aug. 1:** National Night Out. See article on **page 4**.

**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.



## A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

At their monthly meeting on June 8, the Board of Directors discussed a range of issues, from National Night Out (see article below) and BPNA's Spaghetti Dinner (see article on **page 6**), to topics of neighborhood concern. These include the increased number of campsites on sidewalks and in parks in Sacramento (and what might be done to address this crisis in our neighborhood); the current status of plans for the redevelopment of the former Rite Aid property (still in progress; the developer has two project scenarios that have been shared with potential commercial tenants); and an infill project at 2222 Chinatown Alley that has received some opposition because of the number of "deviations" requested by the owner. Given the many hours of study and planning that went into the creation of the Historic District Plans, the BPNA Board believes that any deviations from the standards set forth in these plans should be minimal. Board member Morris Lum offered to consult with the Urban Land Institute about planning and development issues in our neighborhood. On the topic of new projects elsewhere in midtown, Board members Dave Herbert and Sher Singh met with the developers proposing to erect a seven-story mixed use building on a parking lot at 2130 J Street. Dave also attended the May meeting of the Newton Booth N.A., which included a presentation about the new passenger train station proposed for Midtown (see the article in the June issue of *Park Beat*).



### Watch Out for Foxtails

There have been several news reports this spring and summer about the risks that foxtails pose to pets in Sacramento. This grass-like weed is flourishing everywhere. It's a lovely, lush green at first, but once it matures the stalk turns the color of straw, and the dried clusters of barbed seeds at the end of the stalks are very dangerous to animals. They can work their way into a dog's or cat's body, paws, ears, or nose, causing inflammation, infections, and abscesses. Called "evil little things" by a veterinarian technician quoted in the May 13 issue of *The Sacramento Bee*, the plant's barbs are aimed in such a way that they pierce and enter a surface easily, but cannot be pulled out. A wounded animal will need to be taken to the vet for medical treatment. Sedation may be needed so that the vet can search for and remove the barbed seeds. The UC Davis website offers more information (<https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/news/foxtails-pose-serious-health-risks-animals>).

### 39<sup>th</sup> Year of National Night Out: Tues., Aug. 1

Originally created as part of a nationwide community-building campaign that promotes positive police-community relationships (and first held in August 1984), National Night Out also offers other benefits. Locally, it has provided residents of two important Midtown neighborhoods—Boulevard Park and Marshall/New Era—an opportunity to get together for a progressive potluck meal out of doors. Also invited to the event are city employees, including representatives from the District 4 council office. In some years, a few county and state officials have stopped by as well. Members of the city police force always are present. Because our event usually spans several blocks between 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and 28<sup>th</sup> Street, it also activates our streets and sidewalks, with a small parade of participants walking from course to course during the evening. The date is definite (**Tuesday, August 1**), as are the first two venues, but, as of this writing, a few details still are being worked out. The *hors d'oeuvres* course will be served up on the F-G Street median of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street at **6 p.m.**, the *entrée* course will be held in the courtyard beside 2431 H Street at **7 p.m.**, and the dessert course may begin at **8 p.m.** Participants are requested to bring a favorite dish to share at any one of the three courses and perhaps a favorite beverage as well. BPNA will provide bottled water at the first two venues. For more information about the history and mission of NNO, go to: <https://natw.org>.

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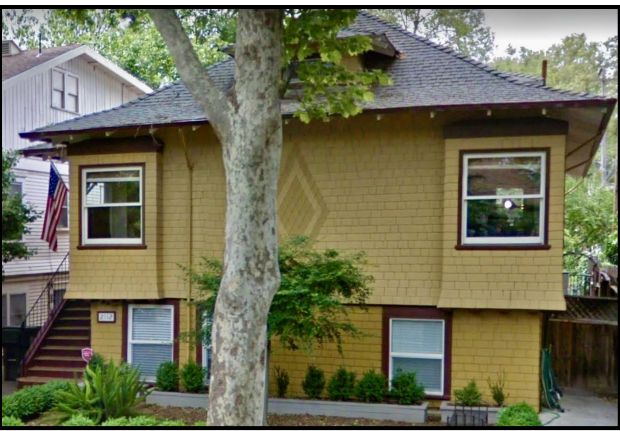
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## Boulevard Park's Beginnings, 118 Years Ago This Month



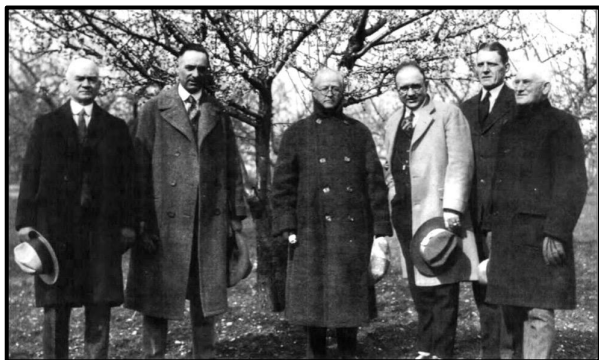
414 21st St. (Stevens house; 1905)



2112 E St. (Osborne house; 1905)



2019 D St. (Galinsky/Didion house; 1905)



**Monday, July 17, 1905** saw the launch of property sales in Boulevard Park, a new residential development that blotted out one of “the most famous racecourses in America,” according to a *Sacramento Bee* journalist who lamented the loss of the Agricultural Park (also called Union Park) racetrack on the site now occupied by streets and houses. Another writer argued that the land should have been preserved as a public park, instead of being developed.

Despite these reservations, the overall response to one of Sacramento’s first suburban neighborhoods was positive, and property sales were brisk. To attract even more clients, the developers (Park Realty Company and the firm of Wright & Kimbrough) made several promises: the neighborhood would be entirely residential, with no “saloons, stores, or business houses”; all houses would be built on a line, set back an equal distance from the street; and there would be no front fences. As a further incentive, Park Realty announced in August 1905 that any client who built a house before July 1906 would be offered a rebate on the cost of the lot. By November 1905, nearly two thirds of the lots had been sold.

Even as the first deeds were drawn up, the first building permits were being issued. Henry Stevens, an electrician with the Central California Electric Company, built the neighborhood’s first house, a five-room bungalow at **414 21<sup>st</sup> Street**, in 1905. In the first months of 1906, George F. Osborne, a traveling salesman, had a “five-room cottage of modern structure and genuine beauty” (as described by Wright & Kimbrough) erected on a lot that he and his wife Anna had purchased from Park Realty in 1905.

Osborne’s home at **2112 E Street** probably was the work of one of Wright & Kimbrough’s designers, like the Harkness house at 2022 D Street, the sixth one built in Boulevard Park (1905), and the Galinsky house at **2019 D Street** (1905), which was sold to Joan Didion’s grandfather, J. Frank Didion, in 1906. All three houses have hipped roofs, shingled exteriors, side porch entrances, and a pair of rectangular bays in the façade (see the photographs on the left).

A molder employed by the Southern Pacific Company, Joseph Galinsky may have decided to build a house in Boulevard Park because it was only 14 blocks from the railyards (or a “six-minute bicycle ride,” as noted by Wright & Kimbrough in their advertisements). Its lots also were affordable. In fact, although large two-story residences also were built in Boulevard Park during these early years, most of the new homes were modest five-room, single-story structures, well within the means of middle-class clients like the Stevenses, Osbornes, and Galinskys.

For an illustrated chronological outline of the history and development of Boulevard Park, go to the neighborhood association’s website: <https://www.boulevardpark.org/history>.

The photograph on the left shows the Wright & Kimbrough team in about 1930 (taken from the book, *Sacramento’s Boulevard Park*).





## Trees of Midtown: The Zelkova

One of the more common trees in Midtown is the *Zelkova serrata* (or Japanese Zelkova), a variety of elm that has many good qualities for city street planting. It is well adapted to Sacramento's hot summers, grows well in a variety of soils, is drought resistant, and withstands winds. Unlike American and European elms, Zelkovas are highly resistant to the deadly Dutch Elm Disease (see article on **page 2**). They also are resistant to the elm leaf beetles which often defoliate other elms during the late summer.

The Zelkova is native to Southern Europe and to Southwest and Eastern Asia. A common tree in Japan, it is often used for bonsai due to its attractive shape and color. Its wood is prized by Japanese furniture makers and is also considered ideal for the construction of taiko drums.

Zelkovas live longer than other elms, have a desirable elm "vase" shape, and put on a fine color display between summer and late fall, transitioning from green to yellow, then orange, and finally red, with often dramatic results, as shown in a photograph taken in December 2020 (above). This tree at the northwest corner of 20<sup>th</sup> and F Streets was burned several years ago when there was a fire at the auto repair shop that used to stand behind it. The Zelkova recovered nicely and is still a beautiful tree but now has a different backdrop, the new apartment building that is under construction on this block.

### The BPNA Spaghetti Dinner is on Sat., Sept. 9: Help Make It a Success by Volunteering!

Volunteers are needed to assist with food preparation in the days before the event, to set up the tables and chairs on Saturday morning, to work in the kitchen or serve food and beverages on Saturday evening, and to help with the final clean-up on Sunday morning (a total of 40-50 volunteers). Please send us an email if you are interested in volunteering ([BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com](mailto:BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com)). You do **not** have to be a member of BPNA to volunteer, but you are welcome to join!

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