



BOULEVARD PARK'S *PARK BEAT*



BPNA's Annual Holiday Party: Saturday, December 14

BPNA members and their families are invited to come together for some holiday cheer at the historic Cranston/Geary house on **Saturday, December 14 (6:00-9:00 p.m.)**. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a favorite dish to share (BPNA will provide the plates, cups, cutlery, and other dining essentials).

This will be the first time the holiday party has been held at **2101 G Street**, one of the best-known homes in Boulevard Park and the former site of the annual Spaghetti Dinner. We are very grateful to our hosts, Alison Mahan and Eric O'Connor, for opening their doors to us. For a preview of their home, **2101 G Street**, see the article on page 5.

In the spirit of the season, and at the request of our hosts, this year's holiday party also will include an optional charity component, with the Sacramento Boys & Girls Club and its Holiday Toy Drive as the recipient. Please consider bringing an unwrapped gift for a child (ages 6-12) or teenager to the party. All donated gifts will be taken to the Boys & Girls Club by their deadline (**Wednesday, December 18**) so that they can be delivered before the holidays. The Club's website has two lists of gift suggestions for children aged 6-12 and for teenagers (bgcsac.org/how-to-help/holiday-cheer.html). If you prefer to make a financial donation instead, go to: bgcsac.org/welcome.html (click "donate").



The photograph shows all four members of the Capital Brass Quartet performing in the alley park four years ago. Left to right, they are: Tim Ragan, Ted Kidwell, Hal Edmonds, and Karl Fitch.

Come to Our Neighborhood's Holiday Concert on December 22!

Boulevard Park's own **Capital Brass Quartet** will present a free concert of Christmas favorites at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 22. Weather permitting, it will be held in the alley park between F, G, 21st, and 22nd Streets. Please enter the park from Fog Alley on the west side of 22nd street. If the weather is *really* cold, the musicians may move onto the front porch of the Arthur house (614 22nd, to the right of Fog Alley) so that they can plug in electric heaters and keep their hands warm and their instruments in tune. Whether seated in the park or on the grassy median, everyone attending the concert should bundle up, bring a blanket or a lawn chair, and enjoy the festive music of the season.



A vintage view of the three houses used for recent BPNA gatherings: 617 21st, 2101 G, and 2115 G (photo taken in about 1911).



A White-Tailed Kite at Sutter's Landing Park. Photo by Robert Sewell.

Dec. 12: Sutter's Landing Park Community Meeting

By Corey Brown

Boulevard Park residents are encouraged to attend the community meeting about the future of Sutter's Landing Park. It will be held at the Clunie Community Center, 601 Alhambra Boulevard, on Thursday, December 12 (6-8 p.m.). The City of Sacramento is preparing a new Master Plan for the Park and wants your input.

Located north of Midtown, Sutter's Landing Park sits along the Lower American River and is immediately adjacent to the American River Parkway. It provides Midtown residents with their greatest access to nature and the river itself. The Park also includes additional features such as a section of the Two Rivers Bike Trail, two dog parks, a skateboard park, basketball courts, and a bocceball area.

The 215-acre Park provides important habitat for a variety of imperiled wildlife including Swainson's hawks that migrate each year from Central America, White-tailed kites (shown in the photo), Peregrine falcons, and many others. It is also Midtown's *Gateway to the American River*. That is why the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association, the Marshall School-New Era Neighborhood Association, the Newton Booth Neighborhood Association, and the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) have all urged the City to protect, restore, and enhance the Park's habitat for native wildlife and to transform the Park into one of the most impressive and celebrated urban nature parks in California.

To learn more about Sutter's Landing Park, go to the website of the Friends of Sutter's Landing Park (sutterslandingpark.org). You can provide your input on the new Master Plan by attending the December 12th meeting and/or by writing to Dana Repan, a Senior Planner with the City of Sacramento (DRepan@cityofsacramento.org.)

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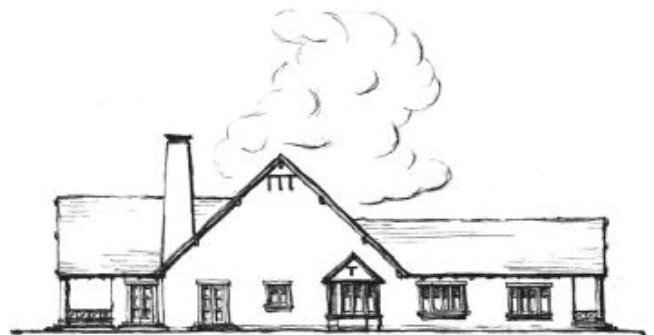
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December 2024: Places to Go, People to See

TIP: For more information about public events this month, go to: sacramento365.com.

All month: Theatre of Lights at Old Sacramento Waterfront: Family-friendly performance of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," along with old stories about Sacramento, in an immersive experience staged along K Street. Website: oldsacramento.com/event/theatre-lights

All month: Outdoor ice skating at Ali Youssefi Square, 7th and K Streets (for over 30 years): admission fee includes the cost of skate rental (\$8 for kids aged 0-6; \$15 general). For days and times of operation, go to: downtownsac.org/downtown-sac-experiences/downtown-sacramento-ice-rink/

Most weekend mornings, 9 to Noon: Join volunteers in beautification tasks at Sutter's Landing Park. Contact FOSL's volunteer coordinator, Betsy Weiland (flweiland@yahoo.com; or 279-202-4677).

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market (8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th St. between J and L Sts.; K St. between 19th and 21st Sts.). Website: exploremidtown.org/midtown-markets/

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

Nov. 29-Dec. 1: Crocker Holiday Artisan Market, Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St. (free parking; \$10 admission ticket valid for all 3 days; \$9 for seniors; children under 12 are free). Over 100 artists and artisans. Website: crockerholidayartisanmarket.com/

Mon., Dec. 2: Submission deadline for emails about serving on the 2025 Board of Directors. See article on [page 4](#).

Wed., Dec. 4: Irish Christmas in America, at The Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave. (7 p.m.; admission charged). Irish stories, dance, song, and instrumental music for the entire family. Website: bstreettheatre.org/music/irish-christmas-in-america-2/

Thu., Dec. 5: BPNA Board Meeting, Washington Elementary School, 520 18th St. (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information.

Dec. 6-8: Sacred Heart Holiday Home Tour, featuring fine homes in the Fab Forties that have been specially decorated by local professional designers (10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Fri. and Sat.; 11-5 on Sun.; admission charged). Website: sacredheartthometour.com/

Dec. 6-15: Broadway at Music Circus presents *Elf, the Musical*, UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H St. (matinee and evening performances; admission charged). Website: broadwaysacramento.com/production/elf/

Dec. 7-8: Christkindlmarkt at Sacramento Turn Verein, 3349 J St. (10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Sat.; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sun.; \$5 admission; children aged 15 and younger are free). 24th annual German Christmas market, with traditional foods, beverages, and gifts for sale; German dancing and music. Website: sacramentoturnverein.com/events/

Sun., Dec. 8: California International Marathon, from Folsom to the Capitol. Expect some street closures. Website: unsra.org/california-international-marathon/

Sun., Dec. 8: Pony Express Christmas Card Ride: Holiday cards brought to the Sacramento History Museum by Dec. 8 will be hand-canceled with historical markings, then carried from Folsom to Sacramento by a Pony Express horse and rider on Dec. 14 before being turned over to the USPS. Check the museum website for updates (sachistorymuseum.org/).

Thu., Dec. 12: Sutter's Landing Park Community Open House #2, Clunie Community Center, 601 Alhambra Blvd. (6-8 p.m.). See article on [page 2](#).

Dec. 13-22: The Sacramento Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St. (matinee and evening performances; admission charged). Website: sacballet.org/events/nutcracker/

Sat., Dec. 14: 41st annual Santa Parade around Capitol Park (10 a.m.): A Sacramento tradition, featuring marching bands, antique vehicles, horses, youth groups, clowns, and Santa Claus. Website: facebook.com/sacramentosantaparade/

Sat., Dec. 14: Jingle Bell Pup Crawl, starting at Truit Bark Park (noon-4 p.m.; \$35/person entry fee). Enjoy shopping discounts and drink and food specials at participating Midtown businesses while also supporting the Sacramento SPCA. Website: classy.org/event/7th-annual-jingle-bell-pup-crawl/e605770

Sat., Dec. 14: BPNA Holiday Party, with potluck refreshments. See article on [page 1](#).

Dec. 14-15: A Master Singers Christmas, presented by Sacramento Master Singers at First United Methodist Church, 2100 J St. (3-5 p.m. both days; admission charged). Website: mastersingers.org/2024_25_concerts/a-master-singers-christmas/

Sun., Dec. 22: Free holiday concert on the 21st/22nd Street green. See article on [page 1](#).

Sun., Dec. 22: Winter performance by the Chamber Music Society of Sacramento, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Ave. (4-5:30 p.m.; admission charged). Website: cmssacto.org/24/25-season

Thurs., Dec. 26: Messiah Sing-Along, with the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra. First United Methodist Church, 2100 J St. (2 p.m.; admission charged). Website: sacramentochoral.org/messiah/



And looking ahead to early January ...

Jan. 3 and 4: Sacramento Baroque Soloists and Capella Antiqua perform Handel's Messiah at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament (7:30 p.m. each day; admission charged). Website: sacramentobaroque.org/23rd-concert-season

Report from the BPNA Board

Much of the agenda of the BPNA Board meeting on November 7 involved neighborhood events. Noah Mebane reported on the very successful Hallowe'en "Trunk or Treat" event that was co-hosted by two neighborhood associations, BPNA and MNENA, outside the historic Marshall School on October 26. It featured games, face painting, free candy, and even a free movie (see the video and photos posted on our Facebook page: facebook.com/BPNABoardMember). The next BPNA event is the annual holiday party on Saturday, December 14 (see the article on page 1). Plans are underway as well for the general membership meeting, scheduled on Tuesday, January 14. Board members also discussed new and pending parking policy revisions in the City of Sacramento. Some revisions will result in the suspension of requirements for the provision of car parking spaces in some development projects, while others involve improved parking management and an increase in the number of bicycle parking spaces. Noah presented the results of BPNA's recent survey of *Park Beat* readers in which their opinions were sought about the content and coverage of our monthly newsletter.

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Connect with us by visiting Boulevardpark.org or by emailing us at BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com.



Join the Boulevard Park Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/blvdparksac/ (or scan this QR code) to connect with your neighbors and get the latest updates from the BPNA.

To access the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association membership form online, scan this QR code with your smart phone camera.



EXTRA!

EXTRA!



BLOCK CAPTAIN NEEDED

A new Block Captain is needed to deliver copies of Park Beat in the 19th and H Street area of Boulevard Park. If you can spare 15 minutes of your time each month and would enjoy an excuse to stroll through the neighborhood, please contact our Block Captain Coordinator, Joe Cress (916-628-3130; josephmcress@yahoo.com).

Final Reminder: BPNA's 2025 Board of Directors Call for Candidates

If you are reading this newsletter before December 2nd, and if you are a member of the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association, you still have time to sign up as a candidate for next year's Board of Directors. The deadline for submitting a letter of interest to the BPNA is **Monday, Dec. 2**. Short statements by the candidates will be printed in the **January 2025** issue of *Park Beat*, and the election will take place at the general membership meeting on **Tuesday, January 14**. It will be held in the library of Washington Elementary School, where monthly board meetings usually take place.

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

To become a BPNA member or to renew a membership, send this completed form with a check payment (suggested amount: between \$5 and \$15 per adult member) to P.O. Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816-0811. Memberships are valid for 1 calendar year from the receipt of payment date.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment amount: _____

- I'm a new member. I'm a renewing member.
- Yes! I want to become a BPNA volunteer. Contact me.
- I would like to receive this newsletter by email, as well as home delivery.





The Geary family in the 1920s (photo courtesy of the Bramson family; for a photo of the house, see p. 1).

The Cranston-Geary House, 2101 G Street

For the first time in its history, this year's holiday party is being held at the Cranston-Geary house, the site of the BPNA's annual Spaghetti Dinner from 1998 until 2022. This handsome California Craftsman residence takes its name from the surnames of the first two families to occupy it: the Robert Cranstons, who had the house and its garage built on the double lot in 1909, and the William Gearys, who bought the property in 1912, and who lived here until the early 1940s. Robert Cranston was a mining engineer with the Natomas Company; William F. Geary was the vice-president of a firm of wholesale druggists, Kirk Geary & Co. The Geary family's long residency was well-documented in photographs, several of which were reproduced in the book *Sacramento's Boulevard Park*. One of those photographs shows William F. Geary, his wife Julia, and their four children (Katherine, William, John, and Mary) relaxing in front of the living room fireplace in the early 1920s.

Like several other large two-story homes in Boulevard Park, the Cranston-Geary house was designed by an architectural firm. Two Chicago-trained architects who had come to San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake, George C. Sellon and E. Charles Hemmings, set up an office in Sacramento in 1908, a year before they went to work for

Robert Cranston. Their Chicago experience, which included contact with Frank Lloyd Wright, may have influenced some of the details of the Cranston-Geary house.

Distinctive features of the house include its multiple gables, the curved or flaring lines of the gable roofs, the exposed rafter ends, and the use of multiple materials—brick (chimneys and front porch), wooden lap siding (lower story), wooden board-and-batten siding (upper story), and even brass (the decorative ornaments along the rooflines of both the house and its garage). The patterns used in some of the leaded glass windows and in the interior woodwork (especially the wooden panels on the dining room walls) are not found anywhere else in Sacramento. The cast-iron hitching post on the G Street side of the house is another original feature and is even mentioned in the 1909 paperwork for the project. Unlike the neighborhood's other hitching posts, it has a lion's head instead of a sphere.

Because of its historic importance and the high quality of its design, the Cranston-Geary house was placed on the National Register in 1998, one of only two buildings in the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood to gain this recognition (the other is the Winters House at 2326 H Street).

Council District 4 Meeting Thanks Katie Valenzuela, Connects Neighbors

By Noah Mebane

The second District 4 Community Meeting of the year was held on the evening of November 14th at the Hart Senior Center. Sponsored by Councilmember Katie Valenzuela, the event was posed as a mixer between neighborhood activists and city departments, as well as a transition to the district's new leadership under Councilmember-elect Phil Pluckebaum. The meeting was attended by around 50 community members, who were well-fed with offerings from Mendocino Farms provided by the Councilmember's office.

After some time set aside for attendees to arrive, exchange greetings, and engage with city staff, Councilmember Valenzuela gave a short speech thanking her own staff, the city, and engaged neighbors for their support throughout her term. She then handed off the mic to Mr. Pluckebaum, who introduced himself and his staff before welcoming the continuing commitment of the community. Pluckebaum ceded the floor back to the Councilmember, who called upon each attending city department to provide updates on the current goings-on. A brief listing of the attending departments and their topics:

Arts and Culture (Del Rio Trail art and historical installations, grant opportunities for venues and artists); Center for Sacramento History (wayfinding project in Old Sacramento); Community Development (2040 General Plan, Urban Forestry Master Plan); Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment (Sacramento Children's Fund, new "Volunteers In Parks" program); Community Engagement (Communications Toolkit, monthly mixer, "Sac Vibes" podcast); Innovation and Economic Development (Railyards project); Transportation (Broadway Complete Streets, Streets for People initiative); Code Enforcement (graffiti cleanup effort); Public Safety Accountability (police and fire misconduct process); Sacramento Police (crime analysis tools); Sacramento Fire (Street Overdose Response Team); Community Response (Incident Management Team success).

Once each city office had spoken its piece, Councilmember Valenzuela called upon each present neighborhood association representative to introduce themselves and talk about past and upcoming endeavors (the BPNA was represented by board member Noah Mebane). A final farewell was made to conclude the meeting, and attendees were given a final opportunity to mingle and connect with each other and with the city's departmental liaisons.

The District 4 office will transition to Councilmember-Elect Pluckebaum on Tuesday, December 10. Residents may use this email address to contact his office: district4@cityofsacramento.org.

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