



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

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

35th National Night Out: August 7

This progressive, three-course potluck dinner is a wonderful way to see old friends and make new ones in the Boulevard Park and Marshall School/New Era Park neighborhoods. A few of the beat officers are likely to be present, and city representatives sometimes attend too, as they make the rounds of the different NNO events throughout Sacramento. Please come to all three courses if you can (join the informal parade as we walk between venues) and be sure to bring one favorite dish to share with your neighbors. Given the late afternoon heat, everyone participating in the *hors d'oeuvres* course should bring along some bottled water.

- **6 p.m.:** *Hors d'oeuvres* course on the 22nd Street median, between C and D Streets
- **7 p.m.:** *Entrée* course outside the Hull and Allair home, H Street near 25th
- **8 p.m.:** Dessert course in Marshall Park, near the tot-lot (28th and I Streets)



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Spaghetti Western, Boulevard Park Style

The neighborhood's annual spaghetti dinner is on **Saturday, September 8**. Hosted by the Bramson family and staffed by volunteers from throughout the neighborhood, this is our main fundraiser and communal get-together, not to be missed! The event will start at 5 p.m. with a "pre-pasta mingle" (beverages available), followed by the dinner service (5:30-7:30 p.m.). Top Hand Ranch will again provide horse-drawn wagon rides around the block throughout the evening, starting at about 5:30. The dinner is **still** costs the same as in 2007 (\$10 per adult and \$5 per child); beer and wine will cost \$3. The pasta, sauces, and salads are prepared and served by volunteers. For the dessert table, we welcome food donations from the diners—please bring a favorite treat to share.



Spaghetti Dinner: Volunteers Still Needed!

This event would not be possible without the enthusiastic participation of neighborhood residents. Volunteers can choose between several assignments (set-up on Saturday morning, service at the dinner, clean-up on Sunday). Please sign up at <http://signup.com/go/atGpOjY> or contact **Emily Herbert** at (916) 444-6690 if you want to help and be part of some great neighborhood camaraderie.



SOUND the TRUMPETS!
The newly revised BPNA
website is now on the air!

Visit boulevardpark.org

Neighborhood Treats: The Acoustic Sanctuary

Admit it. How many times have you walked past the purple truck decked out in neon at the northeast corner of 22nd and J and thought about going in—then didn't? Embarrassed? Afraid of being put on the spot? Thought it would be corny?

Well, it's time to drop your inhibitions and reservations and step into The Acoustic Sanctuary to be entertained by Sacramento's own One Man Band and Storyteller, Winko Ljizz (born Harrington King).

The piano bar (*yes!*) seats five, and three or four more can usually squeeze into the space. The last person to enter is asked to pick a theme, then Winko either spins a story or plays a song based on it.

"Camshafts," said one participant, and Winko, who is a docent at the California Automobile Museum, was off and running about camshafts and technological changes in car engines. "Love," said another, and he hauled out his modified trombone to lead the group in singing "All You Need Is Love." He has more than 40 string, brass, and percussion instruments tucked inside the van and claims to be able to play 5 to 10 at a time, "depending on your definition of 'at a time.'" The humor alternates between broad (expect puns) and wry, but his versatility, ingenuity, and cheerful enthusiasm will make your evening a happier one. He has been in Sacramento for many, many years, and used to park his van at different places around midtown before settling on his current location (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights). His lively website tells his story and gives you a sneak-peek via video of a typical show (<http://www.acousticsanctuary.com/>). Single adults pay \$10, couples pay \$15, and you can book him for private parties. Don't miss the chance—he is definitely one-of-a-kind.



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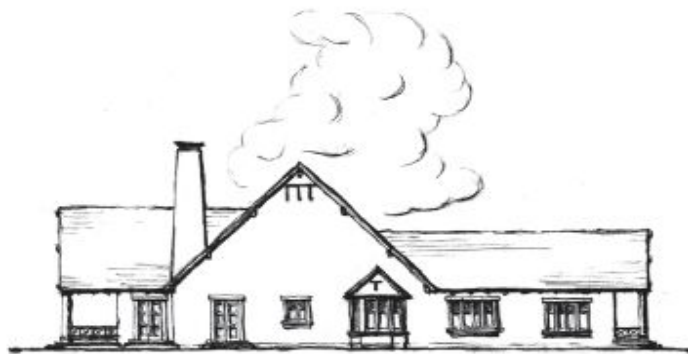
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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive thereby to improve the quality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

Committees

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Places to Go, People To See

Every Saturday:

Free Yoga in the Park: 9 a.m., McKinley Park (behind the H Street 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 between J and L.

Fri., Aug. 3: "First Friday Fun Flow": free yoga at Sutter's Fort State Park on the first Friday of each month, through September (6-7 p.m.)

Sat., Aug. 4: "Harvest Day 2018—A Gardener's Dream": presented by UCCE Sacramento County Master Gardeners at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. (8 a.m.-2 p.m.). Website: <http://sacmg.ucanr.edu>

Tues., Aug. 7: National Night Out, with a progressive potluck dinner co-hosted by the Boulevard Park and Marshall School/New Era Park neighborhood associations (6-9 p.m.; article on **page 1**).

Thurs., Aug. 9: Start of "Wide Open Walls," when murals will be painted throughout the city (through **Aug. 19**). Article on **page 4**.

Fri., Aug. 10: "Food Truck Mania" in McKinley Park (5-8 p.m.): food, music, and family entertainment (including a kids' zone).

Sat., Aug. 11: "Useful Plants with Brian Collett": Friends of the River Banks event at Sutter's Landing (10 a.m.; article on **page 6**).

Sat., Aug. 11: First "Midtown Garden Tour" (self-guided tour of six backyard gardens; starting at New Era Community Garden, 204 26th Street; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; admission charged). See article on **page 6**. Website: <http://www.gardenthegrid.com>

Sat., Aug. 11: Free Outdoor Movie: *Chueless* (1995), projected on the outer wall of Sutter's Fort, west side (starting at about 8 p.m.)

Places to Go, People To See (cont.)

Sat., Aug. 11: Second Saturday ArtWalk. Galleries around town will be open to present individual and group shows of artists' work. Website: <http://www.2ndsaturdaysacramento.com>

Aug. 11-12: "Jazz-a-Peel," Fifth Annual Banana Festival, William Land Park, 3800 West Land Park Drive (10-7 on Sat., 10-5 on Sun.; admission charged). Website: <https://www.sacbananafestival.com>

Thurs., Aug. 16: "Midtown Made" (K St. between 23rd and 24th Sts.; 6-9 p.m.): Third Thursday event highlighting the work of local artisans, with vendors, DIY projects, and live music. Website: <http://www.capitalcitybeads.com/midtownmade/>

... **And, looking ahead to early September:**

Sept. 8: Annual Boulevard Park Spaghetti Dinner (starting at 5 p.m.) Website: <https://www.boulevardpark.org/>

Sept. 8-9 and 15-16 (two weekends): Sac Open Studios. Website: <http://www.vergeart.com/open-studios/visit-sac-open-studios/>

Changes in the City's Recycling Program

The latest issue of *Your Guide to Services*, a brochure prepared by the City's Department of Recycling and Solid Waste, was sent to residents early in July. As reported in *The Sacramento Bee* on July 10, revised regulations about recycling have resulted in some new restrictions on what can be placed in those big blue bins. In the **paper** category, shredded paper can no longer be recycled. In the **plastics** category, containers must be labeled **1, 2, or 3** to be recycled; any plastics bearing code numbers **4, 5, 6, or 7** must go into the garbage. All CRV containers still are accepted, however, as are soda bottles, milk jugs, detergent bottles, and shampoo bottles. Commonly used plastic items in "garbage" categories **5 and 6** include ketchup bottles, yogurt containers, and egg boxes, none of which can be recycled. If you are in doubt about whether or not something is recyclable, check out the "Waste Wizard" application on the city website (<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/RSW/waste-wizard>). The new restrictions are in response to recent changes in what types of recycled materials are accepted by manufacturers who use these substances as raw materials.

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

At their monthly meeting on July 10, the members of the BPNA board listened to a presentation by Sean de Courcy, Associate Preservation Planner with Sacramento's Community Development Department. Returning to a subject discussed at a prior meeting with a few board members (see the July issue of *Park Beat*), Sean summarized the "Sacramento Historic District Plans Project" process, which is now underway. As also reported in the July issue of *Park Beat*, the completed design standards, once implemented, should help provide greater clarity about the kind of design that is compatible within each historic district. These standards will incorporate insights from extensive field surveys of existing buildings in each historic district, conducted by Page & Turnbull, a historic preservation architecture, planning, and conservation firm (its past projects include the renovations of the Leland Stanford Mansion and the Sacramento Valley Station). There will be several opportunities for community participation in the year-long project, including public workshops and meetings. **Note: Because of the NNO event, the BPNA board will not meet in August.**

Trees of Midtown Sacramento:

The Tulip Tree

The Tulip Tree is found in Sacramento parks and a few can also be found on midtown streets. This deciduous tree of the magnolia family is named for its large yellow green flowers which superficially resemble tulips. The flowers, which have a faint cucumber odor, are hard to see because they are generally high up and well hidden by leaves. In autumn, leaves turn yellow or brown and yellow.

Tulip trees are tall, with those on city streets reaching heights of 80 feet. However, they can be much larger in their native areas of the Eastern USA. For example, Appalachian Cove forest specimens are sometimes 160 feet tall. Tulip trees have deep roots and they prefer a temperate climate, sun or part shade, where there is sufficient moisture. They do not tolerate drought. Because it is fine grained and easy to work, Tulip Tree wood (also called poplar, tulipwood, or gum wood) is commonly used for cabinet and furniture framing. Most inexpensive furniture described for sales purposes simply as “hardwood” is actually made of stained poplar. American Indians are said to have used this wood for canoe construction, as it is ideal for this purpose.

There is a beautiful mature tulip tree in our neighborhood in front of 2212 “D” Street (shown in the photographs below).



Home Tour Tickets Still on Sale!

Tickets for the annual Preservation Sacramento Historic Home Tour still are on sale at the reduced price of **\$30** (through Sept. 15). Starting on the day of the tour, **September 16**, they will cost **\$35** and will be sold **only** at the Preservation Sacramento Ticket booth, where wrist-bands and brochures also will be given out (parking lot at the northwest corner of 22nd Street and Capitol Avenue). For more information and to purchase tickets on line, go to: <http://www.preservationsacramento.org/hometour/>.

Wide Open Walls

For the third year in a row, Sacramento is hosting this exciting outdoor mural project (August 9-19).



About thirty local and international artists will be producing forty large-scale murals on buildings in the center city, Oak Park, and Del Paso Heights. One of the big-name artists involved in the project is Shepard Fairey (Los Angeles), best known for the *Hope* poster that was used during President Obama’s 2008 election campaign. Now, eight years later, Fairey will be painting a large mural depicting Johnny Cash on the 16th Street wall of the Marriott’s Residence Inn. Participating Sacramento artists include Raphael Delgado, Molly-Devlin, Jaya King, Michele Ann Murtaugh, Stan Padilla, Brent Patten, Jenn Ponci, Peter Williams, and alumni and student artists from Sacramento State. Visitors will be able to track the progress of the murals and video installations by participating in walking and biking tours. There also will be pop-up art shows and a range of entertainment, including a “paint-to-fork” dinner, live concerts, and several block parties (for more information, go to the WOW website, <http://www.wow916.com>). Proceeds from the event will go towards Wide Open Walls and other nonprofit organizations.

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Boulevard Park's Train Station

The Western Pacific Passenger Depot at 19th and J Streets is one of Boulevard Park's most historic commercial structures. Designed in the Mission Revival style by San Francisco architect Willard Polk, it was begun in May 1909, finished in October 1909, and opened for freight service in December 1909. Passenger service was introduced in August 1910. In a newspaper article from July 1909, the station building was praised for its tiled roof and for the spacious verandah whose concrete arch-ways were coated with stucco, "the same as was used in the early Spanish days." As reported in another article, the contract price for the structure was \$26,000.



August 1910: A crowd is on hand for the first passenger train at the Western Pacific Depot

Passenger rail service on the Western Pacific line (which included the original stream-lined, silver and orange California Zephyr) ended nearly sixty years later, in March 1970. In 1976, the building was refurbished and reopened as a railroad-themed restaurant called the Sacramento Depot (the architect, Dean F. Unger, received an award from the Central Valley Chapter of the AIA for his work). Two years later, the restaurant was reopened yet again as the Old Spaghetti Factory, still in business today.

New Way to San Jose

In just a few years, thanks to the **Valley Rail Project** (jointly developed by the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission) and a substantial investment by the state (500.5 million dollars were allocated in April 2018), a new commuter rail service will be introduced between Sacramento and San Jose. Combining Amtrak's San Joaquin service and the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) service, Valley Rail also will result in the construction of new stations in Lodi, Elk Grove, Sacramento (three stops: Sacramento City College, Midtown, and Old North Sacramento), and Natomas (with a shuttle connection to the airport). The location envisioned for the new Midtown station is near 19th and R Streets, under the elevated light rail tracks. Shuttle service to the downtown Amtrak station also may be provided.

The arrival of Valley Rail in Sacramento is expected to benefit both California commuters and the environment because fewer drivers will mean a reduction in greenhouse gases from automobiles. The passenger trains also will be less disruptive for residents than the long freight trains which have monopolized the Union Pacific tracks (between 19th and 20th Streets, the old Western Pacific line), bringing noise, vibration, and extended traffic delays to Midtown. If all goes as planned, regular commuter rail service between Sacramento, Stockton, and San Jose will be up and running by 2020. By 2027, there also will be service between Sacramento and Merced. Furthermore, according to officials the Valley Rail Project is designed to be compatible with the state's high-speed rail service, when and if it is implemented.

Turning a Page, Historic District Plan Research

Back in the mid-1970s, the newly-established architectural firm of Charles Hall Page & Associates conducted an in-depth survey of Sacramento's older homes, with an emphasis on the central city ("**Sacramento Old City Residential Building Survey**"). Now its successor firm, Page & Turnbull, is undertaking a new architectural survey on behalf of the city's Community Development Department. As explained in a memo sent by the city to property owners last month, Page & Turnbull's employees will begin by preparing historic context statements and conducting fieldwork throughout the city (property-by-property documentation of buildings, landscape features, and other design elements: summer and fall 2018). At the same time, staff members from the Community Development office have been meeting with community stakeholders, including members of neighborhood associations like the BPNA. In addition, a public workshop will be held sometime in November. The second phase, scheduled in spring and summer of next year, will include more public workshops and community stakeholder meetings to share progress reports and gather feedback. Additional feedback will be sought after the first drafts are composed of the historic district plans and design standards (the public hearing process is anticipated to last until late 2019). To join the email list connected to this project, visit <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/HDP> and select "sign up." As stated in last month's *Park Beat* article about this project, questions about the process also can be addressed to Sean de Courcy, Associate Preservation Planner (916-808-2796 or by email at: sdecourcy@cityofsacramento.org). For an overview and explanation of the project, go to the city website (<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Urban-Design/Preservation/Historic-District-Plans>).

Garden the Grid's Inaugural Midtown Garden Tour

As its members boldly proclaim on the web, **Garden the Grid** is a group of "midtown gardeners who are passionate about getting dirty and eating clean" and who believe that "if you have sun and soil you have the potential to change the world." The members, all residents of the Boulevard Park and New Era Park neighborhoods, were brought even closer together by their shared interest in urban farming and in developing a sense of community—two passions that complement one another. Through gardening, they have shared each other's victories and have collectively solved each other's problems. As co-founder Holly O'Sullivan explained, "Gardens are a great way to get to know your neighbors. It's the first space where they may see you."

The inaugural midtown tour, including one community garden and six backyard gardens, has something for everyone, regardless of the color of their thumbs. Whether they are neophytes or seasoned farmers, whether they raise their plants in backyards or on balconies, they will enjoy this self-guided tour (**9 a.m. -3 p.m., August 11**). Tickets are priced at \$10 and will be sold at the New Era Community Garden on the day of the tour (**204 26th Street**). Proceeds will benefit Alchemist CDC, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Sacramento area residents in their efforts to create vibrant, equitable, healthy, and diverse communities.

For more information about **Garden the Grid**, go to its website, <http://www.gardenthegrid.com>; for more information about Alchemist CDC, go to: <http://www.alchemistcdc.org>.

News from Friends of the River Banks: "Useful Plants with Brian Collett"

Brian Collett, a landscape architect, planner, and park naturalist, will be leading participants on a kind of "botanical treasure hunt" along the banks of the American River, looking for plants that once provided indigenous people with food, shelters, tools, and medicine. Before the arrival of the Spanish, indigenous people of California relied upon the landscape for their food, medicines, building materials, and tools. California still is a landscape of abundance, and many of the important plant types that supported these early residents still flourish here. Edible plants that might be found during the walk are elderberry, oaks (for acorns), wild grapes, and cattails; medicinal plants may include yerba santa, willow, and alders; plants that served as structural materials include cottonwood, box elder, and willow again; and tool materials and dyes could be extracted from sedges, rushes, and the amole plant. The group will meet at Sutter's Landing Park (north end of 28th Street) on **August 11 at 10:00 a.m.** *Recommended: bring sunblock, bottled water, and (if accompanied by young ones) a change of clothes for children, who often like to dabble at the river's edge.*

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