



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ■ Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 ■ May 2019

HDP Plans Project: Updates and May Meetings

A public draft of the Historic District Plans and proposed guidelines is now available for public review on the project website (www.cityofsacramento.org/HDP). On this website, residents can use the interactive map to see how the plan's adoption may affect their property's historic status. A public workshop and two public meetings are scheduled in May:

- **May 15 (5:30 p.m.):** Preservation Commission Review and Comment, New City Hall
- **May 22 (5 p.m.):** Public workshop at AIACV Gallery, 1400 S Street
- **May 23 (5:30 p.m.):** Planning and Design Commission Review and Comment, New City Hall



A Snapshot of Sacramento in May 1911

Almost every page of this illustrated brochure from over a century ago, now available on the website of the Center for Sacramento History (https://www.sacramentohistory.org/admin/photo/777_1562.pdf), ends with a positive statement about Sacramento. These include: "Beautiful Streets and Shrubbery," "The Most Healthful Spot the Sun Ever Shone On," "Immense Manufacturing Industries," "Perfect Sanitary System," & "No Snow, Blizzards, Cyclones, or Sultry Nights."

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

At its monthly meeting on April 2, the BPNA Board hosted two guests: Sloan Morgan, representing GIG Car Share (a division of AAA), and Sparky Harris, principal planner for the City of Sacramento. They told Board members about the City's efforts to provide residents with yet another alternative means of transportation. Sacramento city officials are hoping to reduce automobile traffic congestion by offering other convenient modes of transportation, including improved bus and light rail service, JUMP bicycles, JUMP scooters, and now GIG Car Share. GIG offers a "free-floating" service, using Chevy Bolt all-electric cars that may be picked up and dropped off throughout a 13-square mile area covering the Central City and several neighborhoods to the south and east (called a "Home Zone"). The affordable rental fee includes insurance, parking fees, and battery charging. Efforts are also underway to extend the service into low-income neighborhoods. For more information about the GIG Car Share program, see the Sacramento City Express (<https://sacramentocityexpress.com/2019/03/08/sacramentos-first-all-electric-car-share-fleet-now-available-to-all-sacramento-residents/>).

Anticipated changes in City policies about recycling were next on the agenda. Unfortunately, the demand for some formerly recyclable items has declined. However, beverage containers and clean cardboard belong in our recycle bins because they are still valuable in today's economy (watch for updates on the City website: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/RSW/Collection-Services/Recycling>). Board members also continued their discussion of the marijuana cultivation and distribution business proposed for 20th and "E" Streets. As explained in the article on the first page of the April issue of *Park Beat*, Board members believe that this kind of industry belongs elsewhere, not inside a residential district.

Jane Jacobs Walks (May 3-5)

Named for the author of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961), the urbanist and activist Jane Jacobs (1916-2006), "Jane Jacobs Walks" can be held any time of the year but are typically scheduled in early May to coincide with her birthday. The walks always are free, can be led by anyone interested in urban history and design, and provide participants with the opportunity to learn what makes a city's neighborhoods distinctive, interesting, or functional. This year there will be four Jane Jacobs Walks in the city, coordinated by Preservation Sacramento in partnership with Sacramento Heritage Inc., the Sacramento Art Deco Society, and the Sacramento Historical Society. The times and locations of the four tours are summarized below (see also <http://www.preservationsacramento.org/jane-jacobs/>). More information about Jane Jacobs Walks in general can be found on the web (<http://www.janejacobswalk.org>).

Friday, May 3 (6 p.m.) - Churches and Capitol Mansions

Starting point: Center of Praise Church, 23rd & Capitol

Description: Architect and resident Matthew Piner will lead a walking tour of a trio of churches in Sacramento's "Capitol Mansions" District, also known for its beautiful historic homes. The churches are in close proximity and the tour should take 90 minutes or less.

Saturday, May 4 (1:30 p.m.) - Grant Union High School (sponsor: Sacramento Art Deco Society)

Starting point: Grant Union High School Auditorium, 1400 Grand Avenue

Description: SADS member Bruce Marwick will lead a 90-minute, three-quarter mile tour of the Grant Union High School campus. In addition to seeing buildings by several noted Sacramento architects of the 1920s and 1930s, participants will hear the mighty Grant Union pipe organ played by a well-known Sacramento organist, Dave Moreno. Parking is available next to the auditorium.

Saturday, May 4 (4 p.m.) - The Creation of Old Sacramento (sponsor: Sacramento Heritage Inc.)

Starting point: River City Saloon, 916 2nd Street.

Description: SHI Board President William Burg will show participants how Sacramento's industrial waterfront, home to thousands of migrant workers in the 1950s, was reshaped by redevelopment and the city's earliest preservation efforts into a tourist attraction and entertainment district. Today Old Sacramento struggles to reconnect with the rest of downtown. How can it benefit from the lessons learned in the city's other historic districts?

Sunday, May 5 (2 p.m.) - Curtis Park (sponsor: Sacramento Historical Society)

Starting Point: Curtis Park, north end (jogging trail where East Curtis Drive meets Curtis Way)

Description: SHS member Eric Bradner will lead this tour of one of Sacramento's original streetcar suburbs, beginning at the park that gives the neighborhood its current name and ending at a local venue for post-tour refreshments.

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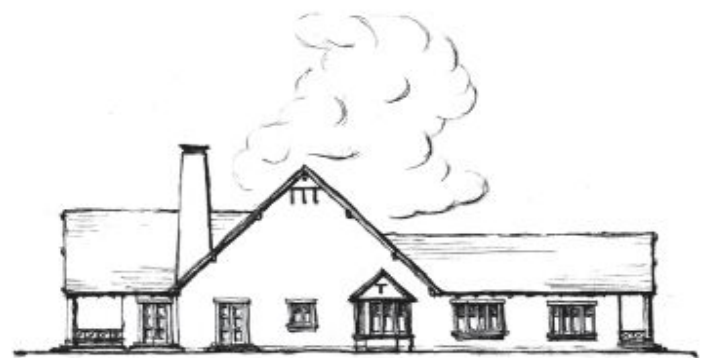
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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life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

Committees

Membership: Ellen Hunt
Preservation: Eric Knutson

Park Beat Production Team

Newsletter Designer: Open - Contact Ty Dockery to volunteer
Newsletter Editor: Catherine Turrill Lupi
Webmasters: Ty Dockery and Steve Sander
Block Captain Coordinator: Joe Cress, (916) 698-7938
cressj@saccounty.net

Places to Go, People To See

Every Saturday: Yoga in the Park, McKinley Park (9 a.m.; by the Rose Garden). **Website:**

<http://yogamovesus.org/calendar-items/yoga-in-the-park-mckinley-park-indoors/>

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th Street between J and L Streets

May 3-5: Sacramento Gem Faire, Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H St. . **Website:** <https://gemfaire.com/event/sacramento-ca-10/>

May 3-5: Jane Jacobs Walk (architectural tours). See article on p. 2.

Sat., May 4: "Sacramento: The Soul of the Railroad," thematic tour at the Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (10 a.m.)

May 4 & 5: 59th Annual Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Boulevard (10-6 on May 4, 9-4 on May 5). See article on **page 5**.

May 4 & 5: "Fiesta en la Calle": Cinco de Mayo Festival, Southside Park, 7th and T Streets: musicians, dancers, arts and craft vendors, foods and beverages (4-9 on May 4, Noon-6 on May 5).

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/fiestaen.lacalle/>

Sun., May 5: Free genealogy workshop at the Central Library: "West Coast Immigration in the 20th Century" (10-11:30 a.m.). For more information, go to: <https://www.saclibrary.org>

Sun., May 5: Annual Maifest celebration, hosted by Sacramento Turnverein (3349 J St.; noon-5 p.m.): free family-friendly entertainment and activities (see the article on the right). **Website:** <https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoTurnVereinDeutschschule/>

Tues., May 7: BPNA Board Meeting, open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors (6:30-8 p.m.). Contact Eric Knutson for location or to suggest agenda items.

Places to Go, People To See (cont.)

Tues., May 7: Gold Spike Lecture: "Creation of the Transcontinental Railroad," by scholar David Haward Bain, author of *Empire Express* (California State Railroad Museum, 7 p.m.). For more information and advance ticket purchase, go to: <http://sachistorymuseum.org/programs-events/gold-spike-lecture-series/>

Wed., May 8: Community Sesquicentennial Day, Old Sacramento Waterfront (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). See article on **page 5**.

May 11 & 12: Annual East Sac Garden Tour, fund-raiser for the David Lubin Elementary School (Fab Forties neighborhood, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day).

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

Sat., May 11: FORB's monthly gathering: "Bats Along the Banks," with JoEllen Arnold (7 p.m.). See article on **page 6**.

Sat., May 11: Second Saturday ArtWalk. Galleries around town will be open to present individual and group shows of artists' work.

Website: <http://www.2ndsaturdaysacramento.com>

Sun., May 12: 2019 Amgen Tour of California starts in Sacramento with an event for male sprinters (Stage 1 of the tour; 2:15-5:40 p.m.).

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

Sat., May 18: "Stonecutters—Sacramento's First Artists," thematic tour at the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (10 a.m.). **Website:** <https://www.historicoldcitycemetery.org/upcoming-events>

Wed., May 22: "Music at Noon," free concert series at Westminster Presbyterian Church (13th and N Streets): Silent film theater-organist Dave Moreno will provide musical accompaniment for two silent movies (1 p.m.; donations welcome).

Website: <https://www.westminsac.org/music-noon>

... And, looking ahead to early June:

Tues., June 4: BPNA Board Meeting, open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors (6:30-8 p.m.). Contact Eric Knutson for location or to suggest agenda items.

May Day and More

Sacramento Turnverein will be hosting its annual Maifest celebration on **Sunday, May 5** (noon to 5 p.m.). There will be all kinds of family-friendly entertainment and activities at the hall, including traditional German dancing, live music, crafts, face-painting, and more. German food and beverages (such as the "Maibowle" drink) will be available for purchase throughout the afternoon.

The Sacramento Turnverein clubhouse (Turner Hall), located at 3349 J Street, was begun in August 1925, dedicated in May 1926, and cost about \$100,000, a hefty sum in those days (its near contemporary, the Eastern Star Temple on K Street, clocked in at \$150,000). The two-story brick structure was designed by a local architectural firm, F. A. Sanford Foale and Sons. The most distinctive detail of its exterior terra-cotta decoration is a glazed medallion with a low-relief image of a discus thrower that was made by Gladding, McBean & Co. As designed (and in keeping with the group's origins as a sports club), Sacramento's Turnverein building featured a large gymnasium, lodge room, dance hall, card rooms, billiard rooms, hand-ball courts, and bowling alleys.

Bats Along the Banks

Come learn about bats with Friends of the River Banks at Sutter's Landing Park on the evening of **Saturday, May 11**. As in past years, Boulevard Park resident JoEllen Arnold will be sharing her knowledge of these wonderful and fascinating winged mammals. She will bring three live "education bats" of three different species that are among the approximately 15 species of bat that are native to this area. Bat detectors with ultrasonic microphones will be used to listen for and to help us see bats as they emerge to hunt for insects in the gathering darkness along the riverbank. Everyone is welcome to join the gathering at the north end of 28th Street (near the skateboard park), starting at 7 p.m. Expect to be out until at least 8:30 if you want to see and hear wild bats emerging because sunset is not until 8:07, but you should feel free to leave at any time. Bring a blanket or folding chair to use for sitting on the beach, a flashlight, and a jacket, as it can be chilly (but beautiful!) along the American River as darkness falls. A pair of binoculars will also come in handy. Because children like to dabble on the edge of the river, parents will want to bring a change of clothes for them.



The Trees of Midtown: Crepe Myrtle

While it seems that most of Sacramento's flowering trees put on their best show in early spring, the crepe myrtle gives us beautiful flowering color in summer and autumn when street tree color is in short supply. Crepe myrtle flower color varies from deep purple to red to white with almost every shade in between. A moderately slow grower, the crepe myrtle generally reaches 10 to 20 feet in height though some varieties are much shorter and also can be higher. Although occasionally planted along streets in midtown, this tree is more often seen in gardens and parks locally. It can be a great choice as a screen border, a prize lawn specimen, or a container plant. In southern states, crepe myrtles are often over pruned, but this practice is not recommended.

Crepe myrtles are native to China and also parts of Southeast Asia and India. They prefer full sun and a warm climate, are drought resistant, and will tolerate a wide range of soils. However, they are shallow rooted, send out suckers, and are subject to mildew and aphids. Even with these few negatives, the crepe myrtle is still a highly rated tree for street planting in a city with Sacramento's climate.

You will need to wait a month or so before the crepe myrtles in our neighborhood burst into color. The photo on the left was taken outside Lassen Hall at Sacramento State in the summer.

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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

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The Popert Building, H and 21st Streets

In their first advertisements for the new subdivision called Boulevard Park, developers Wright and Kimbrough promised that no saloons, stores, or butcher shops would be erected in this exclusively residential district. Even today, there are very few commercial buildings inside the original Boulevard Park neighborhood. However, there are some “fringe elements” just outside the boundaries, one of the most distinctive being the concrete and frame structure at the southwest corner of H and 21st Streets.

As indicated in a photo from the mid-twenties, this was originally called the Popert Building. James Popert, an immigrant from Hamburg, Germany, was considered a pioneer when he built his first combined residence and grocery store on this same site in 1880.



At that time the Agricultural Park race track filled the land on the north side of H Street (providing the residents with a view of an 8-foot high brick wall) and there were many fewer homes. Nonetheless, Popert persevered and prospered as a grocer. He also became an important figure in local politics. By 1908, when the development of Boulevard Park was well underway, he was poised to embark on a new major building project.

In May of that year, he contracted Alden W. Campbell, the architect of Doctor Hart’s mansion (1907; 2131 H St.) and Mayor White’s house (1908; 630 21st St.), to design a “two-story artificial stone and frame building with drugstore, barber shop, and grocery store on the first floor, and up-to-date six-room flats on the second floor” (estimated cost: \$6,534.00). Built in a Craftsman style with Prairie elements, the Popert building was finished within a year, replacing the 19th-century structure. The first merchants to rent its ground-floor spaces were the Lamprey Brothers, at 2028 H (“Groceries, Hay, Grain, and Coal”); Julius Lewis, at 2030 H (Boulevard Pharmacy); and a barber named Barnard Allen, at 804 21st (all were reported there in the 1909 city directory). In the years that followed, other businesses rotated through the two H Street spaces, including a tailor, butcher (Boulevard Meat Market, shown in the photo), soda fountain supply shop, photography studio, realtor’s office, and laundromat. Moxie restaurant, which opened at 2028 H in 1995, is now the oldest business in the building. The last member of the Popert family to live in one of the upstairs apartments, James Carl Popert, died at home in 1955, seventy-five years after his father opened the first grocery store on this corner site. Perhaps one day the sign with the family name will be re-installed on their historic building.

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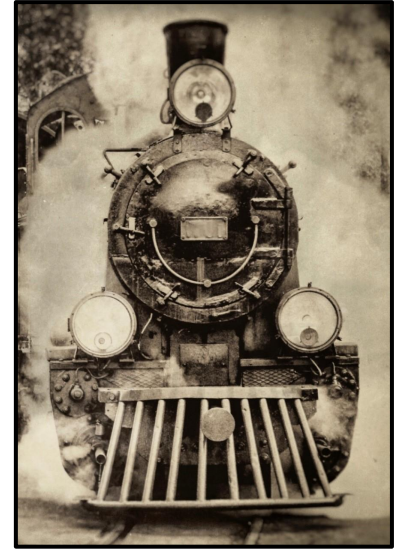
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Transcontinental Railroad: Community Sesquicentennial Day



You are all invited! Individuals and families are encouraged to participate in the many free activities planned for Old Sacramento Waterfront on **Wednesday, May 8 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)**. As of this writing, these include an historic re-creation of the celebratory procession that took place on May 8, 1869 (featuring an historic fire brigade, horse-drawn carriages, and music); complimentary excursion train rides aboard the Sacramento Southern Railroad throughout the day; and entertaining Transcontinental Railroad melodrama performances in the historic Eagle Theatre. Pack your own lunch and join others at the Community Picnic on the grassy area in front of the Railroad Museum. There will be live music and the telling of tales about the Transcontinental Railroad. And here is an added plus: ***You can ride SacCT to the Community Day event for FREE!*** For more information, and for a copy of Regional Transit's "Free Ride" flyer that you will need to present when you board the bus or light-rail, go to: <https://www.californiarailroad.museum/events/transcontinental-railroad-event>



Go-To Websites for Neighborhood Gardeners

We try to include at least one garden-related event in the "Things to Do" calendar each month, but for each one we list in *Park Beat* there are probably three or four other ones happening (we welcome tips about future events from our readers!). Below is a short list of specific places to look if you are interested in attending programs, workshops, or events that concern gardening, plants, and/or flowers:

Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway, Sacramento

Rose-themed garden tours are offered regularly in the cemetery (two tours are scheduled in May, on the 5th and 6th): <https://www.historicoldcitycemetery.org/upcoming-events>

Iva Gard Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

Plant shows and sales are often scheduled at the center (May events include: Cactus and Succulent Show & Sale on May 4 and 5; Chrysanthemum and Geranium Show; Sale on May 11): <http://www.sgaac.org/calendar.php>

Sacramento Digs Gardening

Co-authored by Debbie Arrington and Kathy Morrison, this blog is a great resource for local gardening news, tips, and events. You also can post questions about garden topics (<https://sacdigsgardening.blogspot.com>).

Soil Born Farms' American River Branch Schoolhouse, 2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova

A wide range of garden-themed workshops and events, some for a fee, some in partnership with Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op (May events include: Gardening with Native Plants, on May 4; A Day on the Farm, on May 19): <https://soilborn.org/calendar/>

UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento

A wide range of garden-themed workshops and information sessions, offered at various locations throughout the county (May events include: Backyard Composting 101, at Rancho Cordova on May 4; Open Garden at Fair Oaks Horticulture Center, May 11): <http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Workshops/> Note: UC Master Gardeners will be on hand at the 4th Annual Charming Garden Tour in Colonial Heights on Saturday, May 18 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; fee charged).