



## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

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

### Re-Cap: BPNA's General Membership Meeting

About 20 Boulevard Park neighbors met at the Society Church on January 9 to vote for the 2024 board election, meet with invited City representatives, and discuss a range of topics of neighborhood interest. Captain Bryce Heinlein, from the Police Department's Office of Operations (Central Command), spoke first. He talked about some current issues (the lack of adequate staff, especially in traffic enforcement; the hiring of 10 new police officers; the increased number of homeless-related calls from the public) and then answered questions from the audience. When asked what residents should do if an encampment starts to form in front of their homes, he said that making a "311" call was still the best first step in the process which can result in City action for the removal of the tents (<https://311.cityofsacramento.org/s/>). He also recommended supporting and participating in neighborhood associations like BPNA. Ellen Bezanson, the new Communications Associate in the District 4 office, represented Councilmember Katie Valenzuela at the meeting. She announced the District 4 community meeting on **February 8** (see the calendar on **page 3**) and answered questions from the audience. During the Open Forum that followed her presentation, Board Member Morris Lum, a lifelong resident of Boulevard Park, talked about the neighborhood and its future. He predicts that we will have a healthy neighborhood environment with more residential construction (infill development) than office or commercial construction.

By the end of the meeting, all of the votes had been tallied and the results of the election could be announced. All seven candidates on the slate announced in the January issue of *Park Beat* were elected: Liz Edmonds, Geoff Emblar, Dave Herbert, Morris Lum, James McDaniel, Noah Mebane, and Colleen Schultz will constitute the 2024 Board of Directors.



### Filed at Last! A Proposal for the Development of the Former Rite Aid Site

In its January 10<sup>th</sup> issue, the *Sacramento Business Journal* reported on the 33-unit apartment building proposed for the Rite Aid parking lot at 23<sup>rd</sup> and F Streets. Vrillakis Groen Architects had just filed the paperwork with the City. As shown in the proposal, most of the building will be two stories high, except for a three-story mid-block portion with four one-bedroom apartments. There will be on-site parking for the tenants' cars (40 stalls) and bicycles (20 stalls). The site at 22<sup>nd</sup> and F Streets that was formerly occupied by the pharmacy (and before it the supermarket) is still indicated as a retail building in the designs, but no further information was offered about a potential tenant. However, a smaller space is reserved for neighborhood retail on the ground floor of the apartment building, at the northwest corner of 23rd and F Streets (see the architect's rendition in the photo above).. For more information about the proposal, go to:

- *Sacramento Business Journal*, Jan. 10, 2024: Sacramento Public Library subscribers can access this magazine for free from the Digital Media section of the website (<https://www.saclibrary.org>)
- AgencyCounter website, City of Sacramento: <https://sacramento.agencycounter.com>

## The I Street Art Studios: Still Showing After 40+ Years

Sacramento's longest functioning group of artist studios is at **1727 I Street**, a former auto repair shop that has been an art and performance/exhibition space since the early eighties. The corrugated metal structure overlooks Historic Alley but is reached by a narrow path between two Victorian houses converted to commercial use, 1723 and 1725 I Street.

Many long-time Midtown residents will remember the businesses formerly at these addresses, The Barton Gallery and Michelangelo's Restaurant. Some folks might have climbed the stairs up to Richard Press's store, Fine and Scholarly Books on the Arts, when it was on the second floor of 1725 I Street, above the restaurant. The Sacramento Poetry Center also had its offices here for a while. Building owner Gloria Burt, a key figure in the city's contemporary art scene from the early 1980s until her death in 2017, printed a fine art magazine, *On the Wing*, here as well. The group of interconnected buildings was known as the I Street Art Center in the 1980s and 1990s.

The art gallery, Italian restaurant, and art bookstore have been replaced by other occupants, but the artist studios are still at their original location. Seventeen resident artists share the building, now known simply as The Art Studios. In addition to the studios there is a big gallery space where a new show is installed for public viewing on the Second Saturday of each month. The four studios adjacent to the gallery are open for the viewing of work by resident artists on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays also. Upcoming events include:

- **February:** "Red Dress Challenge Show." In celebration of Heart Health Month, over 40 Sacramento artists have created pieces that commemorate Picasso's *Woman in a Red Dress*. Paintings, drawings, ceramics, art glass, sculptures, and more will be on view.
- **March:** "Friends and Family Show." Each resident artist will invite two talented friends and/or family members to hang an artwork. New, emerging, and established artists will participate.
- **April-August.** Artist showcase shows. The exhibition schedule will be announced soon.
- **September:** Sac Open Studios 2024.

### To learn more:

- The Art Studios, 1727 I Street: <https://www.facebook.com/midtownSAC.studios/>
- Amatoria Fine Art Books, 1831 F Street: now owned by Miranda Culp and Laurelin Gilmore, this was originally Richard Press's bookstore. It is still the only fine art bookstore in the Sacramento region. Website: <https://amatoriafineartbooks.shop>

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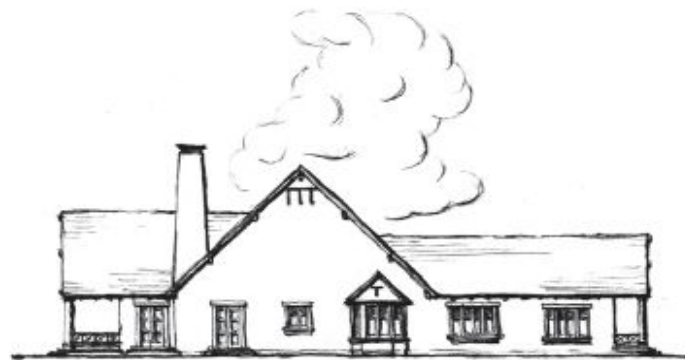
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*Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life for others who work and live in and around Boulevard Park, and therefore in Sacramento as a whole.*

## Committees

*2024 Board positions and committee assignments will be announced in the March issue*

## Park Beat Production Team

**Newsletter Editor:** Catherine Turrill-Lupi ([turrillc@csus.edu](mailto:turrillc@csus.edu))

**Columnist:** David Herbert

**Newsletter Designer:** *Position Open*

**Social Media:** *TBA*

**Block Captain Coordinator:** Joe Cress, (916) 628-3130

[josephmccress@yahoo.com](mailto:josephmccress@yahoo.com)

## February 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., 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/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).

**Thu., Feb. 1:** BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information.

**Feb. 1-11:** Broadway Sacramento presents *Six the Musical*, SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L Street. Website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/six-the-musical/>

**Feb. 2-4:** 29<sup>th</sup> Northern California Home & Landscaping Expo, Cal Expo, 1000 Exposition Blvd. (11-6 on Fri., with half-price admission for seniors; 10-5 on Sat. and Sun.; parking, \$10). Please, no pets. Website: <https://homeandlandscapeexpo.com>

**Feb. 2-25:** Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow is Enuf*, presented by Celebration Arts at the Guild Theater in Oak Park. Website: <https://www.celebrationarts.net/productions>

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

**Feb. 3-24:** B Street Theatre presents *The Prince of Lightning: The Story of Young Nikola Tesla, Boy Genius* (part of the Family Series at the Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave.; admission charged). Website: <https://bstreettheatre.org/family/prince-of-lightning/>

**Thu., Feb. 8:** District 4 is hosting a community meeting at the Community Meeting Room, Marisol Village, 1200 Richards Blvd., Sacramento 95811 (6-7:30 p.m.). Flyer for registration and more information: <https://forms.office.com/g/t2PJ94HVUJ>

**Feb. 10 & 11:** "Wild Threads:" Sacramento Weavers' & Spinners' Guild Open House & Sale at Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-4 each day; free admission). Website: <https://www.sacramentoweavespin.org>

**Sat., Feb. 10:** Come help prune the McKinley Park Rose Garden (8:30-11:30 a.m., rain or shine). Tools, gloves, and instruction provided. Meet at the Rose Garden Room, north side of the garden. To register in advance, go to: <https://rb.gy/bs4aj3>

**Sat., Feb. 10:** "Red Dress Challenge Show" at The Art Studios, 1727 I St. (gallery open 4-8 p.m.). See article on **page 2**. Website: <https://www.facebook.com/midtownSAC.studios/>

**Sun., Feb. 11:** Preservation Sacramento Roundtable, Confucius Church, 404 I St. (11-noon). The film, "Big Fight in Little Chinatown," will be shown as part of the program.

**Feb. 16-18:** Sacramento Ballet presents Paul Vasterling's *Cinderella* with Prokofiev's music and 18<sup>th</sup>-century-style costuming and sets. SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L Street (admission charged). Website: <https://www.sacballet.org/events/cinderella/>

**Feb. 16-19:** Great Backyard Bird Count, an international event. See article on **page 4**.

**Sat., Feb. 17:** Pruning event in the McKinley Park Rose Garden. See the calendar entry for **Feb. 10**.

**Tue., Feb. 27:** "Stories from Black Sacramento," lecture hosted by the Sacramento Historical Society at Columbus Hall, 5961 Newman Court (6:30-8:30 p.m.; admission charged). Choose between in-person or virtual attendance, via Zoom. Website: <https://www.sachistoricalociety.org/events-1/stories-from-black-sacramento>

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

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

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

## Critters of Sacramento: Mallard Ducks



Who doesn't enjoy watching ducks at a neighborhood park? McKinley Park always seems to have lots of ducks, mallards being the most common variety (wood ducks, also seen there, were the topic of an article in the October 2023 issue of *Park Beat*). Mallards also can be found at Sutter's Landing Park and in the pond near Sutter's Fort (as seen in Robert Sewell's photograph on the left).

Mallard ducks occupy a very wide range of temperate and subtropical areas. They can be found in fresh or saltwater wetlands, in rivers, and in lakes. Being very adaptable, they even thrive in urban areas and sometimes are regarded as an invasive species. Mallards are very social, tending to congregate in small groups. They also are noisy birds. The female has the deep quack typically associated with ducks. The male's quack is deeper and quieter. Male mallards have gleaming green heads, whereas female mallards have brown-speckled plumage.

Male and female mallards form pairs during the breeding season, October and November. Their nesting sites are usually on the ground, hidden by vegetation. Once the female lays her eggs, at the beginning of the Spring, the male leaves. Young mallards can fly about 50 to 60 days after hatching. Even though the ducklings are fully capable of swimming right after hatching, they tend to stay close to their mother for warmth and protection. Females generally will drive away any unfamiliar stray young. Mallards eat water plants and small animals. Their natural enemies include owls and other raptors, snakes, raccoons, skunks, opossums, and large fish. They have been hunted by humans since ancient times.

To learn more about mallard ducks, go to: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mallard/overview>

### 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

You can be part of an international bird census by reporting on birds that you see or hear almost anywhere between **February 16 and 19**. As explained on the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) website, the observations provided by participants in this annual event "help scientists better understand global bird populations" (<https://www.birdcount.org>). Very little work is required, and, if participants prefer to stay on or near their own turf, very little travel is involved.

Here are some bird-watching suggestions from the GBBC sponsors: On at least one day during the four days dedicated to the count, spend 15 minutes or more taking note of the birds that you can see or hear around you. Identify them, count them, and then submit your information, using one of these digital tools: the Merlin Bird ID app, the eBird Mobile app, or the eBird website (all three are described on the GBBC website: <https://www.birdcount.org>). The information collected by participants will help scientists to better understand global bird populations before their annual migrations.

*Parents, take note:* The Sacramento Audubon Society is partnering with State Parks and the Effie Yeaw to host a **Great Backyard Bird Count for Kids** on Feb. 17 (Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park on Lake Natoma) and Feb. 18 (Effie Yeaw Nature Center, on the American River). Website: <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/gbbc-for-kids>

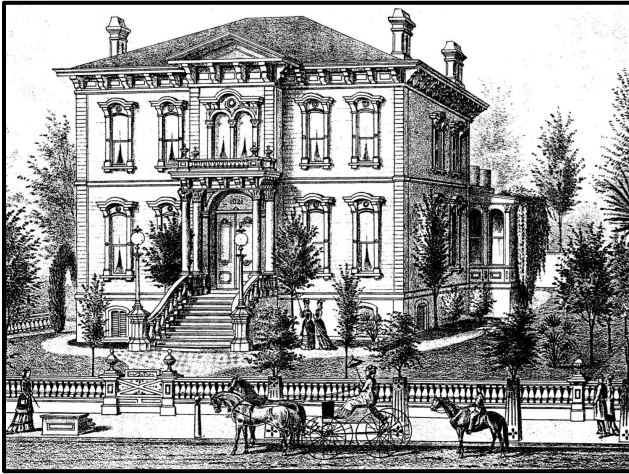
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## Historic Architecture: A Hidden House on H Street



H Street was the preferred location for the homes of many prominent business owners in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Sacramento. It was a short distance from the mercantile district on J and K Streets and, starting in 1871, was served by a horse-drawn streetcar line. The downtown stretch of H Street came to be known as “**Merchants’ Row**” because several of the homes erected there in the second half of the 1800s belonged to the owners of famous stores, such as the Lubin, Hale, and Weinstock families. Only five of these H Street homes survive today. The oldest of them is the least visible and is typically overlooked by pedestrians when they walk past the narrow path leading to the house. It is the two-story mansion that Julius Wetzlar, president of the Capital Savings Bank, built for himself and his wife Mary at **1021 H Street** in 1870.

Until it was moved to the back of its deep lot in the early 1900s and largely hidden from sight by a brick apartment building erected at the front of the lot in the 1920s, the Wetzlar residence was one of the most impressive buildings on this block. As the 1880 illustration shows (above left), the house originally was close to the street and was surrounded by a large yard. Stripped of much of its architectural ornament and refinished with cement stucco in the 1940s, the façade of the Wetzlar mansion looked very different when the AAUW made its photographic survey of the city’s “vanishing Victorians” in the 1970s (center photo). However, a new owner restored the exterior before the house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. This Italianate Victorian residence is now recognized as “one of the best remaining representatives of its style and type in Sacramento.” As Paula Boghosian wrote in the NRHP nomination, the Wetzlar house is an “important remnant of the grand residences that once graced this neighborhood.”

Four other surviving “Merchants’ Row” houses and their construction dates are: the Llewellyn Williams house, now the International Hostel (**925 H Street**; 1882; Babson & Seadler, architects); Everett W. Hale house, now the Sterling Hotel (**1300 H Street**; 1893); Hugh Duffy house (**1329 H Street**; 1878; N. D. Goodell, architect), and Albert Gallatin house, now known as the Governor’s Mansion (**1526 H Street**; 1877; N. D. Goodell, architect). The 2300 block of H Street, just to the east of the original Boulevard Park neighborhood, also has a group of fine Victorian residences from the late 1800s. They are numbered **2308 H** (included in the 1994 walking tour brochure: see the January 2024 issue of *Park Beat*), **2312 H**, **2324 H**, and **2330 H Street**. For more information about these and other Victorian homes, go to:

- *Vanishing Victorians: A Guide to the Historic Homes of Sacramento* (published by the American Association of University Women in 1973)
- National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form for 1021 H Street: <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/98bb034e-0350-49c8-b0d9-83c9b3667de9>

### Opportunities for History Buffs!

If you enjoy talking about history as well as reading about it, consider volunteering as a year-round or seasonal docent at the Sacramento History Museum. This is a great opportunity for any adult (18 years or older) who likes history, research, and working with the public. A year-long commitment and minimum of 40 hours of service are required. For more information and to submit an application go to: <http://sachistorymuseum.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

## Sutter's Landing Park: Help Shape the *New Park Master Plan*

For over thirty years, Sutter's Landing Park has been Midtown's Gateway to the American River, enabling City residents to enjoy a beautiful river setting and to connect with nature. Recently expanded with the addition of two key parcels directly to the north of Boulevard Park, Sutter's Landing Park now extends almost without interruption from just east of the railroad tracks paralleling 20<sup>th</sup> Street, all the way to Business Loop 80 (two private parcels remain to be acquired).

The Park provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife including the threatened Swainson's Hawk, Peregrine falcons, white-tailed kites, and other native animals. It also provides immediate access to the adjacent American River Parkway and a section of the Two Rivers Trail. With its resources and its accessibility, Sutter's Landing Park has the potential to become one of the most inspirational urban nature parks in California.

The City of Sacramento is embarking on a significant update to the Park's Master Plan that will guide decisions about future habitat protection, bike and pedestrian trails, and visitor facilities. The Friends of Sutter's Landing Park asks residents to join them in urging the City to commit to the establishment of this area as an awe-inspiring gateway to the American River Parkway; to restore and enhance Sutter's Landing Park's rich natural resources; and to expand the Park's nature elements from the river banks up to the park areas which lie above the levy. All of this will require a nature-focused Master Plan. Residents are invited to participate in a group discussion of the future of Sutter's Landing Park in an **open house at the Clunie Community Center in McKinley Park on Thursday, January 30 (6-8 p.m.)**. If you have questions, please contact Dana Repan, Senior Planner at Park Planning and Development Services ([DRepan@CityofSacramento.org](mailto:DRepan@CityofSacramento.org)).

To learn more about Sutter's Landing Park and its importance to the community, watch this 6-minute video from 2018 (<https://youtu.be/im1aDFisLMw>). For other information and updates, go to the website of Friends of Sutter's Landing Park (<http://www.sutterslandingpark.org>) or send an email to [FOSLSean@gmail.com](mailto:FOSLSean@gmail.com). You also can go to the website of Save the American River Association (<https://www.sarariverwatch.org>) or send an email ([Info@SARAriverwatch.org](mailto:Info@SARAriverwatch.org)). To express your opinions about the Park's future, write to Senior Planner Dana Repan (email above), Parks Director Jackie Beecham ([jbeecham@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:jbeecham@cityofsacramento.org)), and/or District 4 Councilmember Katie Valenzuela ([kvalenzuela@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:kvalenzuela@cityofsacramento.org)). Letters can be sent to them care of City Hall, 915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

## EDMONDS AND PHILIPP: *Your Way Home*



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