



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ☐☐☐ Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816-0811 ☐☐☐ March 2024

California Primary Election: March 5 is the Last Day to Vote!



Chances are that many of the people reading this issue of *Park Beat* already have cast their ballots, but if you are still pondering the issues, parsing the propositions, musing over measures (Proposition 1 and Measure C), or analyzing the candidate statements, this information is for you.

The last day to register to vote was February 20. If you missed the deadline, you can still register and vote on the same day at the County elections office or any polling place or vote center (up to and including Election Day, March 5). You will be casting a provisional ballot.

If you opt to vote by USPS mail, make sure you sign the outside of the envelope after putting the ballot inside it. No stamps are required. Envelopes must be postmarked by **March 5** and must arrive at their destination no later than **March 12** (you can track your ballot's progress by using the "Where's my ballot" website: <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>).

If you prefer to vote in person at a polling place or vote center, note that, as of March 2, all vote centers will be open through Election Day. Hours may vary from location to location for the days before March 5.

- **Drop Box** locations within a few blocks of Boulevard Park include **McKinley Library**, at 601 Alhambra Boulevard (open 10-6, Tues.-Sat.; 8-5 on March 5); **City Hall**, at 915 I Street (open 8-5, Mon.-Fri.; 8-5 on March 5); and the **Central Library**, at 828 I Street (open 10-6, Tues.-Sat.; 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on March 5).
- Nearby **Vote Center** locations that will be open from **March 2-5** include the **Central Library** (see above) and the **CLARA Auditorium** at 1425 24th Street (open 10-6 daily; from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day).

For more information:

- Sacramento County Elections Website: <https://elections.saccounty.net/Pages/default.aspx>

Please Support Your Neighborhood Association!

Boulevard Park has one of the older and more active neighborhood associations in Sacramento. Back in 1994, a few years after the formation of BPNA, a *Sacramento Bee* journalist described the neighborhood as "tightly knit," and quoted one resident as saying: "I've never seen a group of people so interested in their community, so interested in historic preservation [and] in the quality of life." The closeness and commitment still characterize the neighborhood today. Everyone is invited to our events. They are not limited to the membership. However, being a dues-paying member is a good way to support the association. Membership is also a path to a leadership role in the community, through service on the BPNA Board of Directors.

Membership dues are kept low. Residents are encouraged to pay an annual fee of \$5 to \$15 per adult member of their household, but any amount is welcome. The dues and the income earned from the periodic yard sale help make it possible for the BPNA to donate funds to local schools and other worthy causes. So, please don't hesitate—fill out the membership form on **page 6** or go to the BPNA website and pay online (<https://www.boulevardpark.org/membership-form>). *Thank you!*



March Holidays Honoring Trees and Women

California's Arbor Week begins on March 7, the day before International Women's Day, March 8. During the first twenty years of the last century, several Boulevard Park residents were active members of the Women's Council and played a leading role in its initiatives. One of them was Mrs. Aden Hart, of 2131 H Street.

Back in 1906, when Arbor Day still was observed in February, members of the Sacramento Women's Council supervised the planting of trees in Boulevard Park, the city's newest suburb. Many of the shade trees used in the project came from the National Nursery. These were the first trees the federal government had ever given to a city for planting along its streets. According to contemporary newspaper accounts, the 2,000 seedlings sent from Washington to Sacramento included American elm, ginkgo, Norway maple, pin oak, red oak, and European Sycamore. Three years later, in March 1909, Governor Gillett signed the Bird and Arbor Day Act. It honored the renowned California horticulturist Luther Burbank by making his birthday, March 7, a school holiday with tree- and flower-planting activities encouraged throughout the state. From the start, California's Arbor Day was about teaching children the value of birds and trees.

By 1915, Alice Hart, a Boulevard Park resident since 1907 and wife of Dr. Aden Hart, was a prominent member of the Women's Council. She led a new "beautification committee" that was dedicated to the adornment of the city with foliage and flowers. Sacramento's leaders were eager to make a good impression on any visitors who passed through town on their way to or from the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco that spring. The first efforts were directed to the sites most likely to be seen by these travelers, such as the train station, the State Capitol, and Sutter's Fort. Arbor Day was also incorporated into the program. Falling two days after March 5, which had been designated as "Planting Day" by Mrs. Hart and her colleagues, this holiday offered an excuse for additional horticultural efforts. Homeowners were encouraged to beautify their properties with flowers. Hordes of children were organized into planting squads for city school yards. Charles E. Wright, co-owner of the real estate firm that developed Boulevard Park, did his bit by donating verbena cuttings from his own property to the beautification campaign.

Illustration above: From the *Sacramento Bee*, Feb. 25, 1915

March 26: In celebration of **Women's History Month:** Free "behind-the-scenes" tour at the California State Archives, 1020 O St. (10-11 a.m.). Register in advance on the website: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/public-events/tours>

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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)
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March 2024: *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 Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th St. between J and L Sts.; K St. between 19th and 21st Sts.).
Website: <https://exploremidtown.org/midtownfarmersmarket/>

Mar. 1-17: Celebration Arts presents "Zora & Langston," written and directed by Imani Mitchell (2727 B Street). Website: <https://www.celebrationarts.net/productions>

Mar. 1-5: Last days of California Primary Election: vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by USPS mail, at a drop-off location, or at the County elections office. See article on **page 1**.

Mar. 2 & 3: Sacramento's 100th Camelia Show, at the Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H St. (3-6 on Sat.; 10-5 on Sun.). Article on **page 5**.
Website: <https://cameliasocietyofsacramento.org/events>

Sat., Mar. 2: Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*, in the "European Masterworks 2024" series presented by the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra, SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St. (3:00 p.m., with pre-concert talk by conductor Donald Kendrick at 2:00 p.m.). Website: <https://sacramentochoral.org/em2024/>

Tue., Mar. 5: Primary Election Day: Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. See article on **page 1**.

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

Mar. 7-14: California's Arbor Week. See article on **page 2**.

Thu., Mar. 7: BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information.

Mar. 9-24: 25th Annual Sacramento Jewish Film Festival, showcasing 39 films, both live and live-streamed. Mar. 16 and 17 screenings will be live and in-person at 2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento. Website: <https://sacjewishfilmfest.org>

Mar. 9-10: Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will have online sales, with pickup-up on Mar. 10. Website: <https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/plant-sales/>.

Sat., Mar. 9: 19th Annual Gardener's Market, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (9 a.m.-3 p.m.; free). Proceeds from the sales of unusual plants and garden treasures help fund the Grants Program of the Sacramento Perennial Plants Club. Website: <https://sacplants.org>

Sat., Mar. 9: Third Annual City of Trees Parade and Mardi Gras Festival, Capitol Mall Greens (Noon to 7 p.m.; parade route is from Old Sacramento to Capitol Mall). Website: <https://curiositycollaborative.org/city-of-trees-parade/>

Sat., Mar. 9: "Concerti Grossi," presented by Sacramento Baroque Soloists at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1430 J St. (Corelli, Vivaldi, and Muffat; 4 p.m.; admission charged). <https://www.sacramentobaroque.org/22nd-concert-season>

Sat., Mar. 9: "Friends and Family" art show at the I Street Art Studios, 1727 I Street (2-8:00 p.m.). See article on **page 4**.

Sat., Mar. 9: "Mugwumps, Know-Nothings, & Dolly Vardens: 3rd Political Parties," themed tour of the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway. For times and tickets, go to: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sun., Mar. 10: Daylight Savings Time! Turn clocks ahead.

Mar. 16 & 17: SG&AC Spring Sale, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-4 on Sat.; 10-3 on Sun.). Website: <https://www.sgaac.org/news/>

Sat., Mar. 16: St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival, Old Sacramento Waterfront (festival, Noon-5:00; parade, 1-3:00). <https://www.oldsacramento.com/st-patricks-day-parade-festival>

Sat., Mar. 16: "The Life and Impacts of William Alexander Leidesdorff," Free lecture at Central Library (828 I St., 1 p.m.). See article on **page 5**. Website: <https://www.saclibrary.org/About/News/2023/Take-Me-to-the-Water>

Sat., Mar. 23: "Famous Last Words": themed tour of the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway. For times and tickets, go to: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Tue., Mar. 26: Free "behind-the-scenes" tour at the California State Archives, 1020 O St. (10-11 a.m.). See notice on **page 2**.



Photo of the gallery during the March 2022 Friends and Family Show

News from the I Street Studios: “Friends and Family” Reception on March 9

Artists love to make art and they also have “friends and family” who love to make art! Come and see the results of this winning combination at the I Street Art Studios on **Saturday, March 9 (from 2-8 p.m.)**. The artists have invited some special and talented friends and family members to join them in this fun new show in the big gallery at 1727 I street (for the gallery’s history, see the article in the February issue of *Park Beat*). This hidden gem of a studio has 18 resident artists and is found at the end of the narrow walkway just to the left of Bambi Vegan Tacos (1725 I Street). This month, come see the creations of the resident artists in their four adjoining studios, and admire the talents of their friends and relatives as shown in the works on display in the main gallery. There will be fun for all, including a kids’ table and some live music for everyone to enjoy. The resident artists will be present too, and they do love to talk about art. Just ask them! For more information: <https://theartstudiossacramento.com/>

Report from the BPNA Board

The 2024 BPNA Board of Directors met for the first time on February 1. They divided up their roles and assignments (see page 3 of this issue) and discussed plans for the coming year. BPNA will be hosting the usual series of group events—National Night Out in August, the Spaghetti Dinner in September, and Holiday Party in December (more information will be provided in future issues of *Park Beat*). There also may be a neighborhood yard sale for the first time in several years.

Board members agreed to continue meeting on the first Thursday of each month (6:30-8 p.m.). All Board meetings will be open to BPNA members and other interested residents (for updates, see the calendar entry in each issue of *Park Beat*).

Turning to the rest of the agenda, the Board then voted to adopt a resolution in support of a nature-centered design for the updated Master Plan for Sutter’s Landing Park (see the article in the February issue of *Park Beat*). The rest of the meeting was devoted to the discussion of a range of topics, including the benefits of using of social media more to communicate with neighborhood residents, various strategies for dealing with homeless encampments in Boulevard Park, and the preliminary application to build a 33-unit apartment building at 2212 F Street (see the February issue of *Park Beat*). The application was filed by Vrillakis/Groen architects on January 9 (see: <https://sacramento.agencycounter.com/>).

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The photos of G.B. and A.W. Lorenz are from Find-A-Grave; house photo is from the Center for Sacramento History

Historic Architecture: The Lorenz House on G Street

One of the finer Craftsman-style homes in our neighborhood is just outside the boundaries of the original Boulevard Park subdivision, at 1822 G Street. Built for George and Alice Lorenz in 1912, it was included on the historic home tour in 2009 because it is such a distinctive example of this style. The architect, E. Charles Hemmings, was George C. Sellon's business partner when they got the contract to design the Cranston-Geary house at 2101 G Street (1909). The firm of Sellon & Hemmings was responsible for several important buildings in Sacramento but lasted only two years, from 1907-09. In fact, it was dissolved before the Cranston-Geary house was finished, and that building generally is considered a Sellon project. However, Hemmings continued working in the neighborhood. He designed the Tudor Revival style firehouse at 417 20th Street in 1911 (see below), and then took on the Lorenz job the following year. His client, George B. Lorenz, was then working as a teller at the People's Savings Bank. Lorenz had married Alice C. Washburn, only daughter of Orlando F. and Ray Washburn, in 1904. Her father, who owned the American Cash Store, had purchased two lots on G Street in 1899, one of them with a house dating back to the 1880s that became the Washburn family home (1826 G Street). The Lorenz couple lived with Alice's parents until 1912, then had their new house built on the adjoining lot, which Orlando deeded to Alice in 1913. George Lorenz died of a heart attack six years later. In addition to raising their two children and serving on the school board, Alice worked for the public school system until retiring in 1940. She died that same year.

Sometimes described as a "Berkeley Bungalow," the brown-shingled, two-story Lorenz house resembles contemporary residences in the Bay Area. The clustered windows, low pitched roof with a deep overhang, and lattice detail on the exterior walls also are Craftsman Style features (for comparison, see the Craftsman-style houses at 2121 21st Street and 3200 H Street). Hemmings worked with the same contractors, Murcell & Haley, on both the Lorenz house and the 20th Street firehouse, built for Chemical Engine Company No. 3. To learn more about the firehouse, see the October 2018 issue of *Park Beat*, posted on the BPNA website with other archived newsletters (<https://www.boulevardpark.org>: Go to "About BPNA").



"William Alexander Leidesdorff: Histories of the Black Pacific"

The closing event of the Central Library's special exhibition and program, "Take Me to the Water: Histories of the Black Pacific," is on **Saturday, March 16 at 1:00 p.m.** Dr. Caroline Collins curated the interesting multimedia exhibit about the Black experience with the Pacific Ocean (installed in the Library's lobby, on the ground floor).

The final lecture will be given by Michael Harlan, Humanities professor at American River College. His topic is the extraordinary career of William Alexander Leidesdorff, a native of the Virgin Islands who "sailed both the Atlantic and Pacific, forged fresh trade routes, built influential relationships, and eventually settled in California where he became one of the nation's first African American millionaires" (quoted from the website: <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/The-Sacramento-Room>). Admission to the lecture is free.

To learn more about Leidesdorff and African American migration to California during the Gold Rush Era, go to the first episode of the five-part virtual exhibition posted on the University of California's useful Calisphere website (<https://calisphere.org/exhibitions/47/african-americans-gold-rush/>). The first historic image displayed in the online exhibition is this small portrait of Leidesdorff, from the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley (above left).



A heritage camellia at 21st and F Streets, Boulevard Park (between two vintage flower illustrations)

March 2 and 3, 2024: The Hundredth Camellia Show

This year marks the centennial of Sacramento’s annual Camellia Show (see the calendar entry on **page 3**). The first show was held at the David Lubin School in April 1924 under the auspices of the Tuesday Club, an important women’s organization in that period. The Sacramento Garden Club took on the show’s management three years later. The Sacramento Camellia Society, formed in 1943 (two years after City Council proclaimed the camellia as Sacramento’s official flower), has organized the show ever since. Camellias have been honored here in other ways as well, such as the creation of the Pioneer Camellia Grove in Capitol Park (dedicated in 1953) and the campaign to establish Sacramento as the “Camellia Capital of the World.”

Sacramento’s first camellias were imported from Japan in 1852, arriving in the city in February of that year. Camellias are native to eastern and southern Asia. Now, after centuries of cultivation around the world, there are more than 220 species and over 26,000 varieties produced by selective breeding. Camellias are evergreen shrubs or small trees with shiny green leaves and conspicuous flowers ranging in color from white through pinks and reds. Most camellias have a rapid growth rate and are well adapted to a well-watered, acid soil. They also like a shady exposure. Two camellia varieties often found in Sacramento are **sasanqua** (blooming from midfall to early winter) and **japonica** (flowering from midwinter to spring).

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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

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