



## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

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

# The North Side of Midtown Needs a Grocery Store!

For decades it made sense to have a full-service grocery store serving Boulevard Park and the north side of Midtown. It made sense financially for the grocer and for our neighborhood. Now that vacant lots are filling up with new apartment buildings, the need for a local grocery store has increased. The half block at 22<sup>nd</sup> and F Streets has a vacant building designed as a grocery store, complete with convenient parking and a delivery ramp. That building could be used “as is” or subdivided into two or three sections that include other retail in addition to a grocery store. As presented at the Membership Meeting in February (see the March issue of *Park Beat*), one of the options under consideration by the developer for this site includes some retail and omits a supermarket. If that option is selected, we may lose our one chance to have a full-service grocery store in this part of Midtown. When BPNA surveyed neighborhood residents last year, the great majority said they wanted a grocery store at the F and 22nd Street site. If you agree, and if you would like your voice to be heard, please write to these city representatives:

**Katie Valenzuela, District 4 Council Member:**  
(CC to Mikayla Taylor, her executive assistant)

**Leslie Fritzsche, Office of Innovation & Economic Development:**  
**Michael Jasso, Assistant City Manager:**

[KValenzuela@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:KValenzuela@cityofsacramento.org)

[MTaylor@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:MTaylor@cityofsacramento.org)

[LFritzsche@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:LFritzsche@cityofsacramento.org)

[MJasso@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:MJasso@cityofsacramento.org)



## Travis Silcox Community Service Award

*(adapted from the entry  
on the District 4 website)*

Boulevard Park resident Travis Silcox was a beloved neighbor and community leader who passed away in January 2023. She was an educator, active neighborhood leader, and advocate. Travis was also a generous, joyful, passionate person who never shied away from speaking her mind or offering her time and energy to help find solutions. Councilmember Katie Valenzuela and her staff created this community award in Travis’s honor. It will be given to District 4 residents who embody Travis’ spirit of social justice and community service.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, fill out the form linked to the District 4 website (<https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/mayor-council/district-4>). Submissions for this year are open until May 5.

## Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities with BPNA

Although September may seem a long way off, we will be starting to make plans for the annual **Spaghetti Dinner** within a month. Anyone who volunteered last year will be contacted and invited to serve again. Any BPNA member who has told us that he or she is able to help with our events, and who has given us their email address or telephone number, will be contacted also. If you are not a BPNA member and would like to help at the Spaghetti Dinner, **please** let us know.

Send an email to the BPNA address ([BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com](mailto:BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com)) or contact any of the Board officers (their names and email addresses are on **page 3** of this newsletter).

**Special note:** We have decided **not** to organize a neighborhood yard sale this year. As of this writing, BPNA’s public events will be National Night Out (**August 1**), the Spaghetti Dinner (**September 9**), and the Holiday Party (**December 16**).



## May is Bike Month

As announced by Sacramento Area Bike Advocates (SABA), "Bike Month" has returned this year, with a full array of events, promotions, challenges, and prizes to encourage more people to ride bikes. Whether riding to work or the supermarket, alone or with friends, for fun or for exercise, anyone can participate in this fun activity. All you have to do is register (it's free!) and then use the website to record the cycling miles as they accumulate during the month of May. Three of the many events planned are a **Native Plant Tour** on May 2, hosted by CalSTRS; a **Mural Bike Ride** in Sacramento (May 5; starting and ending at Sac State); and a **"Seersucker Ride"** with an outdoor picnic stop (midtown; May 13). For more information, go to: <https://www.lovetoride.net/sacregion?locale=en-US>



## Second Saturday Returns to Midtown in Mid-May

As announced by the Midtown Association in April, starting on **May 13**, Second Saturday will be expanded into an "all-day celebration of local artists, live music and theater, culinary arts, family-friendly park activities, nightlife, and more." The day begins with the Midtown Farmers Market, held every Saturday morning (8 a.m.-1 p.m.), followed by hands-on family art experiences at Muir and Fremont Parks (Noon-4 p.m.), and then a late afternoon and early evening of arts experiences throughout Midtown (4-8 p.m.). For more information as well as access to a full website, map, and programming list, sign up via the Midtown Association website: <https://exploremidtown.org/secondsaturday/>

### EXTRA! EXTRA! BLOCK CAPTAIN NEEDED



A new Block Captain is needed to deliver *Park Beat* in the **23<sup>rd</sup> and D Street** area of Boulevard Park.

If you can spare 15 minutes of your time each month and also would enjoy the opportunity for some fresh air and exercise, please contact our Block Captain Coordinator, Joe Cress, by phone or email (**916-628-3130**; [josephmccress@yahoo.com](mailto:josephmccress@yahoo.com)).

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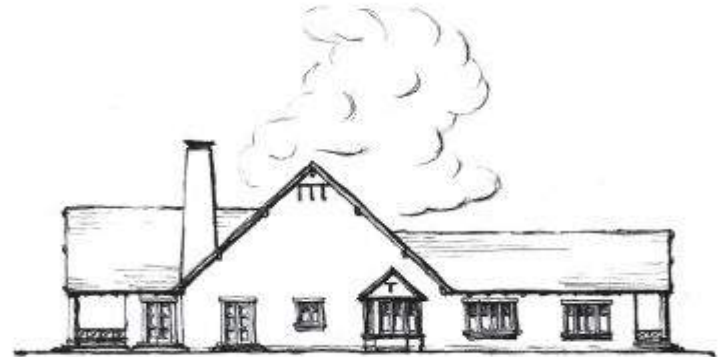
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Catherine Turrill Lupi	<a href="mailto:turrillc@csus.edu">turrillc@csus.edu</a>

*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:	Pete Bramson
Social Media:	Sher Singh
Block Captain Coordinator:	Joe Cress, (916) 628-3130 <a href="mailto:josephmccress@yahoo.com">josephmccress@yahoo.com</a>

## May 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:** "Music at Noon," free concerts by local artists at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 13<sup>th</sup> and N Streets (bring a bag lunch!). Website: <https://www.westminsac.org/music-noon>

**Every Wednesday:** "Wednesdays at Winn," a certified farmers' market in Winn Park, May.-Nov. (28<sup>th</sup> and P Streets, 3 - 7:30 p.m.; website: <http://exploremidtown.org/wednesdays-at-winn/>).

**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 ([flweiland@yahoo.com](mailto:flweiland@yahoo.com)) or phone (279-202-4677).

**May Month:** May is both Bike Month and Preservation Month. See the articles on **pages 2 and 6**.

**May 2-7:** "Pretty Woman: The Musical," with matinee and evening performances. Presented by Broadway Sacramento at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L Street. Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/pretty-woman-the-musical-2023/>

**Thu., May 4:** 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.

## Places to Go, Things to Do (cont.)

**May 5-7:** Cactus & Succulent Sale at the Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (1-4 on Fri.; 9-4 on Sat.; 9-3 on Sun.)

**May 6-7:** "Fiesta en la calle:" Cinco de Mayo Festival in Southside Park, 2115 6<sup>th</sup> St. (4-9 p.m. on Sat.; Noon-6 p.m. on Sun.). Arts and crafts, food, entertainment (including a kids' area).

**Sat., May 6:** "Victorian Symbolism," walking tour at the Old City Cemetery (5 p.m.; tickets cost \$10 plus service fee; advance purchase required). For more information and to buy tickets, go to: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

**Sun., May 7:** "Maifest," Sacramento Turn Verein, 3349 J St. (11-5; \$5 admission for ages 13 and above). Family-friendly fundraising event with music, dancing, games, crafts, and refreshments (including German food and drinks).

**May 13 & 14:** East Sacramento Garden Tour (10-4 each day), including a Wine Garden at the Sutter Lawn Tennis Club (3951 N Street). Website: <https://www.eastsacgardentour.com>

**Sat., May 13:** Chrysanthemum Plant Sale, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (9-3)

**Sat., May 13:** "Films with Friends" series presents a "Grease Sing-a-Long" at Sutter's Fort. See the article on **page 4**.

**Sat., May 13:** Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" and Erik Esenvalds's "Lakes Awake at Dawn," performed by the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra at SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St. (8 p.m.; admission charged, with a 50% discount for students). Website: <https://sacramentochoral.org/carmina/>

**Sun., May 14:** Preservation Roundtable, held at Nisei VFW Post 8985, 1515 4<sup>th</sup> Street (time to be announced). For more information, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/PreservationSac/>

**May 19-21:** "Emergence," with three world premieres: presented by Sacramento Ballet at the Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave. Website: <https://www.sacballet.org/performances/season-performances/>

**Fri., May 19:** AAPI Night Market, hosted by Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce at Capitol Mall Greens (6-10 p.m.; admission charged). Special performances, local foods, vendors. Website: <https://aapinightmarket.com>

**Sat., May 20:** Annual Rummage Sale, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-2)

**Sat., May 20:** "Capitol Connections," walking tour at the Old City Cemetery (5 p.m.; tickets cost \$10 plus service fee; advance purchase required). For more information and to buy tickets, go to: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

**Sun., May 21:** Kids' Day at Grant Park (10-Noon): article on **page 4**.

## ... And looking ahead to early June:

**Thu., Jun. 1:** 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.

**Sat., Jun. 3:** "Beers, Babes, and Brawls," walking tour at the Old City Cemetery (5 p.m.; fee charged)

## Boulevard Park Kids Day (Sunday, May 21)

Boulevard Park neighborhood families are invited to gather at Grant Park at 21st and C Streets on Sunday, May 21st from 10 to Noon. Bring a blanket, chair and lawn game and join in the fun at our first Boulevard Park Kids Day. Hula hoops, soccer balls, and other lawn games will be provided! Also invited is Mr. Cooper, a beloved local children's performer, who will sing songs and play guitar from 11 to 11:30.

While Boulevard Park Kids Day is intended to be a free event, a donation of \$5 is appreciated to cover Mr. Cooper's performance fee, grab-and-go snacks, and juice boxes. We also ask participants to consider making an additional donation to support our neighborhood school library. We hope to raise \$3,000 by the end of the school year that would go directly toward purchasing books for the Washington Elementary School Library. Or consider donating a favorite gently used or new book.

Our beautiful neighborhood is home to many families with young children. The event organizers, your Boulevard Park neighbors, are excited to create an opportunity for others to talk and play and connect with one another.

## Now in Their Third Year: "Hey Neighbor" Socials Return in May



When it's warm enough to sit comfortably on the grassy median in the center of 21<sup>st</sup> Street between E and F Streets, the informal gatherings of friends and neighbors will be resuming. You may see signs posted around Boulevard Park, open invitations to the weekly "hey neighbor" socials on Wednesday afternoons, starting around 5:30 p.m. and lasting until dark (once the summer heat sets in, the starting time may shift to 6:30 p.m.). There is no host and there is no agenda—just the opportunity to relax with old and new friends in the heart of Boulevard Park.



### Free Films at the Fort Return!

Last month marked the start of the screen season at Sutter's Fort—no mosquito screens (though we certainly need them in our windows and doorways now), but movie screens. On Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, community members enjoyed a showing of the popular 1993 film, *Free Willy*. It was the first event in this year's eagerly awaited "Films with Friends" series.

May's offering will be *Grease*, on **Saturday, May 13** (billed as a "Grease Sing-a-Long"). Folks should come to the park at around 6:45 so that they can secure a perfect spot on the lawn facing the wall at 26<sup>th</sup> and L streets (spaces are available on a first come/first serve basis). There will be a short "Campfire Program" from California State Parks at 7:45 p.m. The movie will begin around 8 p.m., or as soon as it is dark enough to see the projection on the Fort's outer wall. The organizers suggest that people get in the spirit of this event by bringing their loudest singing voice and dressing up as their favorite Pink-Lady or Thunderbird. For more information, go to: <https://suttersfort.org/event/films-with-friends-grease-sing-a-long/>

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# The House That Crystal Cream & Butter Built

In 1901, dairyman George G. Knox and his wife Caroline opened a new business, Crystal Cream & Butter Company, in a former ice cream parlor at 728 K Street. The creamery was a great success and by 1905 they had set up a larger plant at 1320-22 J Street (photo below). That same year, they also purchased a vacant lot on 21<sup>st</sup> Street in the new residential tract called Boulevard Park. However, it was not until 1920, two years after George Knox's death and one year before selling the family business, that Caroline Knox had a new house built (718 21<sup>st</sup>).

For her architect, Caroline selected Frederick S. Harrison, a native of Tasmania who had spent his childhood in Hawaii and who later finished his professional training in Canada. Like several other architects of his generation, he moved to California after the 1906 earthquake and fire in San Francisco. He stayed there six years before going to work for the state architect's office in Sacramento. The Knox house is one of the first residences that Harrison designed in Sacramento after opening his own office here in 1918. According to an article printed in the *Sacramento Union* in 1920, the house was "considered a splendid example" of the Colonial Revival style that had become popular during that decade. In later advertisements, the house was described as a "Cape Cod" cottage, due to its side-gabled roof and prominent dormer window. The contractor, Amos W. Norris, used a photograph of the Knox house to advertise his business. Another photo was printed with the *Sacramento Union* article (see below). Judging from these images, the house has undergone some changes in the last century. The attic dormer has been redesigned and the single door to the solarium (as the one-story extension on the left was called in 1920) has been replaced by a pair of French doors.

Caroline Knox and her daughter Helen lived in Boulevard Park from 1920 until 1931, then moved elsewhere and rented out the house. The tenants with the longest occupancy were Clara Patterson and her daughter Catherine, a faculty member at Sacramento City College from the 1940s into the 1960s. In addition to serving as a department chair at SCC, Catherine Patterson was state president of the AAUW, an organizer of the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento, and an actress and director with the Community Players Theater.



718 21<sup>st</sup> Street in 1920



Crystal Cream & Butter Co., 1320-22 J Street (c. 1905)

## May is Preservation Month: Jane Jacobs Walks and Rolls

Preservation Sacramento's Jane Jacobs Walk series has returned for the first time since 2019, with various organizations planning a series of events in May, which also is Preservation Month. As of mid-April, the calendar includes an Alfred Eichler Walking Tour on **May 13**; a Broadway Walking Tour on **May 20**, a Downtown Solarpunk Tour on **May 21**, a Lavender Heights Tour on **May 28**, a Sacramento Tweed Ride on **May 28** (see the article on **page 2**), and a walking tour in Alkali and Mansion Flats (date **TBA**).



There also will be multiple events happening during the **Sacramento National Park City Festival** (ending on May 14), a celebration of the region's nature, public art, and history (<https://sacparkcity.com/whats-on/festival/>).

Watch for updates on the P.S. website or Facebook site: <http://www.preservationsacramento.org/jane-jacobs>  
<https://www.facebook.com/PreservationSac/>



## Critters of Midtown: Hummingbirds

**Left photo:** Hummingbird nesting at the corner of 21st and F Streets.

**Right photo:** An Anna's Hummingbird sipping nectar.



What a nice addition to Sacramento backyards—the hummingbird. Hummingbirds are the smallest of all mature birds. There are over 350 species of hummingbirds but only 15 or so are native to the USA, and only a handful of them live year around in our state. One species commonly found in Sacramento, Anna's Hummingbird, stays here most of the year, moving to higher elevations in the summer and lower ones in the winter. These hummingbirds have a mostly green throat.

Hummingbird wings beat up to 80 beats per second in some species, creating the familiar humming sound. The bird's rapid highly maneuverable helicopter-like flight is amazing and requires one of the highest rates of energy expenditures of any vertebrate animal. To maintain this intense pace, hummingbirds sip sweet nectar from flowers and eat small insects such as mosquitoes, gnats, and aphids, consuming half their body weight every 10-15 minutes. To conserve energy during the day, they spend most of their time just sitting.

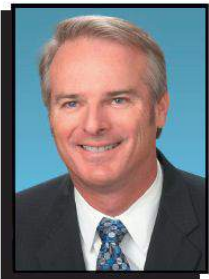
To conserve energy at night, hummingbirds can enter a deep sleep where heart and breathing rates fall dramatically, similar to hibernation. Observed hummingbird predators include praying mantises (yikes!), dragonflies, frogs, and other birds.

Attracting hummingbirds with feeders is quite popular. When filling a feeder, use plain white granulated sugar, about 20% concentration (one part sugar, four parts water). No honey, brown sugar, raw organic sugar, or colorings should be used (use a red colored feeder instead). Dissolve the sugar in boiling water, let it cool, and then fill the feeder. An even better way to attract hummingbirds is to plant nectar-bearing native flowers with violet, red, or orange blossoms (such as hummingbird sage or trumpet honeysuckle).

For more tips about feeding hummingbirds, go to: <https://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-hummingbird-nectar>

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### Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

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