BOULEVARD PARK

PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ▪ Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 ▪ March 2017

City Moves Forward With Bike & Pedestrian Projects

Downtown Sacramento's North End will be getting some major improvements over the next two years to make biking and walking in this part of town safer and more attractive.

The city has approved the North 12th Street Cycle Track, which will replace a lane of vehicle traffic with a two-way, protected bike way between Richards Boulevard and C Street on 12th. This part of the project is intended to slow down car traffic as it exits Highway 160 and provide a safe way for bikes to co-exist with cars and trucks on this fast-moving thoroughfare into the downtown business district. Once that project is complete it will connect to a new unprotected bike lane from C Street to H Street. While unprotected, this bike lane will represent a big improvement from the all but unridable section of street that exists today.

A section of 12th Street from North B Street to Richards Boulevard will also get a new sidewalk on the east side of the street.

On 16th Street, the city plans a number o streetscape improvements including better sidewalks and street parking to make the area a corridor that is friendly and inviting for pedestrians, and attractive for new and existing businesses and visitors through sidewalk improvements, landscaping, lighting, public art and the addition of parking. Proposed improvements will include new curbs, gutters and sidewalks, landscaping, signage and lighting, along with re-striping the travel lanes to accommodate on-street parking.

SACPD Warns of Robbery Trend

The Sacramento Police Department is asking the central city community to be vigilant of suspicious subjects who may be loitering for the purpose of robbery. Over the past week, the department has investigated several reports of robberies in and around the central parts of the City. All of the incidents have occurred between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 2:30 a.m. In these previous cases, the victims have either been on foot or getting in/out of their vehicle.

The latest trend indicates that the suspects are seeking out items that are easily accessible and publicly displayed, such as wallets and electronic devices. In many of the incidents, the suspects have worn masks and are armed with handguns. The suspects are believed to be driving either a **silver or tan/gold colored sedan**. Although the vehicles descriptions have been similar, detectives do not feel that all robberies have been committed by the same suspects.

As a crime prevention measure, the Department will be deploying additional law enforcement resources into communities to address these incidents. Officers from a variety of specialized units will be working targeted enforcement focusing on robbery prevention and crime suppression. **Here are some prevention tips to help protect yourself:**

- **Be alert** - Pay attention to people who are loitering with no apparent purpose. Be particularly aware of a person you have seen loitering more than once.
- **Trust your instincts** - Be wary of people who may ask for directions, a cigarette, or to use a cell phone.
- **Be aware of your surroundings** - Avoid distractions and using electronic devices when walking alone.
- **Walking with a group, when available, is always the best option.**
- **Avoid handling or counting money in public.**
- **Don't resist or argue** - If a robber threatens you with a gun or other weapon, give up your property. Your life is more important.
- **Activate GPS tracking applications on electronic devices** - This will help aid in recovering stolen property and suspect apprehension.
- **Report any suspicious activity or crime immediately to the police.** Be prepared to provide suspect and vehicle descriptions, including license plate numbers, if possible.

The department encourages any witnesses with information regarding any similar robberies to contact the dispatch center at **(916) 264-5471**, Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at **(916) 443-HELP (4357)** or submit an anonymous tip using the free **"P3 Tips" smartphone app**. Callers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward of up to $1,000.

Places to Go, People to See

Every Saturday. Midtown Farmer's Market.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on J & 20th streets.

Every Saturday. Free Yoga in the Park.
9 a.m. at the McKinley Park Clunie Center. Yoga in the Park is provided by Yoga Across America. For more information, go to **yogaintheusa.org.**

Saturday, March 11. Second Saturday Art Walk

Monday, March 20. Park Beat newsletter content due.
To submit articles and calendar entries, contact Daniel Weintraub at Daniel.weintraub@gmail.com. To place an ad, contact Jennifer Knutson at 925-324-1289 or jennifer@knutsonarchitecture.com.

Update on BPNA Board Meeting Dates

Meetings will be at 6:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month, with some exceptions, as follows:

January 18…….Marjorie Duffy's home 617 22nd Street
February 1…….General membership meeting Barwest 2nd floor
February 8…….Eric Knutson's home 2231 H Street
March 7…….Jennifer Abbott's home 714 22nd Street
April 5 (Wed.)…...Dave Herbert's home 2004 F Street at 7pm
May 2……Marjorie Duffy's home
June 6……...Lisa Hammersley's home 2210 G Street
July 4……Eric Knutson's home
August……...No meeting
September 5…….....Liz Edmond's home 627 22nd Street
October 3…….....Marjorie Duffy's home
November 7…….....Lisa Hammersley's home
December 5…….....Lisa Hammersley's home

BPNA 2017 Events Schedule

Saturday, May 20……..Spring Cleaning BPNA yard sale
Saturday, June 24……BPNA general membership meeting and BBQ
Tuesday, August 1…….National Night Out
Saturday, September 9…….. . ..Neighborhood Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, December 16…….. . .BPNA Christmas Party

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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association purpose: The BPNA is 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 for Sacramento as a whole.

Committees

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Ad Manager: Jennifer Knutson, 925-324-1289, **jennifer@knutsonarchitecture.com**

BPNA is on Facebook!

Want to stay in the know on the latest events in the neighborhood? Then find and like the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association page on Facebook. We post stories about recent developments and reminders about BPNA events. It's another great way to connect with BPNA and your neighbors!

The Trees of Midtown Sacramento... ...CAMPHOR TREES

Camphor trees are seen in Sacramento's central city parks and occasionally along midtown streets. Camphor trees produce small white flowers in spring and clusters of black berry like fruit later in the year. They are a member of the laurel tree family.

Many of us remember the beautiful camphor tree which was in front of Java City on the corner of 18th and Capitol Ave. until it died about 4 years ago and was removed. This huge tree was considered to be one of the central city's most spectacular trees for its unusually graceful and immense canopy. Its extensive root system required a special fenced off sidewalk on that corner, but it was worth it.

Camphors are a large evergreen tree, keeping their leaves all year long, and growing to a height of 65 to 100 feet tall. Native to China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam, they can live up to 1000 years old in some cases. The leaves have a glossy, waxy appearance and smell of camphor when crushed.

The production of camphor, a white crystalline substance, which can be processed into a solid waxy form having many uses, was a major industry in Taiwan in the early 1900's. Actually, camphor has been widely used for many centuries as a component of incense, as an insect repellant, as a flea killer, and as a medicine. Its medicinally uses are topical only. Camphor tree parts can cause death if eaten.

Other uses for camphor are as a solvent in the paint and varnish industry, as a fragrance in soap and other home cleaning products, and as an ingredient in smokeless gunpowder. The most common uses today are in ointments for easing the pain of arthritis and sore muscles, for treating acne, and for cold sores.

To see a remarkable example of a beautiful Sacramento camphor tree, go to the 15th St. and "L" corner of Capitol Park. The Camphor you see at this location is similar to the one that shaded coffee drinkers for years at the Capitol Avenue Java City mentioned above (now out of business).

Midtown Farmer's Market: VegaFarms

Vega Farms of Davis is one of the egg vendors at the Midtown Farmers Market. Started in 1989, Vega combines natural chicken raising with scientific knowledge of poultry management and disease prevention. The family represents three generations of Davis residents and two generations of UC Davis alumni. They have a combined 40 years of poultry management and 15 years of graduate and undergraduate studies at UC Davis.

The farm is located 10 miles from Davis and 25 miles from Sacramento, so their eggs are guaranteed to be at the market no more than 36 hours after the egg is laid.

Vega Farms chickens are raised in a free-range environment with access to the outdoors, clean shelter with wood shaving bedding and a constant supply of fresh, clean water and feed.

The chickens are given a balanced diet based on corn and soybeans and are never fed low-quality ingredients. Vega never uses hormones, antibiotics, animal by-produces or additives of any kind in its feed. Finally, the hens are raised with an ongoing health prevention program, including strict biosecurity and vaccinations to ensure prevention and superior immunity to diseases. The program produces hens and eggs free of salmonella enteritidis and other diseases as tested at UC system labs, under the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), a federal program run by the California Poultry Health Board.

Household Junk Collection is Back, Expands To Two Free Appts Per Year

All residential customers can now make two appointments per year for the free pickup of acceptable bulky items including yard waste. Free Household Junk Pickup occurs from February through October. Appointments must be made in advance. Items can only be put out for collection 24 hours before the scheduled appointment.

In addition to the two Household Junk appointments, all residential customers can schedule two appointments for appliance and e-waste collection in a calendar year. The appliance & e-waste program operates year round.

Household Junk Collection Services for a Fee

If you have used your two free appointments for the year, or need to arrange for a pickup in Leaf Season - November, December, or January, you can call the City Utility Billing department at **(916) 808-5454**.

Note: The same equipment and crews that collect Household Junk by appointment are the crews that work Leaf Season. Fee based appointments during Leaf Season are very limited. Leaf collection takes priority during November, December, and January.

Trinity Cathedral Church Will Host A Fundraiser For Care & Services For Those With HIV/AIDS On Sunday, March 12 at 4 p.m.

The event will feature the cathedral's own "Rock Star Organist" in concert. For the last six years, David Link has participated in NorCal AIDS Cycle, which raises funds for agencies in the community providing services to those with HIV and AIDS. He will not only pedal his bicycle 300 miles but will play the organ pedals as well to meet his goal of raising $5,000.
The requested minimum donation is $10, though contributions of any size, large or small, will be gratefully accepted at the door.

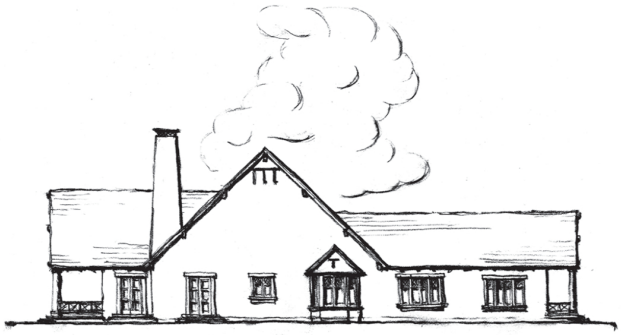
Trinity Cathedral is at 2620 Capitol Ave. in Sacramento.

House of the Month

612-614 10th Street

These 2 identical houses were probably built in 1872 by the Rev. O.C. Wheeler, a colorful Baptist who preached the first sermons by a Protestant missionary in California in 1849 in San Francisco. He moved to Sacramento in 1852 to edit the first Baptist paper on the Pacific coast. His Independence Day oration was so stirring it was printed at public expense. These attached houses are a rare example of a Sacramento row house. Now these homes are often called Wheeler Row.

KNUTSON ARCHITECTURE



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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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

☐ **Would you like to receive the newsletter by email, as well as home delivery?**