



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

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

It's Bigger! It's Better! It's the BPNA Yard Sale!

The Boulevard Park yard sale finally returns after a six-year absence! While the details are not quite finalized (as of this writing), the 2024 yard sale is planned for **Saturday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** It will be on the 22nd Street median between F and G Streets, the traditional location. What's new this year is the format. For the first time that we can recall, BPNA will **not** run the entire sale and take all of its proceeds. Instead, the sale is open to all neighbors. If a rigorous spring cleaning has left you with gently used stuff and tempting treasures to sell on your own, come on over and set up shop with other Boulevard Park residents on the F-G median. Because the BPNA will have a limited number of tables and chairs to lend that morning, sellers are encouraged to bring their own supplies if possible. Whether you are selling, shopping, or just browsing, please plan to stay for a while! The yard sale will offer a great opportunity for some neighborly social networking.

As an extra bonus, fresh food will be available for purchase on site from the Jeeroz Food Truck (<https://www.jeeroz.com/>). There will be tasty items like gyros, shawarma, and loaded fries. So, before you load up on yard sale goods, you can fill up on some delicious Mediterranean food.

Would you rather donate your stuff to the BPNA than try to sell it on your own? You can stop by our tables any time **before 10** that morning and drop off items to be sold for the benefit of the neighborhood association. Large items (e.g. heavy furniture) will not be accepted, and we reserve the right to refuse any other donations (e.g. junk!).

Stay tuned for updates via email, social media, and flyers. For the most current information, follow the BPNA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BPNABoardMember/>). If you have questions or comments about the event, or if you would like to help out at the BPNA's sale tables, please contact Board member Noah Mebane (mebanen@gmail.com).



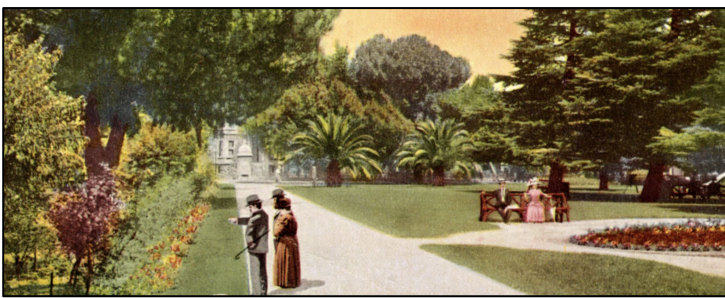
Public Events at Washington Elementary School This Month



As announced on its website (<https://washington.scusd.edu/>), Washington Elementary School is hosting two public events this month—a **Community Kindness Parade**, on **Friday, May 10 (9:30-10:15 a.m.)** and its **Annual Exhibition Day**, on **Friday, May 31 (5-7 p.m.)**. The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) school, for Early Kindergarten through the 6th grade, is at **520 18th St.** It is the second oldest elementary school in the Sacramento City Unified School District.

A new event being offered for the first time this year, the **Community Kindness Parade** will begin at the school. After a sensory walk at the playground, participants will exit from the side garden gate and then walk east along F Street to 21st Street, turn around, and return to the school along the same three-block route. Neighborhood residents are encouraged to join the parade. Or, as recommended by Dr. Godina, the school principal, they can signal their support and encouragement to the children by standing along the parade route and holding up signs with written messages about kindness.

Exhibition Day, the biggest event of the school year, features student presentations of their Project-Based Learning projects (**5:00-5:45 p.m.**) followed by a community celebration with food and music (**5:45-7:00 p.m.**).



Detail of a postcard showing visitors to Capitol Park (in about 1910)

Garden Tours in Sacramento This Month (May 5, May 11-12, and May 18)

Colonial Heights, an early 20th century Sacramento neighborhood located to the east of Stockton Boulevard, is offering the first garden tour this month. The Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) Garden Tour will be headquartered in Colonial Park on **Sunday, May 5**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (5315 19th Avenue). There will be food and coffee vendors, artisans, expert presentations, and a plant/seed swap at Colonial Park. Visitors also are welcome to wander along the neighborhood's palm-tree shaded streets.

<https://www.colonial-heights.org/events-1/2024-colonial-heights-garden-tour>

East Sacramento will be hosting its 24th garden tour on Mother's Day weekend, **May 11 and 12**. A very popular fundraiser for David Lubin Elementary School, this tour of neighborhood gardens also includes a boutique and café at 3535 M Street (open 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.). Several vendors will be present. There also will be a wine garden at the Sutter Lawn Tennis Club (on a separate ticket, \$20-25; each of the first 200 guests will receive a complimentary East Sac Garden Tour wine glass). Tickets for the garden tour cost \$25 and can be purchased in advance, then picked up at the "Will Call Table" inside the David Lubin Elementary playground on the days of the tour. Tickets also will be sold at the boutique and café on each day of the tour (\$30). The tour ticket is valid for both days—if you don't finish touring all six of the featured gardens on Saturday, you can return on Sunday. Admission to the tour is free for youth aged 12 and younger.

Website: <https://www.eastsacgardentour.com/>

Lastly, on **Saturday, May 18**, you are invited to explore the hidden gardens of **Tahoe Park** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This annual tour, intended for neighbors and garden enthusiasts alike, offers access to a wide variety of gardens, including drought-tolerant ones. Tickets can be purchased online or in person (\$10). Participants who pay for their tickets in advance can pick them up with a program and map at the Garden Headquarters (Tahoe Park Community Garden, 5959 8th Avenue) starting at 10 a.m. A portion of the proceeds will help support the Tahoe Elementary School Garden. Admission to the tour is free for youth under 18.

Website: <https://www.tahoeParkgardentour.com/>

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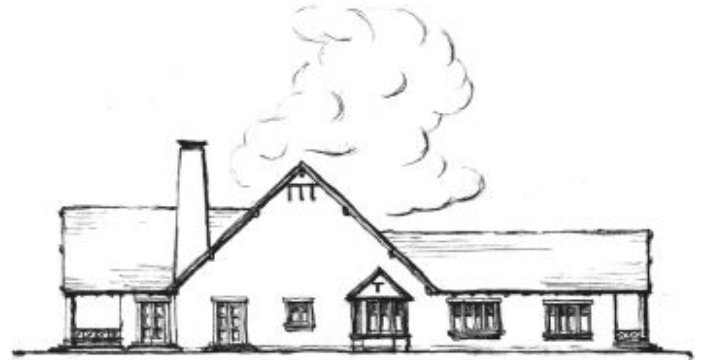
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Colleen Schwartz	colleenschwartz05@gmail.com

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

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Newsletter Designer: *Position Open*
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May 2024: Places to Go, Things to Do

TIP: For more information about public events this month, go to: <https://www.sacramento365.com>. Also, be sure to check the individual organization websites for updates.

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.).
<https://exploremidtown.org/midtownfarmersmarket/>

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

Most weekend mornings: Join other volunteers in tackling beautification tasks at Sutter's Landing Park. For more details, contact FOSL's volunteer coordinator, Betsy Weiland, by email (flweiland@yahoo.com) or phone (279-202-4677).

All month: May is **Bike Month** and **California Preservation Month**, and there is a lot happening. See the article on **page 4**.

Thu., May 2: BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information.

May 3-5: 64th Annual Cactus & Succulent Plant Show and Sale, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (1-5 on Fri., 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Sat., and 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sun.). Website: <https://www.sacramentocss.com/shows.html>

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

Sat., May 4: Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra present a Rodgers and Hammerstein Celebration, SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L Street (3 p.m.; admission charged). Website: <https://sacramentochoral.org/rnh/>

Sat., May 4: Bicycle History Tour, Old City Cemetery (5-6 p.m.; advance ticket purchase required). Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sun., May 5: Colonial Heights Garden Tour. Article on **page 2**.

May 4 & 5: Festival de Cinco de Mayo in Southside Park, 2115 6th St. (4-9 p.m. on Sat.; Noon-6 p.m. on Sun.). Arts and crafts, food, and entertainment, including a kids' area.

May 11&12: East Sacramento Garden Tour. Article on **page 2**.

Sat., May 11: Chrysanthemum Society Plant Sale, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (9-2). Website: <https://www.sgaac.org/calendar/2024/5>

Sat., May 11: "No Safe Art," art show and reception at the Art Studios, plus music with Live Beats (1717 I Street, 2-8 p.m.).

May 17-19: Sacramento Ballet presents "Innovations" at The Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave. (evenings and matinees; admission charged). <https://www.sacballet.org/events/innovations/>

Sat., May 18: Two free backyard composting seminars at the Southside Park Community Garden, 5th and W Streets (8-9 a.m. and 10-11 a.m.). For more information or to register for a session, send an email to: sacreecycle@cityofsacramento.org.

Sat., May 18: Tahoe Park Garden Tour. See article on **page 2**.

Sat., May 18: End of Watch Tour, Old City Cemetery (5-6 p.m.; advance ticket purchase required). Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sat., May 25: 2nd Mad Hatter's Tea Party, walking tour plus snacks and tea in the Old City Cemetery. Costumes are welcome! (3-5 p.m.; advance ticket purchase required). Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Mon., May 27: Memorial Day, with a special community event at Memorial Auditorium (1515 J St.; 10-Noon). After a flag ceremony and welcome speeches on the Plaza, patriotic music on the Estey Municipal Organ will be offered inside the auditorium. The Memorial Hall tablet room will be open too. <https://www.sacramento365.com/event/memorial-day-community-event-2/>

And looking ahead to early June . . .

Sat., June 1: BPNA Neighborhood Yard Sale (article on **p. 1**).

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

May is Bike Month and California Preservation Month

Two Bike Month events:

Thu., May 2: Film screening of recent documentary “Biking While Black: How Safe are Black Lives Bicycling?” at the Guild Theatre, 2828 35th Street, Oak Park (time *TBA*).

Sat., May 11: Bike Swap, Sale, & Show at Two Rivers Cider Co., 4311 Attawa Ave., Sacramento (10 a.m.-2 p.m.). Vendor booths for swapping and selling bike goods; food, live music.

To learn more about these and other bike month events, go to:

<https://www.lovetoride.net/sacregion?locale=en-US>

Multiple Preservation Month (+) events:

In honor of the legacy of Jane Jacobs, author of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Preservation Sacramento is coordinating a series of guided walks and bike rides that combine history, urban planning, sidewalk safety, and community memory. The information below is from April 20. Tour updates will be shared via the PS email list, website (<http://www.preservationsacramento.org/jane-jacobs>), and Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/PreservationSac/>).

Sat., May 4: Walking tour of the Oak Park historic district (starting time and point *TBA*: see websites above).

Sun., May 5: From Japantown to Chinatown, walking tour (starting time and point *TBA*: see websites above).

Mon., May 6: Strong Towns Bike Ride (start time *TBA*; start point 27th and K Streets). Hosted by Steve Schweigert, this ride traverses Downtown and Midtown, exploring how historic buildings and new infill in these areas embody “Strong Towns” principles (<https://www.strongstactown.org/>).

Sat., May 11: Terra Cotta Buildings Tour (10-11:30 a.m.; starting point at Old City Hall, 915 I St.): Bruce Marwick of the Sacramento Art Deco Society will lead a walking tour of Downtown terra cotta buildings, with an emphasis on ones that have architectural terra cotta by Gladding McBean. The tour will end at the Coleman Fountain in Cesar Chavez Plaza.

Sat., May 11: Historic Districts (10 to noon; start point *TBA*). City of Sacramento preservation planner Henry Feuss will lead a bicycle tour through several Sacramento historic districts.

Sat., May 18: Architecture of Rudolph Herold (starting at 2131 Capitol Ave., 10 a.m.): Matt Piner, with Friends of Capitol Mansions, will lead a tour highlighting the work of local architect Rudolph Herold and other designers of his era.

Sun., May 19: Bicycle History (2 p.m.; starting at Broadway and 10th St.): Eric Bradner of the Old City Cemetery Committee will lead a bike tour from the Old City Cemetery, down Riverside Boulevard to the Capital City Wheelmen clubhouse (<https://www.facebook.com/CapitalCityWheelmen/>), and possibly to St. Joseph’s Cemetery (21st Street and Broadway).

June (date, start time, and start point *TBA*): Lavender Heights Walking Tour. In conjunction with the Lavender Library, Preservation Sacramento president William Burg will lead a tour of Midtown sites connected to LGBTQ+ history.

A Report from the BPNA Board

The monthly Board meeting on **April 1** opened with some advance planning for the BPNA Yard Sale on Saturday, **June 1**. Board member Noah Mebane is coordinating the event (see the article on **page 1**). Catherine Turrill-Lupi, a member of the Preservation Sacramento home tour subcommittee, reported on plans for the annual historic home tour, which will be held in Boulevard Park on September 22. Between five and six residences will be open to the public between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (see the April issue of *Park Beat*). Catherine then told board members about SMUD’s ongoing construction project along 22nd Street between C and G Streets. Residents have been told that SMUD is installing a new electric cable, and that the project—which includes excavating a trench along one side of the street and mitigation efforts in the central median—could last through much of May. The meeting ended with a guest presentation by Mark Buffington of Elite One Protection (EIP), a local community-based protection agency that is staffed by former law enforcement personnel (website: <https://www.e1p.us/>). Mark explained that neighborhoods which hire his company are generally looking for more eyes on their streets and more tools for neighborhood crime prevention. Some residents may be interested in this service.

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From Fainted to Revived: Saving Older Homes in Midtown

31 years ago, an unusual series of bus tours was launched in downtown Sacramento. Participants were driven around the city for two hours. However, they weren't taken to the usual tourist sites. Instead, their attention was directed to dilapidated buildings from the late 1800s and early 1900s—the “splendor and squalor in the central city,” as one journalist put it. The annual tours were created and organized by the Fainted Ladies Task Force, a group dedicated to saving older homes in Sacramento. Their name was a pun on “Painted Ladies,” the popular term for the brightly colored Victorian homes of San Francisco. Under the leadership of founding member Karen Jacques, the Task Force compiled lists of restorable buildings that were vacant and/or owned by absentee landlords, and which were at risk of collapse. This “demolition by neglect” had been a common fate of older buildings in Sacramento for decades. It took the efforts of many neighborhood activists, preservationists, urban planners, and city employees to save and rehabilitate these buildings. In addition to sponsoring the annual Fainted Ladies tour and awards ceremony (at which successful renovation projects were recognized), the Task Force helped implement incentives for restoring homes and advocated for improvements in city policies that impacted individuals engaged in renovation. As reported in the *Sacramento Bee* in July 2000, a Fainted Ladies loan fund, administered through the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, was created to help finance repairs. In collaboration with the Sacramento Old City Association (now known as Preservation Sacramento), the Fainted Ladies Task Force also hosted community workshops about restoring older homes. It was largely through the efforts of the Task Force and its supporters that many old houses were saved that might have been razed.



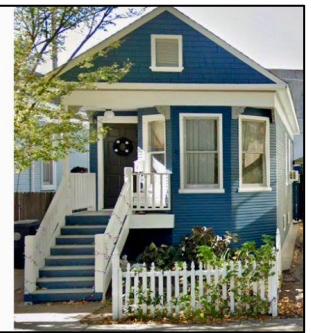
2001 I Street



317 23rd Street



1900 F Street

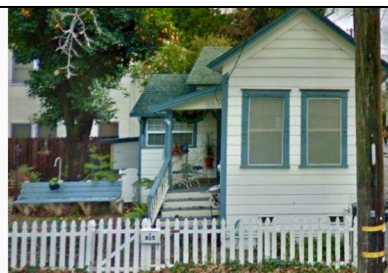


412 19th Street

Boulevard Park was one of the several city neighborhoods covered by the Fainted Ladies lists and bus tours in the late 1990s and early 2000's (the last tour was held in June 2003). In addition to having one of the city's most prominent examples of a vacant and deteriorating building (2131 H Street, since restored), Boulevard Park also boasted more fortunate houses whose new owners were actively engaged in their restoration and preservation. Several of these buildings received awards from the Fainted Ladies Task Force and were pointed out as success stories to participants in the annual bus tours. They included **2001 I Street** (1998 award), **317 23rd Street**, **1900 F Street** (both were award winners in 1999), **412 19th Street** (2000 award), **1910 F Street** (2001 award), **815 22nd Street**, **600 23rd Street** (both were award winners in 2002), **1903/05 F Street**, and **2227 J Street** (both were award winners in 2003).



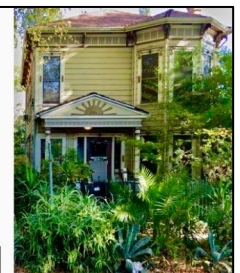
1910 F Street



815 22nd Street



600 23rd Street



1903/05 F Street

Other important renovation projects, acknowledged with awards or newspaper articles during this same period, were at **2101 G Street** (restored by the Bramson family) and **2326 H Street** (restored by the Cosentino family). Because they were occupied and renovated by their owners, these properties were never considered “fainted ladies.” They also are the only two homes in the Boulevard Park neighborhood to be individually nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

To read the two National Register Nomination forms, go to:

- **2101 G Street:** <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/97001662>
- **2326 H Street:** <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/98001634>

Sacramento Area Birds: The Peafowl



A peacock at Camp Pollock in 2021 (*Sacramento Bee*)

Not a Sacramento area bird, you say? While it is true that peafowl are not native to our region, a sizeable population of these large, vibrantly colored birds live not far from Boulevard Park. Sometimes thought to have been introduced by residents of the mobile home park that used to overlook the lower American River, peafowl still live in the area, possibly with encouragement from the people using Camp Pollock, located nearby.

As you approach Camp Pollock from Northgate Boulevard, you may hear the birds' loud cries, an eerie sound. You also are likely to see peacocks and peahens as they roam freely throughout the area, seemly unafraid of humans. Like wild turkeys, they also can be very aggressive, so be sure to keep your distance!

Native to India, the blue peacock is certainly one of the most beautiful birds with his iridescent, metallic-looking blue and green plumage, the crest atop his head, and his long tail or "train," which he sometimes displays as part of a courtship ritual. During courtship, the males raise and spread their tail feathers to form a shimmering fan of designs and color to impress the dun-colored females. They also may rattle their trains and shake their wings. Originally forest birds, peafowl roost in trees but typically nest on the ground. They are not picky eaters and will devour almost anything digestible that they can fit into their beaks, including plants, flowers, crickets, snails, reptiles, and amphibians, which they usually find by scratching around in leaf litter.

- To learn more about local peafowl, check out the recent article in *The Sacramento Bee*, "Feral peacocks in Sacramento? Turkeys aren't the only big birds strutting around" (April 14, 2024).
- To learn about public access to Camp Pollock, owned and managed by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy since 2013, go to: <https://sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/camp-pollock/>
- Did you know? Part of the 1989 film *Pink Cadillac*, starring Clint Eastwood and Bernadette Peters, was filmed at the Riverdale Mobile Home Park, near Camp Pollock.

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