



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

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

The Arts Are (*and Have Been!*) Alive in Boulevard Park

Over the last century or so, many creative people have made their homes (and studios) in the Boulevard Park neighborhood, too many to recognize in a single article. We would like to cover additional artists in future issues of *Park Beat*, so your suggestions are welcome (please send them to the newsletter editor: see **page 3** of this issue).

Pianist and music teacher Hazel Pritchard lived at 727 22nd Street for over 50 years, from 1909 until 1963; jeweler Otto W. Noack, an orchestra director in the 1920s and 1930s, lived at 617 21st Street from 1910 until 1943; and Alice Baker operated a music school at her home in the apartment building at the southeast corner of 21st and I Streets in the 1950s. Alfredo Gonzalez, who lived on the 300 block of 22nd Street in the 1960s, has been composing songs and ballads ever since he was a child in Mexico. In 2013, after recording his first album, "Tuxcueca Mi Tierra," he was interviewed on National Public Radio's Latino USA show (<https://www.latinousa.org/2013/11/27/sabiduria-an-80-year-old-rookie/>).

Quite a few visual artists—including photographers, painters, printmakers, sculptors, and ceramicists—have lived and worked here as well. D Street resident José Montoya, a faculty member at Sacramento State (many of our neighborhood artists have worked for the university or the community colleges), was a printmaker, painter, musician, and poet. He was a founding member of the internationally renowned artists' collective called the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF) and was named Poet Laureate of Sacramento in 2002. Another influential teaching artist, Darrell Forney (Sacramento City College), lived at 710 21st Street in the 1970s. Prints by members of the RCAF will be on view at the Crocker Art Museum starting this month ("Estampas de la Raza," June 25-October 1; website <https://www.crockerart.org/exhibitions/estampas-de-la-raza>).

Art exhibition, education, and performance spaces abound in Boulevard Park and its immediate vicinity. To give just three examples, there are the Viewpoint Photographic Art Center at 2015 J Street, the b. sakata garo gallery at 923 20th Street, and the 23C Studio at 204 23rd Street. This newly-formed cooperative of about a dozen ceramic artists hosts an open house on the second Saturday of each month (**June 10, 4 – 8 p.m.**). They plan to start offering beginning classes on the potter's wheel soon. New members are welcome! To learn more, call (530) 902-9763. There also have been sculpture and glass-blowing studios at this site, located behind ABC Plumbing. For more art viewing opportunities, watch for announcements about Sac Open Studios, held on two weekends every September (<https://sacopenstudios.com/>). Many of the art studios included on the tour may be within easy walking distance of Boulevard Park. And some of the participating artists may live in our neighborhood!

The three-story Flop Haus at 2100 I Street (built in 1913; former home of the Alice Baker School of Music) is another center of creative activity, including a low-power FM radio project (KUTZ FM, 103.1). One of the building's three-sided bays overlooking 21st Street serves as an alternative art space called "The InsideOut." Because the large windows are at ground level, passersby can see the changing series of site-specific installations and art projects (<http://www.the-insideout.org/>). The Flop Haus also is one of several Boulevard Park residences that have provided performance spaces for the annual Sac Porch Fest, a "free, community-focused afternoon of local music in Midtown" that debuted in October 2015 and was held again last Fall (website: <https://www.sacporchfest.com/about>).



East Sac “Pops in the Park” is Back!

Now in its thirty-first year, the popular outdoor concert series called **Pops in the Park** will be held throughout East Sacramento on Saturday evenings between June 3 and 24. At all four concerts, admission is free, and the music starts at 6 p.m. Food and beverage vendors should be on hand.

- **June 3:** East Portal Park (music by **Ideateam**)
- **June 10:** Bertha Henschel Park (music by **Rod Stinson Band**)
- **June 17:** McKinley Park (music by **Joy and Madness**)
- **June 24:** Glenn Hall Park (music by **Hippier than Hip**)

For more information and for updates, go to: <https://www.eastsacpopsinthepark.org>



Your Feedback Sought: Help Review the Sac 2040 Draft Plans

Sacramento 2040 includes the city’s **General Plan Update** and **Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)** and is intended to provide a blueprint for how and where Sacramento will grow over the next 20 years. The policies in the Draft General Plan will guide everything from environmental justice to transportation, housing types to parks, jobs to public safety, and much more.

To encourage involvement by community members, the City has created a self-guided online workshop. However, for best results, it is recommended that you attend one of the on-line orientations first. Two orientation webinars will be held in June (**10-11:30 on June 6; 5:30-7 p.m. on June 29**). For more information, to sign up for email alerts about the project, to register for one of the June webinars, or to watch the recording of the first orientation webinar (May 10), go to: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Major-Projects/General-Plan>

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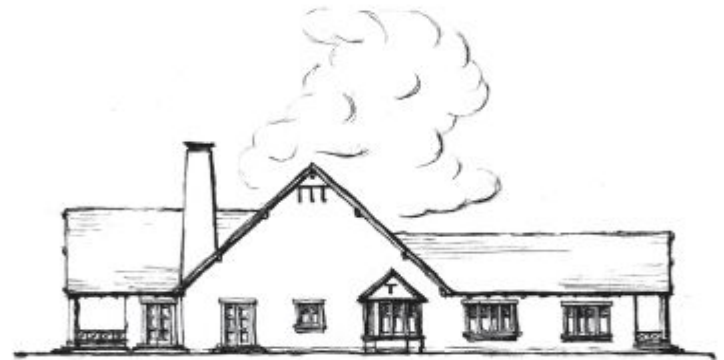
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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life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

Committees

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

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June 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 Streets, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.; website: <http://exploremidtown.org/wednesdays-at-winn/>).

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 FOSSL's volunteer coordinator, Betsy Weiland, by email (flweiland@yahoo.com) or phone (279-202-4677).

Fri., Jun. 2: STEAM Exhibition Day, Washington Elementary School, 520 18th St. (5-7 p.m.: Student exhibitions, 5-5:45 p.m.; Community celebration, 5:45-6 p.m.). For more information, go to the website: <https://washington.scusd.edu/event/steam-exhibition-day>

Jun. 3-24: 31st annual "Pops in the Park," with four free Saturday evening concerts in East Sacramento parks. See article on **page 2**. Website: <https://www.eastsacpopsinthepark.org>

Sat., Jun. 3: "Rio Velo: A Sacramento Bicycle Festival," at Mirasol Village Park, 400 Pipevine Street (11 a.m.-4 p.m.). Website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rio-velo-a-sacramento-bicycle-festival-tickets-617320230427>

Places to Go, Things to Do (cont.)

Sat., Jun. 3: "Beers, Babes, and Brawls," themed walking tour at the Old City Cemetery (6:45 and 7:30 p.m.; advance ticket purchase required). For information and tickets, go to: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sun., Jun. 4: 15th Annual Curtis Fest Artisan Fair, presented by the Sierra Curtis N.A. at William Curtis Park (10-4). Over 100 vendors! Website: <https://sierra2.org/event/curtis-fest-2023/>

Tue., Jun. 6: Webinar about the 2040 General Plan and Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (10 a.m.). See article on **page 2**.

Thu., Jun. 8: **Note date change!** BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information.

Jun. 9-11: 22nd Sacramento French Film Festival, held at Tower Theatre. Website: <https://sacramentofrenchfilmfestival.org>

Jun. 10 & 11: Sacramento Pride March and Festival. The festival is at Capitol Mall Greens on **June 10** (Noon-9 p.m.; admission charged). The **June 11** march is free. Website: <https://sacramentopride.org>

Sat., Jun. 10: *The Fast and Furious*, free outdoor film screening at Midtown 2nd Saturday Movie Night, 1116 18th St. (18th and L apartments; 7 p.m.).

Sat., Jun. 10: "Films with Friends" series presents Disney's *Newsies* at Sutter's Fort. Free outdoor screening (7:30 p.m.). Website: <https://suttersfort.org/event/films-with-friends-newsies/>

Jun. 17 & 18: 53rd Annual Bromeliad and Carnivorous Plant Society Sale, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-4).

Sat., Jun. 17: "Juneteenth at 40 Acres Block Party," Esther's Park, 3408 3rd Ave. (4-9 p.m.; free). Entertainment, art, and food. Website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/juneteenth-40-acres-block-party-tickets-615102798027>

Sat., Jun. 17: "Uppity Women," themed walking tour at the Old City Cemetery (6 p.m.; advance ticket purchase required). Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sat., Jun. 24: "Art Elephant Sale," hosted by the Sacramento Center for the Textile Arts at Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.).

Jun. 27-Jul. 2: "Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*," Broadway at Music Circus, UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H St. Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/cinderella-2023/>

Thu., Jun. 29: Webinar about the 2040 General Plan and Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (5:30 p.m.). See article on **page 2**.

... And looking ahead to early July:

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.



Make a Splash at the Clunie Pool This Summer

The Clunie Community Center (with library, clubhouse, and swimming pool) was built with funds bequeathed to the City of Sacramento by Florence Turton Clunie before her death in 1934. The chief architects for the project were Harry Devine, Sr. and Leonard Starks (who also designed the Alhambra Theatre, finished in 1927). The oldest and largest public pool in the city, Clunie Pool was inaugurated in 1936. Over 4,000 people came to the event (see photo above). The pool is still very popular with the public and offers a range of aquatic activities. During the summer (between June 17 and Sept. 4), it has the following hours for recreational swimming: from 1-5 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday, and from 1-6 p.m. on Friday through Sunday. For information, go to: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Recreation/Aquatics/Pool/Clunie>

June 15 is the Deadline for Public Comments on the Capitol Annex Project

In April, the California Department of General Services (DGS) released a Draft revised Environmental Impact Report (EIR) about the Capitol Annex Project. Public comment is sought, with a deadline of **June 15**. To learn more, consider attending the second public hearing about the EIR (the first hearing was on May 16). It is being held on **Tuesday, June 6**, a week before the response deadline. The meeting will be in the **East Room** of the **Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I Street (4:30-6:30 p.m.)**. As summarized by Preservation Sacramento, the Capitol Annex Project has three components: (1) demolition of the existing Annex and construction of a new Annex in its place; (2) construction of a new underground parking garage east of the new Annex, and (3) construction of a new visitor/welcome center on the west side of the Historic Capitol. The controversy generated by aspects of all three components has been covered in the news.

For a PDF of the Draft revised EIR, go to the DGS website: <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/RESD/Resources/Page-Content/Real-Estate-Services-Division-Resources-List-Folder/Information-and-Resources-for-CEQA>

Valley Rail Service: Still Chugging Along

As reported in the March 13 issue of *Trains Magazine* (citing an article that appeared in *The Modesto Bee* that same month), the expansion of new commuter rail service into Sacramento County has been delayed by several years. The first trains will not be running until late 2026. That is also when new stations will be opened in Natomas, Midtown Sacramento, and Elk Grove.

When the Valley Rail Project was announced in 2018, the new commuter rail service was supposed to be up and running by 2020, so the project is running a **bit** behind schedule. According to the *Trains Magazine* article, the delay is due in part to “a complex review process by host railroad Union Pacific,” which runs freight trains along the same tracks, and in part to some changes in the plans for the stations served by the new line.

The Valley Rail Project was the topic of a presentation at the May meeting of the Newton Booth Neighborhood Association (“Valley Rail Coming to Midtown”; see <https://newtonbooth.org/news/1100/midtown-amtrak-train-station/>). As noted in the NBNA summary released prior to the meeting, the platform serving the new Midtown Station will extend between P and S Streets and will be roughly parallel to 19th Street.

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A Tribute to Pete Bramson

On April 22, Boulevard Park lost a very good friend and stalwart supporter, Pete Bramson. When he inherited the landmark house at 2101 G Street from his father George, he also inherited the entire neighborhood. Pete relished the strong sense of community in Boulevard Park and threw himself into making it even stronger. The Bramson family, first the father and then the son, famously and generously hosted the annual Spaghetti Dinner in their backyard without interruption from 1998 until 2019, establishing a tradition that has been continued post-pandemic by the property's new owners. For many years the Bramsons also organized lively July 4th celebrations with their 21st Street neighbors, who enjoyed refreshments, fireworks, and even fire-dancers well into the evening. Pete was a great emcee for the event and kept a close eye on the safety of neighborhood kids in attendance.

In 2003, the Bramsons opened up their historic home to the annual tour sponsored by the Sacramento Old City Association (as Preservation Sacramento was known then). By that point, Pete had completed much of the restoration work that his father had initiated after buying the property in 1994. After Sac Porch Fest was launched in 2015 (see article on **page 1**), the Bramsons offered their front porch as one of the concert stages. Over the years, Pete and his wife Robyn spent many hours on that porch, chatting with neighbors and greeting passersby almost daily. Pete made a point of getting to know and welcome as many neighbors as he could, and often introduced them to each other. His warm, straightforward, and exuberant personality was irresistible; and his love for Robyn and their daughter Jesse was solid.

Pete served the BPNA in multiple ways. He dedicated many hours to important tasks such as revisions to the association's bylaws, management of its website, and the design and layout of its monthly newsletter (the last was supposed to be just a temporary assignment until another volunteer stepped in, but he stuck with it). Pete always could be relied upon for sound advice about neighborhood association tasks and topics.

Even after moving to the other side of Midtown in 2021, Pete remained deeply involved in BPNA activities. When the Spaghetti Dinner was brought back in 2022, after a two-year interruption, he served as a mentor to the organizing committee. He also took on the challenging job of kitchen coordinator, and he was planning to do the same in 2023. It will be hard to find any single person who can wear the multiple hats and fill the many shoes that Pete wore on behalf of the neighborhood and the larger community. His kindness, warmth, and joyful spirit lit up many lives. He is greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

At Pete's insistence, no services are planned. Please consider making a donation to one of the charities suggested by his family:

- Sacramento LGBT Community Center: <https://saccenter.org/>
- Southern Poverty Law Center: <https://www.splcenter.org/>

September Volunteer Opportunities

September 9: Plans are underway for the annual Spaghetti Dinner, which will again be hosted by the owners of the historic Cranston-Geary house at 2101 G Street. 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 (between 40-50 volunteers). This is a great way to help the BPNA while also getting to know your neighbors. Please send an email if you are interested in volunteering (**BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com**). You do **not** have to be a member of BPNA to volunteer (or to attend the dinner, which is open to everyone). BPNA Board officers will soon start contacting current members and past volunteers to see if they are able to help this year.

September 17: For the first time since 2019, Preservation Sacramento's annual historic home tour (now in its 47th year) will again be an entirely in-person event. More volunteers may be needed to work two-hour shifts in the houses that tour participants will be visiting between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. that Sunday. If you are not a member of Preservation Sacramento and would like to have your name added to the volunteers list, please send an email to the *Park Beat* editor (see **page 3** of this newsletter). For more information and for updates about the tour, go to: <http://www.preservationsacramento.org/hometour>.



Neighborhood Critters: The Western Pond Turtle

Often seen basking in the sun at the McKinley Park duck pond and on the north bank of the American River (across the way from Sutter's Landing Park), the western pond turtle is found exclusively along the western coast of the U. S. and Mexico. It is the only freshwater turtle species that is native to California.

As important as their water habitat is for them, these turtles can spend 200 or more days away from water sources if necessary.

This ability has helped the species survive droughts and the disappearance of streams during the summer months. Western pond turtles are currently listed as a threatened species in California due to habitat destruction and competition from invasive turtle species, such as red-eared sliders.

A western pond turtle's diet includes insects, crayfish, and carrion, along with plants such as lily pads and algae. Creatures which prey on turtles, turtle hatchlings, and turtle eggs include raccoons, otters, coyotes, ospreys, and large fish. Female turtles usually deposit their eggs about 300 feet from water, sometimes much further. The young are born in the spring and can live up to 50 years.

Indigenous peoples and early American settlers often ate fresh-water turtles. In fact, turtles caught in Tulare Lake (which just resumed lake status this year) once were served up in San Francisco as turtle soup. They also were fed to hogs.

Have you renewed your membership in the BPNA this year? It's easy to do! See below.

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