



## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association :: Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816-0811 :: August 2024

### An Excellent Lineup of Speakers at BPNA's Summer General Membership Meeting

Noah Mebane joined the Board of Directors this year, bringing with him a fresh vision for the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association (BPNA). He noticed that a lot of his neighbors were not involved in neighborhood issues. Many of them had no idea what BPNA was about. Noah decided to take steps to change that by encouraging new residents, younger residents, and renters to become more involved in the neighborhood. More frequent general membership meetings will be one of his tools. Another is the BPNA Facebook page that was launched in June (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/blvdarksac/about>). It is a public group, open to everyone, as Noah explained at the July meeting.

Noah assembled a fine array of presenters for the July 11 gathering at the Washington Elementary School library. In order of appearance, they were **Dalia Ramirez-Robles**, a new member of "Team KV," who represented Katie Valenzuela's District 4 office (even though the staff was on vacation that week); former BPNA Board member **Catherine Turrill-Lupi**, representing Preservation Sacramento's historic home tour committee; **Isaac Gonzalez**, representing "Slow Down Sacramento" (<https://slowdownsacramento.org/>); and State Assemblymember **Kevin McCarty**. Dalia told the group that there were plans for a District 4 public meeting in the Fall that will be part of the transition between the terms of Councilmembers Valenzuela and Pluckebaum. She also encouraged attendees to sign up for the District 4 E-Newsletter, which will continue to be issued after Phil Pluckebaum takes office (<https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/mayor-council/district-4/Newsletter>). Speaking next, Catherine talked about the historic home tour that will be happening in our neighborhood on September 22. It features six Boulevard Park residences that were built between the 1880s and 1920s (see the article in the July issue of *Park Beat*). Volunteers are still needed to help at the tour (<https://www.preservationsacramento.org/volunteer>). Isaac Gonzalez was the third speaker. After telling us about Sacramento's unfortunate record as one of "the deadliest cities" in the country when it comes to fatal vehicular accidents involving pedestrians, he talked about the many ways communities can respond quickly and inexpensively to common traffic problems, such as dangerous intersections. The key to safe streets, he explained, is designing for safety, rather than for speeding up traffic flow through the city. Winding up the evening's program, Kevin McCarty talked about three big topics—AB 2927, a bill that will require all California high schools to offer a one-semester, stand-alone course in personal finance ("financial literacy") as a graduation requirement; the State Budget; and his work on the Assembly's Public Safety Committee this past year. He also answered a few questions related to his campaign for mayor.

Before and after the meeting, neighbors had the opportunity to mingle and enjoy refreshments. The Washington Elementary School Library was great venue for our group, offering lots of daylight and a cozy seating arrangement. We are very grateful to Dr. Gema Godina-Martinez, the school principal, for allowing us to use the room for our general membership meeting, and to Board member James McDaniel, a teacher at the school, for making the arrangements.

### National Night Out: Tuesday, August 6 (6-9 p.m.)

Here is the schedule for this month's tastiest, friendliest, neighborhood dinner: **Appetizer course** on the 22nd Street median between G Street and Fat Alley (6:00 p.m.); **dinner course** in the courtyard beside 2431 H Street (7:00 p.m.); and **dessert course** near the tot-lot in Marshall Park, 28th and I Streets (8:00 p.m.). Bring a favorite dish to share at any one of the three courses. Our guests will include elected officials, City employees, and members of the police department. For more information and a flyer about the event, go to the website of BPNA's co-host for this progressive potluck dinner, the Marshall-New Era Neighborhood Association (<https://marshallnewera.org/national-night-out/>).



## BPNA's Annual Spaghetti Dinner (Saturday, September 14)

Held for the first time in 1994, Boulevard Park's most popular social gathering is thirty years old this year. The annual spaghetti dinner originated as a Spring celebration, then was moved to September in 1999, the year after George Bramson and his family started hosting the event in their backyard at 2101 G Street. When their house went up for sale again last year, the dinner was moved to the park behind the house next door, 617 21<sup>st</sup> Street, and it will be at the same place in 2024.

Spaghetti will be served with a choice of tomato sauces (with or without meat), dusted with parmesan cheese, and accompanied by a green salad and French bread. There also will be a variety of desserts and beverages. Last year's prices for the dinner will be in effect: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children aged 6-12 (children who are 5 years old or younger eat for free). Beer and wine will cost \$5. Soda will be \$2 and water will be free. The dinner course will be made and served by volunteers; the dessert table will be stocked with tasty treats provided by attendees. The bar will open at 5:00 p.m. and dinner will be served from 5:30 until 7:30. For more details about the event, see the September issue of *Park Beat*.

Lastly, an important question: *Are You Able to Volunteer?* For the Spaghetti Dinner to be a success, we will need more volunteers to help with a variety of tasks—setting up the tables and chairs on Saturday morning, working at the supper on Saturday evening, and putting our hosts' backyard back in order on Sunday morning. Supper shifts typically last about 45 minutes, and can be at the cashier's desk, at the bar, in the outdoor kitchen, at the serving tables, or on the clean-up crew at the end of the evening. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to: [BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com](mailto:BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com) (be sure to include contact information so that we can reply).

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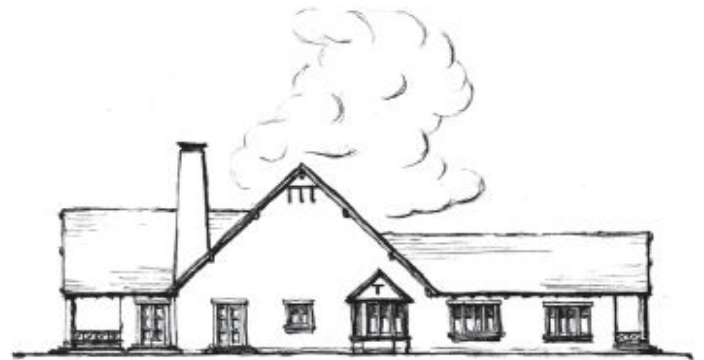
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*BPNA's purpose: This neighborhood association was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. In so doing, we strive to improve the quality of life of those who work and live in and around Boulevard Park, and therefore in Sacramento as a whole.*

## Board Assignments

Membership:	Colleen Schwartz
Preservation:	Morris Lum
Social Media:	Noah Mebane

## Park Beat Production Team

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Turrill-Lupi ([turrillc@csus.edu](mailto:turrillc@csus.edu))  
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## August 2024: Places to Go, Things to Do

**TIP:** For more information about public events this month, go to:  
<https://www.sacramento365.com>.

**Most weekend mornings:** 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 (8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20<sup>th</sup> St. between J and L Sts.; K St. between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Sts.). Website: <https://exploremidtown.org/midtown-markets/>

**Every Sunday:** Downtown Sacramento Farmers' Market: under the freeway at 8<sup>th</sup> and W Streets (8 a.m. to noon; free parking).

**Most Wednesdays:** "Hey Neighbor:" an informal, no-host gathering on 21<sup>st</sup> Street's grassy central median between F and G Streets, Boulevard Park (from 5:30-6:30, approximately).

**Fri., Aug. 2:** Sac Open Studios 2024, Guide Release Party, at Verge Center for the Arts, 625 S St. Website: <https://sacopenstudios.com/>

**Sat., Aug. 3:** Harvest Day, presented by UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento Co., Fair Oaks Horticultural Center, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. (8 a.m. – 2 p.m.; free admission). Speakers, demonstrations, vendors, food, and more. Website: <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/>

**Aug. 5-11:** Broadway at Music Circus presents *Waitress* at UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H Street (admission charged). Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/waitress-2/>

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

**Tue., Aug. 6:** National Night Out (see article on [page 1](#)).

**Thu., Aug. 8:** BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8:00 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information.

**Aug. 9 - Sept. 1:** *Mud, River, Stone*, a play by Lynn Nottage, performed at Celebration Arts, 2727 B Street. Website: <https://www.celebrationarts.net/productions>

**Sat., Aug. 10:** Volunteer Open House and Training, California Museum, 1020 O St. (free admission; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.). Website: <https://www.sacramento365.com/event/volunteer-open-house-and-training/>

**Sat., Aug. 10:** "Named After Somebody Famous," themed walking tour of the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (5-6 p.m.; advance ticket purchase required). Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

**Sun., Aug. 18:** *Oaxaca en Sacramento*, at the Latino Center of Art and Culture, 2700 Front St. (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Oaxacan dance groups, food vendors, and handicrafts. Website: <https://thelatinocenter.org/#oaxaca-en-sacramento-honrando-los-lunes-del-cerro>

**Aug. 20-Sep. 1:** Broadway at Music Circus presents *Jersey Boys: The Story of Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons* at UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H Street (admission charged). Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/jersey-boys-3/>

**Sat., Aug. 24:** "Race for the Arts Run and Arts Festival," William Land Park (8:30-1:00 p.m.). The arts festival is free; runners pay a fee (registration starts at 7:15). Food for sampling and food for purchase. Website: <https://raceforthearts.com/>

**Sat., Aug. 24:** "Medical Bag," themed walking tour of the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (5-6 p.m.; advance ticket purchase required). Website for more information: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

**Sat., Aug. 31:** "Indigenous Voices in Film," Crocker Art Museum (free; 2-4 p.m.). Advance registration recommended. <https://www.crockerart.org/events/2430/indigenous-voices-in-film-2430>

**Aug. 31-Sep. 2:** 34<sup>th</sup> annual "Chalk It Up!" Chalk Art and Music Festival, Fremont Park, 1515 Q St. (10 a.m. – 6 p.m. each day). Website: <https://chalkitup.org/festival/> (see article on [page 4](#)).

## And looking ahead to early September . . .

**Mon., Sep. 2:** Labor Day.

**Thu., Sep. 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.

**Sun., Sept. 8:** 10<sup>th</sup> annual Mariachi Festival de Sacramento, Memorial Auditorium, 1515 J Street (5 p.m.; admission charged). Website: <https://mariachifestival.net/>



One of the longest-running and most popular art and music festivals in Sacramento, **Chalk It Up!** is celebrating its thirty-fourth anniversary this year. As always, it is being held Labor Day Weekend at Fremont Park (1515 Q Street; August 31-September 2). Participating chalk artists will set to work on Saturday morning and continue working through the long weekend while the public comes to watch. Each Chalk Art Square will have a different theme and sponsor.

The free, family-friendly festival is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. In addition to the chalk artists, there will be live music performed daily by local musicians, local food and craft vendors, and plenty of fun for everyone. There also will be buckets of sidewalk chalk for folks to use for their own drawings on the paved walkways inside Fremont Park.

**Chalk It Up!** is a 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization that was established in 1991 by local artists and community art supporters. It promotes and supports youth arts by offering small grants to K-12 classrooms and to youth arts projects throughout the Sacramento region. Its funds are derived from public sponsorship of the chalk squares made during the festival. For more information, go to: <https://chalkitup.org/>.



### Midtown Second Saturday (August 10)

This summer, Midtown Second Saturday is a much bigger event, with multiple components. The fun starts at midday, with a festival offering free hands-on activities for families and youth (12 and under) at one of the Midtown parks (Noon to 4:00 p.m.). Then there will be curated art walks (2-8:00 p.m.; RSVP to get the itinerary in advance), a block party (4-8:00 p.m.), gallery pop-ups, live music, etc. For more information and to sign up for the art walks, go to: <https://exploremidtown.org/second-saturday/>

See also: <https://www.facebook.com/exploremidtown/>

## Revisiting Sacramento's Historic Homes

In June 2024, *Comstock's Magazine* subscribers were told about a new department by assistant editor Dakota Morlan. Called "Unlisted," it will offer an inside look into historic Sacramento homes that are not currently on the real estate market. The series debuted in July with an article about 2100 F Street, one of the six Boulevard Park residences that will be featured in Preservation Sacramento's historic home tours on Sunday, Sept. 22. Built for retired Nevada rancher Joseph Marzen in 1910, the mansion was converted into a boarding house in the mid-1930s. When realtor and preservationist Bonnie Fitzpatrick bought the building in 1979, it was in poor shape. She converted it back into a single-family residence, restored it inside and out, and made it a hub of community gatherings. Some of the first meetings of the newly founded Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association were held here in the early 1990s. The Fitzpatrick house also was featured in the annual historic home tours in 1992 and 2000. It made a great starter topic for the new series in *Comstock's Magazine* (<https://comstocksmag.com/article/lovingly-restored-house-boulevard-park-home-big-ideas>). Watch for the next "Unlisted" stories in future issues!

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*Photo courtesy of Don Cox*

## 2331 I Street: A Grocery Store for 117 Years

The corner store now known as Calvin's Market is the oldest and longest-running grocery store in the Boulevard Park neighborhood (photograph on the left). Built by an Irish American businessman named John H. Hogan, it has been in continuous operation since 1907. The two-story building at the northwest corner of I and 24<sup>th</sup> Streets has two retail spaces on the ground floor. There always has been a grocery store at 2331 I, the corner retail space. The space to its left has served many different barbers and vendors over the years.

The apartments on the second floor of the building have prominent three-sided bays much like those found on houses built during this period. The Hogan family lived in the apartment at 2329 ½ I Street for about 25 years. John Hogan oversaw the grocery store until 1911, then went into the saloon business elsewhere in the city and rented out the retail space at 2331 I Street to others. Charles G. Soule ran the corner grocery from 1920 until the mid-1940s. He was followed by Gus C. Skarles, a native of Greece, who was here for twelve years (1945-1957). Champion golfer Motoo Tsuda and his wife Yoshimi operated Moto Market from 1958 until 1976. Marty Wong was next (Marty's Market), and then Dhiroo Jivan, who came from South Africa (D J Market).

The next grocer at 2331 I Street was Chue "Calvin" Yang, a native of Laos, who soon became a much loved and respected figure in the neighborhood (photograph on the right). He continued to call his store the D J Market, but after his death in 2021 his daughter and son-in-law renamed it in his honor. The new sign over the entrance shows the silhouetted figure of Calvin playing a Hmong reed instrument called a *qeej*, as in the photograph on the right. Calvin's Market was featured in a *Sacramento Bee* article on March 28 of this year because of the *bánh mì* sandwiches sold there. Thomas Vang and his wife Nancy Yang get this popular Vietnamese fare from Duc Huong on Stockton Boulevard. They plan to offer a selection of Hmong food to go in the future. The shop next door, called The Last Great, is a small treasure-trove of beads, buttons, textiles, vintage fabrics, laces, and beautiful handiwork.



### For more information:

Calvin's Market: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551348465724>

The Last Great: <https://www.instagram.com/the.last.great/>

## Other Old Store Buildings in the Boulevard Park Neighborhood

Old commercial and mixed-use buildings in the original Boulevard Park tract and its immediate vicinity are few and far between, mainly because Wright & Kimbrough, the developers of the former racetrack, stipulated that the new neighborhood should be entirely residential—with no "stores, woodyards, or business houses." Saloons also were forbidden. However, over the years, commerce crept in, and a few mixed-use buildings were erected. Following is a chronological list of four of those "intrusions," three of them right outside the boundaries of the original development: **2030 H Street** (three stores below, apartments above; 1908); **2300 F Street** (store with apartments above; 1910); **500 22<sup>nd</sup> Street** (basement of a 1908 residence that was converted into a grocery store in 1920); and **812-814 21<sup>st</sup> Street** (barber shop and meat market; 1923). No single type of business occupied any of these stores the entire time. For example, the last building was converted to a coffee shop in the late 1970s (Weatherstone's).

## Sacramento Area Plants: Yarrow



A familiar plant along the American River Parkway, yarrow has a long history as a useful plant for humans. The Common Yarrow (*achillea millefolium*) is a very common drought-resistant plant, about 3 feet tall with fern like-leaves, whitish flowers, and a pungent odor. It is native in every habitat in California except some desert areas. It also is cultivated as an ornamental plant by many nurseries because it is great for drought-tolerant gardens and is one of the most carefree and generously blooming perennials. It is a good companion plant too, attracting pollinators and other beneficial insects while repelling some pests. Yarrow has been used since ancient times to stop bleeding, heal wounds, and as a mild laxative. Native Americans also used yarrow for medicinal purposes. Navajos chewed it for toothaches, Miwoks used it as an analgesic and head-cold remedy, and Plains Indians used it to reduce pain and fever, and as a sleeping aid. The flattish clustered flower heads make nice cut flowers. Dried, they also can be used for winter bouquets.

## Your Neighborhood, Your Newsletter, Your Ideas

*Park Beat* is prepared by members of the BPNA for residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. We welcome suggestions and content from all readers. Are there any topics of neighborhood concern that you would like to see covered in the newsletter? Are you interested in submitting a short article for possible publication? Please send an email to the newsletter editor, Catherine Turrill-Lupi ([turrillc@csus.edu](mailto:turrillc@csus.edu)), if you have suggestions or questions. Each month's issue is prepared about two weeks before the end of the preceding month, so the deadline for receipt of finished articles falls around the 10<sup>th</sup> of that month. If you are curious about what was covered in past issues of *Park Beat*, check out the newsletter archive on the BPNA website (<https://www.boulevardpark.org/copy-of-park-beat-2018>). It covers about eleven years. For the current year's issues, go to: <https://www.boulevardpark.org/copy-of-park-beat-newsletter-1>

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