



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association • Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 • March 2010

Sacramento Filmmakers Go to the Olympics By Asha Jennings

While the rest of us were watching the Winter Olympics from our living room, **Karl Alexander** and **Jeremiah Mayhew**, two local filmmakers, got to experience the Olympics first-hand! They were in Vancouver to blog, vlog, and tweet about their experiences at the Olympics. The pair, known as Team Kinetic, got this amazing opportunity after beating out 134 other teams. Samsung Mobile Explorers selected Team Kinetic as one of five teams to go to Vancouver after a month-long search. They were chosen based on their creativity, personalities, social media and communication skills and excitement in their video application. As the organizers noted, "they are experiential by nature, hardwired for fun, omnivorous with media and ambidextrous with their noggins."

This pair has many connections to our local neighborhood and brought a bit of Sacramento to the Olympics! Jeremiah has lived in Boulevard Park for thirteen years. The team also used all local music for the videos they made at the Olympics. And, Capitol Garage hosted a great going away party for the pair to send them off in style!

After spending the Olympics blogging and tweeting, one of the five teams will be selected as the Ultimate Mobile Explorers. Along with the title comes a \$24,000 grand prize, which they would share, and a yearlong free-lance blogger position with Samsung Electronics. Check out Team Kinetics experiences at www.facebook.com/samsungusa and don't forget to vote for your favorites. The team selected as the Ultimate Mobile Explorers will be announced on February 28, the last day of the Olympics!

New Era Community Garden 208 26th Street (26th & B)

Please join Friends of Grant Park as we partner with New Era Community Garden for some fun spring planting in the garden! Bring the kids to learn what can be planted now for the spring, do some garden crafts, and do some planting! Make sure to dress in clothes that can get wet and dirty (We suggest bringing a change for the kids!). Be ready to get your hands in the dirt and have some fun! Contact Lori Ward at grisward@sbcglobal.net to RSVP. Friends of Grant Park events are funded by First 5 Sacramento, which uses Prop 10 tobacco tax funds to support the healthy development of children ages 0 to 5. *Additional information about the First 5 Sacramento Commission is available online at www.First5Sacramento.net or by calling 876-5865.*

News from Friends of the River Banks **Spring Planting in the Garden for Families with Young Children!**

Sunday, March 14th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The **FORB** were busy in February, with weekend events on the 13th, when they participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count (*see the January issue of Park Beat*), and on the 27th, when they collaborated with Friends of Grant Park for a "pre-Spring" cleaning of Sutter's Landing Park.

Plans for a Saturday activity in March are still being developed, but there may be an "edible plant walk." On Saturday, April 10, the Friends of the Swainson's Hawk will be leading a program about one of our favorite raptors, a regular resident of these river banks who winters in South America but has been nesting in the Sacramento area for years (www.swainsonshawk.org). Also involving the participation of the Save the American River Foundation and the Sacramento Audubon Society, the walk will begin at Sutter's Landing Park at the north end of 28th Street, near the skateboard park, at 9:00 a.m. Please wear appropriate clothing, bring your binoculars and some bottled water, and (if you are a dog-owner) leave your canine companions at home. For additional information about these and other events sponsored by FORB, please contact Laurie Litman at llitman@pacbell.net.

Friends of the River Banks is pleased to partner with Friends of Grant Park to encourage everyone, especially families and children, to enjoy and appreciate wildlife and spend time with nature. These events are funded by First 5 Sacramento, which uses Proposition 10 tobacco tax funds to support the healthy development of children ages 0 to 5. Additional information about the First 5 Sacramento Commission is available online at www.first5sacramento.net/default.htm or by calling 876-5865.

7th Annual Mardi Gras Party a Huge Success!

The 7th annual Mardi Gras was another fun Boulevard Park event. There was a great turnout of neighbors who joined together to revel and celebrate in the ballroom of the Betzings home.

We owe a big thank to the Betzings for generously opening their home to us. A huge thank-you also goes out to Matt Valine, who provided music for all to enjoy all evening. The donation jar was generously filled and we are using the funds to purchase bikes and helmets for children at Washington Elementary School!

Places to go, people to see

March 1 – Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) – 7:00 p.m., home of Jan Seaman, 1822 G Street. Are you aware of illegal dumping, parking problems, or other city code violations in your area? Come see what can be done about them. *For more information or to report a code violation, contact Jan Seaman at janseaman42@comcast.net.*

March 3 – BPNA Board Meeting – 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Rob Sperling at 444-8147 for location and to add items to the agenda. *Open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors.*

March 13 – Second Saturday Art Walk – Each month, galleries around town stay open late into the evening to showcase specific artists and new showings. Many serve wine and hors d'oeuvres. *Check out their web site at www.sacramento-second-saturday.org.*

March 14 – Spring Planting in the Garden for Families with Young Children – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., New Era Community Garden, 208 26th Street. Contact Lori Ward at grisward@sbcglobal.net to RSVP. *See details on page 1.*

March 15 – Copy and Ad Deadline for April issue of *Park Beat*. To submit articles and calendar entries, email Asha Jennings at ashajennings@gmail.com or call her at 803-7409. To place an ad, call Jim Younkin at 997-5081.

March 15 – Area 1 Neighborhood Advisory Group (NAG) Meeting – 6:15 to 8:30 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 27th & I Streets. *Contact Janine Martindale at 808-8193 or at jmartindale@cityofsacramento.org for information.*

March 27 – Green Thumb Brigade – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., meet at 711 22nd Street. Come help keep our traffic circles in tiptop shape! We also need volunteers to water the traffic calming devices. *Please contact Sally Flory-O'Neil at 446-3390 or sallyfo@hotmail.com if you would like information on traffic calming devices in need of watering –some of them may be near your home!*

Every Monday – Monday Night Skate – 7:00 p.m., Meet at the parking lot at the corner of 3rd and S Streets. *For more information, go to www.sacramentoskating.com or call Brian Malone at 715-2808 or Bernard Scoville at 447-8288.*

New and Renewing Members

1/16/2010 – 2/15/2010

Jason & Monica Barnas, Richard Borgquist, Ken Bowers & Franc Blackbird, Brad Carper & Terri Reh, Lee Ann Duclou, Earl & Myrna Eberline, Tracy Fairchild, Robert Freitas & Cynthia Torres, Chris Glauzel & Karina Dahl, David & Emily Herbert, Tom Hutchings, Anne Jennings, Susan & Steven Johnston, JoAnn Kaleel, Mavis Koleada, John B. LaRocco, Larry Levine, Ken & Elaine Moody, April Murazzo, George & Dorothy Niesl, Barbara & Herb Nobriga, Elaine O'Brien, Meagan & Patrick O'Neill, Jere Owen, Leo & Joyanne Pauly, Bob & Janice Pugh, Daphne Reimer & David Fullerton, Reed & Kari Rose-Parsell, Caro Russell, Lydia Shevtsova, Deborah Tamannaie, Greg Smith & Karen Vartanian, Eric & Clary Tepper, Stephanie Tucker, Skip Vanderbunt, John Vilec & Susan Ikemoto, Ryan Wagner, Larry Watson & Ann Seymour, Robert Winger

Cycle City

By Catherine Turrill

Ferrara, my husband's hometown in northeastern Italy, describes itself as the "city of bicycles" ("la città delle biciclette") where just over 30% of the residents (more than in Copenhagen or Amsterdam, in 1991) rely on two wheels to get around. Closed to most conventional vehicular traffic, the city's historic center (declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1995) is most easily negotiated by bicycle, and the level terrain outside its centuries-old walls also is ideally suited to cycling, much like Sacramento's landscape. A dedicated cyclist myself, I was delighted to learn from the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA) that we now are reported to have more bike commuters than any other California city, ranking fourth nationally behind Portland (Oregon), Minneapolis, and Seattle. Next to Ferrara's record, Sacramento's latest cycling data – 2.72% of the city's commuting is said to be done on bikes – may seem meager, but it represents a one hundred percent increase in the last decade, according to SABA. For more information about the information acquired during the U.S. Census Bureau's recent American Community Survey, see the article, "Bicycle Commuting is on the Rise," in the November/December 2009 issue of *American Bicyclist*.

Furthermore, as reported in the February issue of Councilman Cohn's monthly newsletter, *Cohn's Corner*, Sacramento's midtown – including Boulevard Park – has been recognized as "the epicenter for city cycling." Residents who live near C Street can set their watches on Saturday mornings when, at almost 10:00 a.m. exactly, a closely-bunched group of sports cyclists whiz westward toward the bicycle path at 20th Street. But competitive cycling is just part of the picture. Over the past few years, the city has taken steps to make its midtown and downtown streets more accessible to both casual and commuter cyclists, and their numbers have increased visibly as a result.

In 2006, the city of Sacramento was awarded a bronze level certification by the League of American Bicyclists, with commendations for its efforts in both education and engineering (see the article "Bicycle Friendly Communities" on the League's website, www.bikeleague.org/index.php). The author of the article in *Cohn's Corner* credited the combined efforts of SABA, city council, and the transportation and planning departments for recent improvements such as "putting roads on street diets, reducing vehicle speeds, changing one-way streets to two way-streets, adding bike lanes and bike racks, etc." If you are a cyclist and your favorite midtown or downtown store or restaurant does not have a rack where you can safely lock your two-wheeler, did you know that the city sponsors a Public Bicycle Rack Program? Local businesses with employees and customers who travel by bike, and which lack space on their property for bicycle parking, can apply to the city for a free rack.

To learn and do more, here are two local organizations of interest to cyclists:

Sacramento City/County Bicycle Advisory Committee (www.sacbike.org/advocacy/SacBAC.htm): positions are open for two "at large" board members (application deadline: 4/2/10): go to "Legislative Bodies" ("Board and Commission Information") on the City Clerk's website at www.cityofsacramento.org/clerk.

Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates: www.sacbike.org

www.boulevardparkna.org

BPNA Board of Directors 2010

CHAIR	Catherine Turrill	278-5786	turrillc@csus.edu
SECRETARY	Greg Smith	442-4201	lafnlupn@pacbell.net
TREASURER	Hal Edmonds	599-5814	capnhal@gmail.com
Margaret Buss		448-6246	mbuss@jps.net
Asha Jennings		803-7409	ashajennings@gmail.com
Tom Martens		714-4563	tnlsac@comcast.net
Julianne Richards		443-6149	jrichards@cde.ca.gov

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.

Historic Homes of Boulevard Park 2111 F Street

Built in 1910, this charming house is a variation on a very typical structure in the Boulevard Park neighborhood, a “high-water” bungalow. Like other modest homes of its type, it sits on a raised basement and has a comfortable, open porch across its front. Characteristic bungalow details include the front staircase framed by clinker-brick walls, the clinker-brick pillars, and the wooden columns that support the porch roof. These columns are squared and fluted, however, unlike the smooth rounded columns found on many other high-water bungalows. Other typical features include the exposed rafters beneath the deep overhanging eaves and the use of geometric patterns in the woodwork and windows, some of which have leaded glass. A more unusual decorative touch is provided by the curved wooden brackets that are attached to the tops of the porch columns and inside the eaves that frame the front gable.

The man who built the house and who was its first resident, Peter Guillot, owned Merchant Tailor Cleaning and Repair on 1010 8th Street in downtown Sacramento. He was followed by William Steinkamp, owner of R. C. Steinkamp Wines, Liquor, Beer, and Ice (“for Family Trade Only”). A later owner, Vito C.

Riolo, was an employee of the Southern Pacific Railroad, like many residents of Boulevard Park in the first decades of the 20th century.

2117 F Street was one of seven houses included in the 2009 SOCA Home Tour of Boulevard Park, and this article is adapted from the Home Tour Brochure.



Wanted: More House Stories!

Do you enjoy reading the short “Historic Homes” articles that appear in each issue of *Park Beat*? Would you like to contribute a story about a house you know well in the Boulevard Park neighborhood? For the past several years, the editors of *Park Beat* have been printing articles adapted from the brochure composed several years ago by the Historic Boulevard Park Committee, *Boulevard Park: A Walking Tour* (with line illustrations by Ed Cox). Fine as it is, the brochure does not cover every house in the neighborhood and we would like to encourage readers of *Park Beat* to contribute short articles about homes they have researched. Typically the articles are short – around 300 words – and include information about the first owners of the home as well as its more distinctive architectural features. However, if a house has other interesting stories to tell, those could be emphasized instead. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact the editor of *Park Beat*, Asha Jennings, or any board member.

Committees

Membership: Sally Flory-O’Neil, 446-3390

Preservation: Margaret Buss, 444-0406

Park Beat Production Team

Editor: Asha Jennings, 803-7409, ashajennings@gmail.com

Advertising Manager: Jim Younkin, 997-5081, jayounkin@gmail.com

Graphic Designer: Katworks, 707-865-2899, katworks@comcast.net

Reproduction: Tri-City Technologies, 503-5300

Block Captain Coordinator: Leo Pauly

Great ad rates! Call Jim at 997-5081 for details.


The deadline for ads and copy for the Apr. issue of *Park Beat* is Mar. 15th by 5pm!

Helping in the Hood

On the bottom of every BPNA membership renewal form is a place where residents can indicate whether or not they are interested in helping with neighborhood activities and events during the year ahead. In case you were wondering where help is needed, here are two suggestions. Probably our most “volunteer intensive” activity is the Spaghetti Dinner, held on Second Saturday every September. This also is one of the most enjoyable and social activities, whether you are helping in the kitchen, serving pasta and salad at the tables below the kitchen windows, selling tickets to the new arrivals, or serving at the beverage table. New and old residents, renters and home-owners, adults and teenagers—everyone is welcome to assist with the event, and the short shifts (only two hours) leave plenty of time for socializing at the dinner tables. Volunteers also are needed at the annual yard sale in early June, one of BPNA’s major fund-raisers. Experienced hands know that helping with the pricing of the objects offers a wonderful opportunity for previewing what will be going on sale the next day. Volunteering at the sale itself also is fun: it is very pleasant to spend a few hours on the tree-shaded meridian at the south end of 22nd Street on a Saturday morning, chatting with neighbors and customers. Finally, if you have a longer-term interest in serving on the Board of Directors in the future, helping with any of the events sponsored by BPNA is a very good way of introducing yourself to the community.

Additional volunteer opportunities are provided by other neighborhood groups and organizations with which BPNA is affiliated. As one of the co-sponsors of the Pops in the Parks event in McKinley Park each June, we always provide a few volunteers to help with various tasks. Members of BPNA also have helped with events sponsored by Friends of Grant Park. Every September, residents serve as docents at the residences on view for SOCA’s Annual Home Tour (see also the article on page 4). Finally, the

continued on page 4



CRESS PAINTING

“When it’s worth doing right”

TOM CRESS
(916) 203-9674

residential, renovations
apartments, commercial
free estimates
Contractor’s Lic. #539004

Service Opportunities for History Buffs

By Catherine Turrill

If you are interested in historic preservation in general and the architecture of Sacramento in particular, there are two local organizations that could benefit from your involvement: Sacramento Heritage, a city board that is dedicated to promoting and preserving Sacramento's architectural heritage, and the Sacramento Old City Association, an all-volunteer organization that promotes "harmonious relationships among the residential and commercial interests in the old city," and which selected Boulevard Park as the site of its annual home tour last year.

Periodically Sacramento Heritage has openings on its board. For example, in February there was a call for people with expertise in housing, preservation, and architecture/construction/development to apply for "at large" positions on the board. Information about these and other city board opportunities is posted on the city clerk's website (www.cityofsacramento.org/clerk) under the category of "Legislative Bodies" ("Board and Commission Information").

In an announcement about recent board openings, Karen Jacques reported that current Sacramento Heritage projects include creating plaques for City Landmarks and developing walking tours of historic areas of Sacramento. The board also completed administering a grant program for the rehabilitation of historic properties. This organization has recently redesigned its website with the guidance of Boulevard Park resident Darby Patterson. If you go to the site (www.sacramentoheritage.org), you will find information about the historic plaque program, historic places grant

program, and calendar program, among other projects. There also is an excellent on-line photo gallery with pictures of Sacramento buildings by board member Lisa Ouellette.

New members also are welcome on the board of the Sacramento Old City Association. As explained by Kay Knepprath, SOCA has a working board and its members have specific assignments. If you prefer to be involved at the committee level, there are several committees that would welcome additional members and offer a variety of activities, including planning, preservation, and membership events. One project that always requires the assistance of many volunteers with diverse talents is the annual home tour. This year the tour will feature the famous row of bungalows in the 2500 block of Q Street. If you are interested in SOCA board or committee service, please call 455-2935 or send an e-mail to kaygenek@saclink.csus.edu. If you simply would like to become a member of SOCA, the application form is posted on its website at www.sacoldcity.org.

Helping in the Hood, continued from page 3

Green Thumb Brigade – that stalwart band of gardeners who maintain the plants and flowers in the traffic-calming devices that contribute to our neighborhood's distinctive greenery – always welcomes additional volunteers. Look for the entry in *Park Beat's* calendar that indicates when and where the Brigade will be on duty that month, or contact Sally Flory O'Neil directly (her contact information is included in the calendar entry).

If you are interested in helping with BPNA's activities, please get in touch with any member of the 2010 Board of Directors (our contact information is on page 3).

EDMONDS AND PHILIPP: *Your Way Home*



Whether buying or selling, call the team that lives & works in Boulevard Park.
Recycling vintage homes in record time is our specialty!

Dave Philipp

REALTOR

916.212.1322

dave@davephilipp.com



Liz Edmonds

REALTOR

916.838.1208

liz@lizedmonds.com



Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Send form with your \$5.00 to \$15.00 check (less than 4 cents a day per household!) 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?