

The pulse
of greater
Boulevard Park



April
2025

BOULEVARD PARK'S *PARK BEAT*



Scan to
volunteer!



MARSHALL-NEW ERA
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



BOULEVARD PARK
Neighborhood Association

SPRING BLOCK PARTY



Saturday, April 12
11 AM - 4 PM
26th & C Streets

Food • Music • Games & Art Activities
Seedling Swap • and more!

Feel free
to bring:

- chair or blanket
- cup or bottle
- seedling to swap

Kick Off the Season and Celebrate the Reopening of the New Era Community Garden

You won't want to miss this year's Spring Block Party on Saturday, April 12th! This family-friendly event will be held from 11am - 4pm at the New Era Community Garden on 26th and C, and is jointly hosted by the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association and the Marshall New Era Neighborhood Association. Tour the newly reopened garden, grab lunch from a food truck, and meet your neighbors! Featuring live music, yard games, and fun art activities, this block party is a must-attend to start the season off right. To help foster the garden, there will be a free tomato plant giveaway for the first 100 or so guests, a seedling swap, and information about becoming a Friend of the Garden. **Interested in volunteering?** Head over to <https://marshallnewera.org/spring-block-party-plant-swap/>.

The New Era Community Garden began in 2009 when a group of neighbors got together to rent the vacant lot from the landowner. The lot had formerly been used as a tow lot, and as the neighbors worked to transform the lot into a growing space, they dug up many spark plugs, car parts, and even an entire windshield! For over a decade, the garden flourished and served as a community gathering space. Then during Covid, the owner made other plans for the space and the garden had to close. After those plans fell through, a new group of neighbors and former gardeners worked together with the Marshall-New Era Neighborhood Association to lease the land again and reform the community garden. After a lot of weeding, mulching, and building, the Marshall New Era Community Garden is once again a thriving growing and gathering place. While all 44 plots are claimed at this time, you can join the waitlist by emailing info@marshallnewera.org.

Save the Date! Neighborhood Yard Sale is June 7th

With spring cleaning season upon us, we want to remind you of our neighborhood yard sale! This will be an opportunity for the community to come together all on one day, at one location, to create a local "flea market" to sell their dusty wares. Make sure to hold on to all of those treasures, and stay tuned for more information on how to get involved.

Riding the Rails Through Boulevard Park



Left: H Street horsecar in front of the Gallatin Mansion, 1527 H St. (detail of a print from the 1880s)
Right: C Street trolley heading west, at 23rd Street (*Sacramento Union*, Oct. 12, 1913)



Trains are a part of our daily lives in Boulevard Park. Freight and passenger trains run along the old Southern Pacific tracks that serve as our northern border. With the ending of passenger service on the Western Pacific tracks in 1970, only freights rumble down the tracks to the west of us, traversing Midtown between 19th and 20th Streets. However, until the mid-1940s, several streetcar lines were active near and inside the Boulevard Park neighborhood. The first streetcar service was introduced on H Street in the 1870s and involved cars drawn by one or two horses, as shown in an illustration from that era (*above left*). These horsecars (each holding about twelve passengers) served the residential district growing up along H Street, providing convenient transportation to downtown offices and stores. They also brought people to the state fairgrounds occupying the area that became the original Boulevard Park neighborhood, located between H and B Streets. Although the horses were replaced by trolleys with electric-powered engines in the late 1800s, the tracks remained in use for another half century. In fact, some of the old wooden ties and iron rails were still in pretty good shape when they were removed from H Street in 1938, long after the last horsecar had been retired from service. Boulevard Park resident Pat Cosentino also recalls seeing some of the rails when work was being done on H Street sixty years later. Perhaps they are still there, covered by asphalt.

In 1913, while the H Street line was still running, a new streetcar service was launched on C Street between 19th and 31st Streets. It was connected to other city lines and served four new residential tracts on the north side of the city: Boulevard Park and East Boulevard Park, developed by Wright & Kimbrough; and New Era Park and Casa Loma Terrace, developed by the Carmichael Company. Its final stop was at the west side of McKinley Park. Originally operated by the Northern Electric Railway Company, the C Street trolley had been eagerly anticipated for several years and was seized upon by realtors as a selling point for properties in these neighborhoods. A 1913 advertisement for East Boulevard Park included a photo of one of the streetcars as it passed a group of newly built houses on the south side of C Street, near the intersection with 23rd Street (*above right*). By that time, as reported in the local papers, Sacramento was considered to have “the best equipped street railway service in the United States.” Nonetheless, the C Street trolleys were replaced by buses in 1946, and the streetcar rails were removed six years later.

Volunteers Wanted

Sign up to help out today!

Want to get involved? Consider helping out with one of these great events! We are always seeking neighbors to help plan and organize all of the fun offerings we provide throughout the year. Events we have planned so far:

- Spring Block Party (April 12th)
- Neighborhood Yard Sale (June 7th)
- National Night Night Out (August 5th)
- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser (September 13th)
- Halloween (mid-October)
- Holidays (early/mid-December)



In addition to these fantastic opportunities, **we are always in need of *Park Beat* Block Captains**. These are the wonderful people who help deliver this newsletter to your door! Finally, note that we have an **open position for our newsletter designer**, who would help put together these papers.

To sign up for any of these great ventures, contribute ideas of your own, or just put your name in to help when it's needed, visit boulevardpark.org/volunteer or scan the above QR code.

Report from the BPNA Board

The 2025 BPNA Board of Directors held their first monthly meeting on February 13; in March, the meeting date was moved forward to the third Thursday of the month, on the 20th. Both meetings included guest presentations by representatives of city departments and community service organizations, advance planning of events to be hosted by BPNA, and discussions of other topics.

February's guest speakers were Kayley Glaspell and Benjamin Worrall, from the organization "First Step Communities" (<https://www.firststepcommunities.org>). As stated on its website, this group's mission is to "create interim housing and emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness." In their presentation, Kayley and Benjamin described the various free services available to city residents, whether because they need help or because they are concerned about someone else's welfare.

In March, the guest speakers were Theresa Chao Rother, Communications & Business Affairs Director for District 4 Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum's office, and Quinn Buniel, representing the Marshall School New Era Neighborhood Association. In addition to acting as a contact person for the District 4 office, Theresa oversees the District 4 newsletter, distributed via email (to subscribe, go to the District 4 website: <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/mayor-council/district-4>). Upcoming events sponsored by the District 4 office include a community clean-up event at Miller Park on April 5 and the annual series of "Pops in the Park" concerts held throughout East Sacramento in June.

As announced in the February issue of *Park Beat*, BPNA already has several events on its calendar, and other activities also are being considered. In all cases, your participation is encouraged and volunteer assistance with the planning and coordination of our events is very welcome (see page 2).

Two topics discussed at the March meeting were the City's "Quick Build" capital improvement project (a transportation safety initiative supported by Strong SacTown and other organizations) and "Streets for People," Sacramento's active transportation plan. The Draft Plan will be under review until April 6, with plan adoption anticipated this summer. For more information and to make comments, go to: <https://www.sacstreetsforpeople.org>

2025 BPNA Membership Form

Please send this form with your dues payment (recommended: \$5-15 per adult member, per year) to:
BPNA, P. O. Box 160811, Sacramento CA 95816-0811

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Amount paid: _____

Please mark as appropriate:

- New Member Renewing Member
- Interested in Volunteering
- Would like to receive the *Park Beat* newsletter by email (paper copies are delivered only to residents living in the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood)



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Connect with the BPNA!



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the form above!

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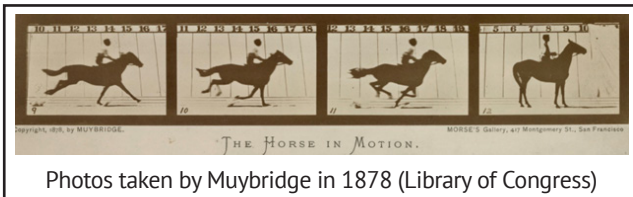
The Doctor Is In: Health Notes for Boulevard Park Residents

by Dr. Jessica Nunez de Ybarra

Measles cases are increasing across the country. As of March 13, over three hundred confirmed cases had been reported by fifteen states, according to the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html>). California was among the states reporting confirmed cases, with a total of five so far, including two residents who had traveled internationally last month (<https://calmatters.org/newsletter/california-measles-cases/>).

Measles spread quickly and can be fatal. Fortunately, the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine offers long-lasting protection. Make an appointment to protect your health using California's "My Turn" website, or contact your health provider. On the state website, residents can learn about vaccinations, make an appointment, find a walk-in clinic, and access their digital vaccine records (<https://myturn.ca.gov/>).

Photography Month Highlight: See Muybridge's Photos at the Stanford Mansion



Photos taken by Muybridge in 1878 (Library of Congress)

Every Spring, the Viewpoint Photographic Art Center (2015 J Street) partners with local cultural centers, organizations, institutions, and businesses to present Photography Month, with many exhibitions and events (<https://www.photomonthsacramento.org/events>).

Boulevard Park residents will be interested in four tours held at the Leland Stanford Mansion. Governor Stanford and his famous photographer, Eadweard Muybridge, have connections to our neighborhood. Stanford's Sacramento training stable was not far from Agricultural Park, the site now occupied by Boulevard Park. He supported Muybridge's attempts to record horses in motion, making it possible for the photographer to set up his cameras beside the racetracks here and at his stock farm in Palo Alto. Muybridge's stop-action photos of Stanford's prize-winning trotter "Occident" setting the pace in the 1870s inspired the illustration used on the Boulevard Park sign-toppers.

Many of Muybridge's historic photographs are on display at the Stanford Mansion, which he also documented with his camera lens. A guided tour of this fine mid-19th century residence will be offered every Sunday this month: April 6, 13, 20, and 27 (each from noon to 1 p.m.). The tour begins at the visitors' center behind the mansion (800 N Street). Participation in the tour is free but advance registration is recommended (https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=489).

For a clip of a KCRA news episode that includes information about Muybridge's "great experiment" and its connection to Boulevard Park, check out the history pages on the BPNA website (<https://www.boulevardpark.org/history>).

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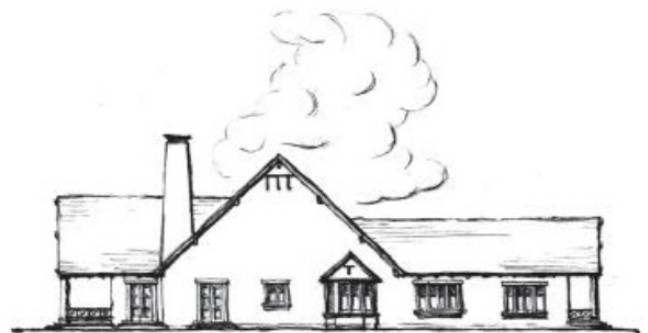
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April 2025: Places to Go, People to See

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

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 I and L Sts.; K St. between 19th and 21st Sts.). Website: <https://exploremidtown.org/midtown-markets/>

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

Sat. Apr. 5: City of Sacramento Earth Day, clean-up and beautification events at parks citywide (9 a.m. to 12 p.m., various locations). <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/earthday> for details.

Sat., Apr. 5: "Bad Poetry & Purple Prose," walking tour at Old City Cemetery (5-6 p.m.; advance registration and payment required). Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Apr. 8-13: "Festival of the Arts," sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters, Sacramento State. Performances, exhibits, lectures, and master classes (most events are free). Website: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/festival-of-the-arts/>

Wed., Apr. 9: "Open Garden Day" at the Fair Oaks Horticultural Center, hosted by the UC Master Gardeners of Sacramento Co., with free mini-talks and demonstrations (9-Noon), 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. Website: <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu>

Apr. 12 & 13: 65th Annual Bonsai Show and Sale, hosted by the American Bonsai Association, Sacramento at Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-4 each day). Exhibits, vendors, and daily demonstrations (1:30 p.m.); beginners' workshop at 10 a.m. both days (\$20 fee).

Sat., Apr. 12: Passover begins

Sat., Apr. 12: Spring Block Party, with an open house for the reopening of the New Era Park Community Garden (*see page 1*)

Sat., Apr. 12: "Spring Clean-Up," hosted by the American River Parkway Foundation at 8 locations along the river, including Discovery Park (9-Noon). For more information and to register, go to: <https://arpf.org/events/springcleanup/>

Sat., Apr. 12: Sacramento SPCA Doggy Dash fundraiser at William Land Park, with a "Bark in the Park Festival" featuring sponsor and vendor booths, demonstrations, and more (10-1). Website: <https://www.classy.org/event/doggy-dash-2025/e641428>

Sat., Apr. 12: "Rocklin Connections," walking tour at Old City Cemetery (5-6 p.m.; advance registration and payment required). Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sun., Apr. 13: Palm Sunday

Thu., Apr. 17: "Celebrate City": a community open house at Sacramento City College that is fun, informative, and free, with live music and entertainment, refreshments, giveaways, program showcases, and more (4-6:30 p.m.). Website: <https://scc.losrios.edu/>

Thu., Apr. 17: BPNA Board Meeting, Washington Elementary School, 520 18th St. (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Noah Mebane for information.

Apr. 19&20: 24th Annual Sacramento Iris Show, hosted by the Sacramento Iris Society at Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (1-4 p.m. on Sat.; 10-3 on Sun.).

Sat., Apr. 19: "The Lost Graves of New Helvetia," walking tour at Old City Cemetery (5-6 p.m.; advance registration and payment required). Note: The New Helvetia Cemetery, at J and Alhambra, is now the site of Miwok Middle School. Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sun., Apr. 20: Easter.

Sun., Apr. 27: 4th Annual Old Sacramento Spring Festival, with dancing around the maypole, live music, traditional country dancing, living history demonstrations, arts-and-crafts stations, face-painting, and more from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (outside the Sacramento History Museum, 101 I Street). Website: <https://sachistorymuseum.org/events/old-sacramento-spring-festival/>

Sun., Apr. 27: "Plan It for the Planet," Sacramento Earth Day celebration at Southside Park, 700 T St. (11-4). Over 100 exhibitors and vendors will be present; free transit will be provided by Sac RT, and free bike valet parking by SABA. Website: <https://www.ecosacramento.net/sacearthday/>

And looking ahead to early May...

"**May is Bike Month**" is hosted every year by Sacramento Area Bike Advocates (SABA). The official kick-off event will be the 2025 Breathe Bike Festival (<https://sacbreathe.org/events/breathe-bike-festival-2/>).

May is Preservation Month: This year Sacramento is hosting the annual California Preservation Conference at the Convention Center on May 6-10 (website: <https://californiapreservation.org/programs/conference/>). Check the May issue of *Park Beat* for more information about both programs.

Sat., May 3: "Gardens Gone Native Tour," a free, self-guided garden tour for all ages that features 30 California native plant home and school gardens in the Sacramento region (9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.). The tour is organized by the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the CA Native Plant Society. To sign up in advance, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/gardens-gone-native-garden-tours-1757199>

Get Free Help with Your 2024 Income Tax Filing Before April 15!

If your total household income was less than \$67,000 in 2024, you are eligible to receive free tax help from the United Way's program (that could mean a \$200 savings in tax preparation fees!). All of the volunteers working in this program are IRS-certified and have completed mandatory training. For more information, go to: <https://www.yourlocalunitedway.org/our-work/financial-security/free-tax-preparation/>

If you earned more than \$67,000, you may still be able to file your taxes for free through another United Way program, [MyFreeTaxes.org](https://www.myfreetaxes.org). Three options are offered: File on your own; have your taxes prepared for you online; and have your taxes prepared for you in person. Whether you receive the help online or in person, it will be provided by an IRS-certified professional.

If your adjusted gross income was \$84,000 or less in 2024, you may use IRS Free File instead. For more information, go to: <https://www.irs.gov/filing/irs-free-file-do-your-taxes-for-free>



This acrobatic Downy Woodpecker was photographed by Boulevard Park resident Robert Sewell

Birds of the Sacramento Area: The Downy Woodpecker

North America's smallest woodpecker, Downy Woodpeckers are found in most of Canada and the U.S., including the Sacramento area. They are mostly black on top with a white back, throat, and belly. Adult males have a red patch on the back of the head.

Downy Woodpeckers typically make their nests in tree cavities. If an existing cavity cannot be found, the male bird will create a new nest hole, pecking away at the tree in 20-minute shifts for half a day and for two to three weeks to complete the job. Once the eggs are laid, both the parent birds will help keep them warm during the 12-day incubation period, alternating with 15-minute shifts. Downy Woodpeckers often are heard before they are seen, as they chip away at tree trunks to build nest holes or tap at the bark in search of insects. They also use rapid pecking or drumming to claim territory and to communicate.

Downy Woodpeckers supplement their insect diet with seeds, berries, and the contents of backyard birdfeeders. They eat insects that feed on and damage trees. They also are a valuable natural predator of the European corn borer, a moth that costs the U.S. agriculture industry over a billion dollars annually.

Are you interested in seeing what other birds can be found along the American River Parkway? The iNaturalist website has a whole album of photos (<https://www.inaturalist.org/guides/993>).

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