



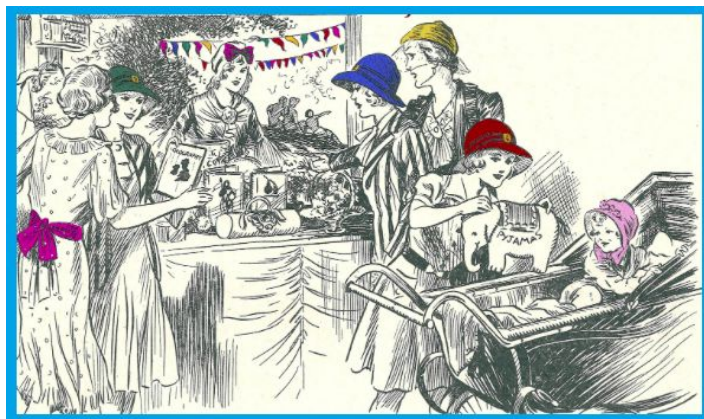
PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ■ Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 ■ April 2018

BPNA Neighborhood Yard Sale, May 19 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

We welcome new and gently used (saleable) collectibles, household goods, books, records, and clothing. Anything donated must be in full working condition. Please—no electronics, and no large pieces of furniture that cannot be easily carried by one person. Drop-offs can be made as early as the week before the event (see the May issue of *Park Beat* for information about place and time). **Attention all volunteers:** your help will be needed on Friday afternoon, May 18 (to sort and price items) and during the sale on Saturday, May 19. It will be held on the meridian in the 600 block of 22nd Street. Proceeds from the sale will help support BPNA's events and the publication of *Park Beat*.



Inauguration of Sacramento's Photography Month



This year the City of Sacramento has partnered with the Viewpoint Photographic Art Center (2015 J St.) and others in the community to create the first-ever "Photography Month Sacramento." In April, galleries, museums, schools, libraries, stores, and other public venues throughout the region will be celebrating the art of photography, which has a long history in California—even touching Boulevard Park, thanks to the experimental work of Eadweard Muybridge. In the 1870s, he photographed Leland Stanford's famous racehorse, Occident, trotting on Union Race Track in Sacramento—the very ground on which our neighborhood was built in the early 1900s. Chances are you won't see Muybridge's work on view this month, but many other photographers will be featured in the exhibitions. There also will be lectures, demonstrations, and workshops, including a free Sierra Camera Club Nature Program at the Shepard Garden and Art Center on April 5 (7-9:30 p.m.; 3330 McKinley Blvd.). For more information about Photography Month, go to: <https://www.sacramento365.com/event/photography-month-sacramento/>

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

At their March 6 meeting, the BPNA board members finished up several tasks and tackled topics of general interest to the neighborhood. The board and committee assignments were divided up (see the "BPNA Board" box on p. 3 of *Park Beat*). Preliminary plans were discussed for the several upcoming events. These will include the **Neighborhood Yard Sale** on Saturday, **May 19**; the **Progressive Dinner for Neighborhood Night Out** on Tuesday, **August 7** (appetizers, dinner course, and dessert course will be offered at three different locations); the **Spaghetti Dinner** on Saturday, **September 8**; and the **Holiday Party** on Saturday, **December 8**.

Please Note: The success of all of our events really depends on the participation of neighborhood residents, both as attendees and, equally important, as volunteers. Please be sure to check the "Yes! I want to help" box on the Membership Form when you pay your annual dues (see the last page of *Park Beat*). If you paid your 2018 dues and wish to confirm your interest in volunteering at either the Yard Sale or the Spaghetti Dinner, please contact David Herbert, davidmather446@gmail.com or (916) 444-6690.

More of the Fascinating Homes of Midtown: A Pair and a Preview

The Wittenbrock House on J Street and the Keyes (later Diepenbrock) House on Capitol Avenue represent thirty-three years of history and a decided change in taste in mansion design in Sacramento. A fine example of Italianate architecture with elegant detail, 1800 J was built in 1873 for Rudolph Wittenbrock, a German immigrant who came to California in search of gold but ended up making his fortune in hops, a business that his widow continued after his death in 1900. Rudolph and Elizabeth provided most of their eight children with new homes in the neighborhood, but only 1800 J survives today. The house remained in the family's possession until about 1970, when it was bought and restored by a member of the city's architectural preservation movement.



The equally impressive house at 2315 Capitol was built for Henry Keyes, manager of the Sacramento Natural Gas Company, in 1906. Designed by Rudolph Herold, one of the city's foremost architects in that era, this "artistic modern dwelling" (as it was called in 1906) combines elements of both Colonial Revival and Craftsman style architecture. Its interior was lavishly appointed with exotic wood paneling, beamed ceilings, tile floors, and art glass windows. Nearly demolished in the 1970s, the Keyes house stands today because of the architectural preservation movement mentioned above. It is one of many stately residences that led to the name assigned by the city to this area a few years ago, "Capitol Mansions Historic District."

Several other houses in the Capitol Mansions neighborhood will be open to the public for the annual historic home tours sponsored by Preservation Sacramento (Sunday, **September 16**; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.). Please save the date! Also, if you are interested in volunteering two hours of your time as a docent in one of the homes, please contact Vickie Valine by email (vhvaline@cwo.com) or phone (916-442-1160). Check future issues of *Park Beat* for more details.

Have You Tried Out Parkmobile?

For the last two years, drivers seeking to park at metered locations and in selected off-street lots in Sacramento have been able to use a very convenient system called Parkmobile. After setting up an account, they can pay for parking at these locations (each clearly marked with a distinctive green sign) by using a mobile app, a web browser, or a simple phone call (916 SAC-PARK/722-7275).

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Parkmobile (cont.)

Because a third-party vendor is involved, a "convenience fee" (35¢) is added to the tariff at most locations. However, users are able to extend their parking time without returning to their car, if they

picked a spot where extensions are allowed, and if they connect with the system before their time expires. For more information, go to the Parking Services section of the city website:



<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/Parking-Services/Street-Parking/Parkmobile>

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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association 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 thereby to improve the quality of life for others who work and live in and around Boulevard Park and therefore Sacramento as a whole.

Committees

Membership: Ty Dockery and Liz Edmonds
Preservation: Eric Knutson

Park Beat Production Team

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Ad Manager: Dave Herbert, davidmather446@gmail.com

Places to Go, People To See

Every Saturday:

Free Yoga in the Park: 9 a.m., McKinley Park (behind the H St. Rose Garden). For more information, go to:

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

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

Tues., Apr. 3: 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.

Thurs., Apr. 5: Sierra Camera Club Nature Program (part of Photography Month Sacramento: see article on page 1), Shepard Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Boulevard (free; 7-9:30 p.m.).

Sun., Apr. 8: "Genealogy: Make Sense Out of Census Records." Free workshop at the Central Library, 828 I St. (1-2:30 p.m.). Info: <http://www.saclibrary.org/>

Wed., Apr. 11: Wednesday Open Garden, Fair Oaks Horticulture Center (9-Noon): Sponsored by Sacramento Master Gardeners. Info.: <http://sacmg.ucanr.edu>

Fri., Apr. 13: Food Truck Mania, McKinley Park (5-8 p.m.): Food, fun, and music. Website: <https://sactomofo.com/calendar>

Sat., Apr. 14: Monthly gathering of FORB: Return of the Swainson's Hawks (meet at Sutter's Landing Park at 10 a.m.; see article on page 5)

Places to Go, People To See (cont.)

Sat., Apr. 14: Second Saturday ArtWalk. Galleries around town will be open to present individual and group shows of artists' work. Website: <http://www.2ndsaturdaysacramento.com>

Sun., Apr. 15: Sacramento Antique Faire, held the second Sunday of every month (under the freeway at 21st and X; 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; \$3 fee for adults). Website: <http://www.sacantiquefaire.com>

Sun., Apr. 15: "Pay-What-You-Wish" at the Crocker (every third Sunday of the month)

Sun., Apr. 15: "Downtown Drives," California Automobile Museum, 2200 Front St. (10-noon): ride around downtown Sacramento in a 1931 Model A (admission fee). Information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1074588216024557/>

Sun., Apr. 22: Sacramento Earth Day, Southside Park (11-4). <https://www.ecosacramento.net/about-us/our-work/events/sacearthday/>

Thurs., Apr. 26: "Behind-the-Scenes Tour," California State Archives (10-11 a.m.): Free (advance registration is required). Info.: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/public-events/tours/>

Sat., Apr. 28: 25th Anniversary Sacramento SPCA Doggy Dash, William Land Park (8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.). Fund-raising event. Registration and other info.: <http://www.sspca.org/doggydash>

Block Captains Needed to Distribute Copies of Park Beat

Two Block Captains are needed to cover the areas near 22nd & H and 21st & F. If you can spare 15 minutes a month and like to walk and talk with your neighbors, please contact our **Block Captain Coordinator**, Joe Cress, at 916-698-7938 (cressj@saccounty.net).

Sacramento Earth Day: What's the Buzz?

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 22, Southside Park (700 T Street) will be the site of the largest Earth Day celebration in the Sacramento region, with many free events and activities. According to the ECOS website (<https://www.ecosacramento.net/>), around 150 businesses and organizations will be on hand to share information, goods,

and services that can contribute to a healthier and greener way of living.

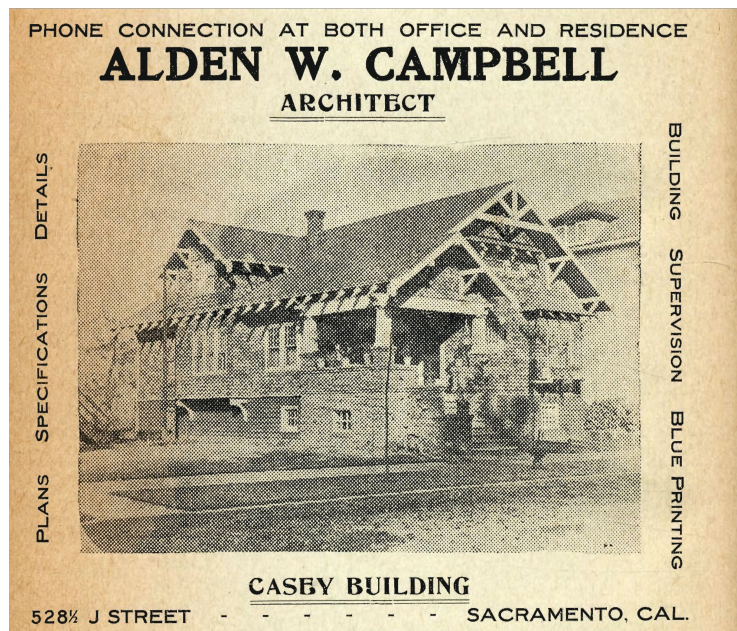
There will be lots for families to enjoy, too—live music, local art, educational games, and even a children's area. Food vendors will be serving a range of vegan cuisine options (or, if you arrive early, you can pick up some picnic supplies at the Central Farmers' Market, under the freeway at W and 8th Streets).



Alden Wilson Campbell, one of several local architects who designed homes for Boulevard Park in the early 1900s, is best known for the imposing mansion commissioned by Dr. Aden C. Hart, one of the founders of Sutter Hospital (2131 H Street; 1906-07). Combining features from several different architectural styles, the house was compared to a spicy Spanish stew (“olla podrida”) by one local journalist, who concluded that the Harts had a “most artistic and luxurious dwelling” (*Sacramento Union*, 1911). It has continued to catch the attention of passers-by with its imaginative sculptures, patterned shingles, and art-glass windows. No other house in Boulevard Park is so elaborately decorated.

Few people may realize that Campbell also was the architect of several other residences in the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. These include the homes of

physician Edwin M. Wilder (2625 I Street, 1905; later moved to 516 Tenth Street); realtor Edward P. Huston (720 23rd Street; 1906-07); mayor Clinton L. White (630 21st Street; 1907-08); and store manager John W. Ott (501 21st Street; 1908-09). The Huston house was used to illustrate Campbell’s advertisement in the 1909 *City Directory*; the White house is next door to a house now occupied by the family of one of Campbell’s great-grandchildren. Campbell and his wife, Ellen Klotz, lived in another house that he designed in 1906 (3453 J St.). Located on the former “Klotz Tract” in East Sacramento, it has some window treatments similar to those at the Aden Hart House.



SACRAMENTO TREES DEODAR CEDARS



The Deodar Cedar is an extremely graceful evergreen conifer seen in Sacramento parks and some backyards. It is a very large tree reaching over 80 feet tall with a trunk up to 10 feet in diameter. It can grow up to 2 feet per year when young. The Deodar Cedar is native to parts of India, Pakistan, China, and other regions of the western Himalaya Mountains.

Among Hindus, the Deodar is worshiped as a divine tree. Forests of Deodars, considered sacred places, were a favorite living place of ancient Indian sages, where they performed difficult forms of meditation.

Widely grown as an ornamental tree in parks, the Deodar can tolerate temperatures well below zero. The wood is in great demand as a building material due to its durability, rot resistance, and fine, close grain which can take a high polish. In its native regions, Deodar Cedar has been used to build temples, houseboats, public buildings, bridges, and railway cars. Its brittle nature does limit its uses where a very strong wood is required. The tree’s inner wood is aromatic, making it useful in aromatherapy. It is also used to make incense and essential oil. Because of the wood’s antifungal and insect repellent properties, rooms made of Deodar Cedar are used for storing meat and food grains in some areas of the world.

Some of Sacramento’s best Deodar Cedar specimens are in the park in front of the west steps of the State Capitol (10th Street side: see the photo on the left). These majestic cedars are among the most dramatic trees in the central city. One of them has a marker identifying it as the largest Deodar Cedar in California.

A Tale of Resident Raptors in Boulevard Park



Photo credit:
Robert Sewell

The neighbors living near Fat Alley between 20th and 21st Streets have been watching a pair of Swainson's Hawks for the past four years. It has been thrilling to see these magnificent raptors return each year to their huge nest in a heritage redwood tree, about 100 feet above the ground!

In summer 2017, mom and dad (and all of us humans) were blessed with a beautiful chick that fledged and left the nest in early September to join other juveniles in agricultural areas throughout the Central Valley. In early October they began their long migration southwards to their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America. Some of our Swainson's Hawks may go as far as Columbia and northern Argentina.

Our resident Swainson's Hawk expert and nature photographer, Robert Sewell, has been photographing this pair for the past few years, and when he saw that the two hawks had successfully mated last July, he set up his telescope and camera near Fat Alley so that everyone in the neighborhood could see the new family up close. We saw the chick leave the nest for the first time in July to walk the upper branches of the redwood; by August, we saw it learning to fly on its own. One night in July, the most wonderful moment occurred when the chick, after a month of being barely visible within the nest, ventured outside it and turned to face us. We could see its delicate, innocent features as it took its first wobbly steps, without a trace of predator confidence it had yet to acquire.

Boulevard Park is our shared habitat, the place we all call "home." It is home to the heritage redwood trees, the endangered raptors, and to those who stop to marvel at them and make new friends in the process. According to the Audubon Society's website (<http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/swainsons-hawk>), the number of Swainson's Hawks has declined in much of their nesting range in California. We are lucky to have them here with us.

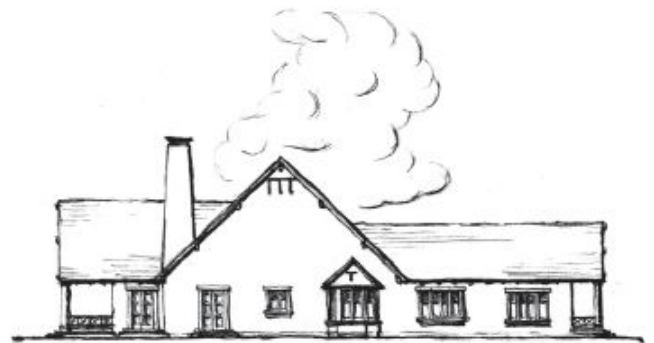
If you are interested in learning more about these fascinating neighbors, come to the annual "Return of the Swainson's Hawk" celebration sponsored by the Friends of the River Banks on Saturday, April 14. A representative of the Raptor Center will bring live hawks to the event and explain their place in the ecosystem. The group will meet at Sutter's Landing Park at the far north end of 28th Street (10 a.m.). Please wear warm clothing and bring a change of clothing for young children. For more details and a full calendar of FORB's 2018 events, go to <https://www.friendsoftheriverbanks.org/calendar.html>. Information about local efforts to protect Swainson's Hawks can be found at: <https://www.swainsonshawk.org>

The 2018 Hail & Snow Day at Sutter's Landing Park Article and photo by Robert Sewell

What an unforgettable day it was for the few of us who ventured out to Sutter's Landing Park and for the wildlife who live there, to see the river freshly transformed into a Winter Wonderland of hail and snow! It all started on Monday afternoon, February 26, when dark clouds formed over the green grassy mound, making a dramatic backdrop for streaks of lightning bolts. Shortly after that, hail began to fall and increase in intensity! This was followed by a few snowflakes and a lot of memories. Read more here: <https://www.friendsoftheriverbanks.org/forb-blog>



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Remembering Murphy the Midtown Cat

If you have ever stopped by the Little Free Library outside the house at the northwest corner of F and 25th Streets, you may have noticed that it is dedicated to a beloved Boulevard Park resident, Murphy the Cat. A mixture of Maine Coon and Siamese, Murphy had a shaggy coat, distinctive blue eyes, and a very outgoing personality. After his owners took up residence on F Street, Murphy extended his human network to include the people who walked by the house or waited at the bus stop, even taking a ride himself occasionally, according to some of his friends.



They swore that he stepped aboard the westbound bus and then returned on its eastward run, only getting off when the driver stopped on the other side of F Street and told him, "Okay, Murphy—this is your stop." Murphy lounged on the sidewalk in front of the house, visited (or adopted)

residents from around the neighborhood, and joined passersby on their afternoon strolls. Over time, he established a wide circle of friends. His owners learned just how extensive that circle was only after he died, and they decided to hold a party in his memory.

They posted a few flyers on nearby trees and wondered if anyone would respond. Over thirty-five people came to the event, and they all had fond memories and anecdotes to share about their old friend. Later, when his owners built the Little Free Library, they knew it should be dedicated to Murphy—the cat who passed out free love to anyone in Midtown who wanted it, asking nothing in return.



April 15 is Near! Free Income Tax Assistance is Available.

The Ethel Hart Center (915 27th St.) serves as a free tax preparation site every year. Individuals and couples with low to moderate income can get help preparing their 2017 tax returns. Certified AARP volunteers will prepare tax forms for seniors (age 60 or older) during the week; on Saturdays, volunteers from VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program) will help people of any age whose annual incomes are \$54,000 or less. All returns will be filed electronically. The service is by appointment only. Seniors seeking weekday appointments should call (916) 808-5462; people seeking VITA appointments should call (916) 845-4516. Website: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/HR/Volunteer-Opportunities/VITA>.

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Reminder – Renew your BPNA Membership for 2018

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Send form with your \$5 to \$15 check per member for the remainder of the calendar year to: P.O. Box 163179, Sacramento, CA 95816-9179

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Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

- ☐ **New Member** ☐ **Renewing Member** ☐ **Yes! I want to help. Call me.**
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