



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

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

Annual Boulevard Park Spaghetti Dinner - Again a Winner!

On September 8, a large and enthusiastic crowd enjoyed a great spaghetti dinner complete with green salad, Sampino's garlic bread, a fine dessert selection, and multiple beverages. Children of all ages enjoyed the family-style hay-wagon rides around the neighborhood, provided by Top Hand Ranch. A talented magician, face painter, and all-around entertainer (one person!) kept the little kids amused throughout the evening.

After the pasta was served, this year's award for "Volunteer of the Year" was presented to Joe Cress. Joe is the guy who keeps track of all phases of the *Park Beat* newsletter distribution, working with our printer and all the delivery block captains who bring each monthly issue to local doorsteps. People like Joe help make our neighborhood a really special place to live!

The annual spaghetti dinner could not happen without the help of neighborhood volunteers who cheerfully take on the many small chores that are essential for the event's success. A special thanks to this year's event organizer, Emily Herbert, who recruited the volunteers and oversaw the entire planning process. We are grateful as well to Liz Edmonds and Monica Vejar for working closely with Emily, and to the four folks who provided the pasta and sauce that are the fundamentals of **any** spaghetti dinner (Eva Harriman and John Skarstad, for making the meat and vegetarian sauces respectively; Lisa Hammersley and Ty Dockery, for preparing the pasta in approved *al dente* fashion). Thanks also to the neighbors who brought the tasty desserts and served them up to the crowd.

Thanks to these other dedicated volunteers as well (listed in alphabetical order): Julie Audell, Kari Bluff; Corey and Marcy Brown; Margaret Buss; Jim Campagni; Deborah Condon, Pat Cosentino; Deniz and Sylvie Cressman, Alejandra Crumpacker; Nita Davidson; Bob Dolquist; Andrew, Kyle, and Sherri Donovan; Marjorie and Tom Duffy; Hal Edmonds; Jeffrey Flack; Mark Gauger; Lisa Hammersley; Paul Harriman; Dave Herbert; Jenny Herbert; JoAnn Kaleel; Jeannie Keltner; Whitney Leeman; Velma Lucero-Garcia; Sherrie Lundstrom; Caro Marks; Jon Marshack; James and Rebecca McDaniel; Giovanni Mercado; Darcy and Samuel Pacheco; Greg Popejoy; Ric Rasmussen; Preston Rudy; Travis Silcox; Catherine Turrill Lupi; Chris Udarbe; Colleen Whalen; and Andy Williams.

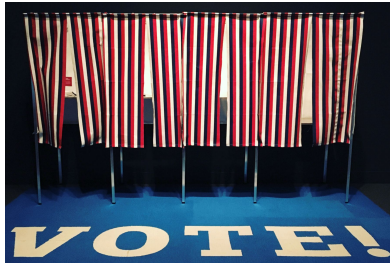
Clearly it takes a village to support a big event like this one, and the other essential requirement is a generous homeowner. Our heartfelt thanks to Pete and Robyn Bramson for welcoming us into their kitchen and backyard. The location has been perfect for us, and we look forward to returning next year.

Welcome Aboard!

The BPNA is soliciting members in good standing (annual dues fully paid up!) to serve on next year's Board of Directors, which is "replenished" every calendar year. The names of all seven candidates will be announced in November or December (their personal statements also will be printed in that month's issue of *Park Beat*) and the elections will be held at the general membership meeting in January. Serving on the BPNA board is a great way to be informed about, and responsive to, issues that affect the quality of life of everyone in the neighborhood. Anyone interested in joining the BPNA board is encouraged to ask a current director about the typical work and time commitment before putting their hat in the ring (for the contact information, see **page 3**).

Sacramento Then & Now: A Local History Blog

Just over five years ago, realtor Scott Williams launched a blog called *Sacramento Then and Now*, offering "before and after" views of older buildings and sites throughout the central city, and also covering some of the big changes, such as the controversial West End project that transformed Capitol Mall in the late 1950s and 1960s (covered by a KCRA documentary: see the blog entry from May 1, 2013). The information provided in these blog entries—supported by historic photos, old maps, vintage postcards, newspaper articles, etc.—is fascinating. To take a peek, go to: <http://sacramentothennandnow.blogspot.com/>



**MORE DAYS
MORE WAYS**

Voting Just Got Easier with Voter's Choice

The classic November photo above, with old-style voting booths, was picked for October's issue of *Park Beat* because everyone will be able to cast their votes as early as **October 9**, when the Ballot Drop Boxes open. Sacramento County is one of five California counties participating in a Voter's Choice pilot project that makes voting easier for everyone, but is very different from the one-day experience we all used to know (*RIP, polling places!*).

The deadline to register to vote is still **15 days** before the election, but you can do it on line, using the county website: <http://www.elections.saccounty.net/Pages/default.aspx> (by 2020, everyone who qualifies to vote and has a driver's license will be automatically registered). To make sure that you are registered, or to check that the correct party affiliation is listed, go to: https://pollingplacelookupen.saccounty.net/LookupPollingPlace_VoterRegLookup.aspx

You also will know you are registered if you receive your ballot in the mail by mid-October (voters were sent postcard notifications in late September). The ballot will be long. There are 13 statewide initiatives. There are important local and statewide races. You will have time to consult your voter information guide, discuss the candidates and issues with friends and family, do some research, and fill in the bubbles. And if you want to leave some bubbles blank, don't worry! Your other votes will still count.

After you have filled out the ballot, you'll put it in the pink envelope (be sure to sign the envelope!), and either drop it in the mail (after putting at least one stamp on the envelope) or deliver it to a **Ballot Drop Box** (as early as **Oct. 9**) or a **Voter Center Location** (as early as **Oct. 27**). For a voting schedule and a list of the ballot drop box and voter center locations, go to: <http://www.elections.saccounty.net/VoteCenters/Pages/November-2018-VoteCenters.aspx>

For residents of Boulevard Park, the closest ballot box location may be McKinley Library. Like the other ballot box locations, it will be open during the library's regular business hours.

It might take an election or two for everyone to get used to this new way of voting in our County. The good news is that participation increased by **12%** in the June election. We have a lot of room for improvement, however--only **34%** of registered voters in Sacramento bothered to vote. Be a good citizen, be a voter!

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Whitney Leeman	whitney.r.leeman@gmail.com
Dylan Wiseman	dylanwwiseman@gmail.com

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
Preservation: Eric Knutson

Park Beat Production Team

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cressj@saccounty.net
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Places to Go, People To See

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

Oct. 5 and 6: Second Annual Sacramento Outdoor Film Festival, Fremont Park (1515 Q Street; **5-10 p.m.**; free admission; food and beverages will be sold on site).

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/259566214652083/>

Oct. 5, 6, and 7: Sacramento Greek Festival, 616 Alhambra Boulevard. See article on **page 5**.

Website: <http://sacramentogreekfestival.com>

Sat., Oct. 6: "Haunted Sacramento," tour in the Old City Cemetery (10 a.m.).

Website:

<https://www.historicoldcitycemetery.org/upcoming-events>

Sat., Oct. 6: A Place Called Sacramento Film Festival, Crest Theatre, 1013 K (doors open at 6 p.m.; admission charged). **Website:**

<https://www.crestsacramento.com/event/1740431-2018-place-called-sacramento-sacramento/>

Tues., Oct. 9: 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.

Fri., Oct. 12: Dia de los Muertos Fiesta 2018, California Museum, 1010 O S. (6-10 p.m.; admission charged). For information, go to the website:

<https://www.sacramento365.com/event/dia-de-los-muertos-fiesta-2018/>

Oct. 12-13: 51st annual Oktoberfest Celebration, Sacramento Turn Verein, 3349 J St. (6 p.m.-midnight on Fri.; 3 p.m.-midnight on Sat.; admission charged).

Website: <http://sacramentoturnverein.com/oktoberfest/fest-info/>

Sat., Oct. 13: Welcome Back the Salmon! Friends of the River Banks event at Sutter's Landing (starting at **10 a.m.**) See article on **page 6**.

Places to Go, People To See (cont.)

Sat., Oct. 13: Beautiful Bounty Rose Garden tour, Old City Cemetery (10 a.m.).

Website:

<https://www.historicoldcitycemetery.org/upcoming-events>

Sat., Oct. 13: Second Saturday ArtWalk. Galleries around town will be open to present individual and group shows of artists' work.

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

Sun., Oct. 14: Sacramento French Film Festival Mini-Fest: all day event at the Esquire Imax Theatre, 1211 K St. **Website:**

<https://www.sacramentofrenchfilmfestival.org/email/>

Sat., Oct. 20: 71st Sacramento Armenian Food Festival, hosted by Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Church, 2620 Capitol Ave. (11 a.m.-8 p.m.; admission charged).

Website: <https://www.armenianfoodfest70.org>

Sun., Oct. 21: "Pay-What-You-Wish" at the Crocker (every third Sunday of the month)

Oct. 26-28: 21st Annual Sacramento Arts Festival, Convention Center, 1400 J St. (10-6 Fri. and Sat.; 10-5 on Sunday; admission charged).

For more information and for a discount on the admission, go to the website: <http://www.sacartsfest.com/index.html>

Sat., Oct. 27: Flick or Treat at Raley Field: family-friendly event with trick-or-treating, games, prizes, and the movie *Coco* (gates open at 4:30; admission charged).

Website: <https://www.milb.com/sacramento/ballpark/flick-or-treat>

... And, looking ahead to early November:

Tues., Nov. 6: Last day to vote in the Statewide Election! All Vote Center locations will be open from **7a.m. to 8p.m.** (article on **page 2**)

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

Final planning for the September 8 Spaghetti Dinner was the first item on the agenda (see the article on **page 1**). After winding up those details, the board members turned to a topic that has been of great concern to local residents, a cannabis cultivation and distribution business planned for the industrial building on the southwest corner of 20th and E Streets. Those opposed to such a business in our neighborhood are encouraged to contact Vice Mayor Steve Hansen's office. A project worrying many of our neighbors to the east, a large underground water/sewage storage vault in McKinley Park (see the September issue of *Park Beat*), was also discussed. The construction area will extend from the Rose Garden building to the tennis courts, disrupting park activities for two years or more (for more details, see the article on **page 4**). A topic receiving much more favorable neighborhood attention is the completion of the Two Rivers bike trail on the south side of the American River. Land necessary for a westward extension of the trail, connecting it to the section near Richards Boulevard, is currently available for sale. Also discussed was SB-905, a bill passed last month that will extend the bar and restaurant liquor sales deadline from the currently-observed 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. (scheduled to go in effect as a pilot program until 2020).

Planning for this year's **Holiday Party (December 8)** was next up on the agenda. Neighbors interested in hosting this year's event at their home should get in touch with any BPNA board member (for their contact information, see the Board section at the top of this page)

The Trees of Midtown: Silver Maple

The Silver Maple is a fast-growing deciduous tree occasionally found in the midtown area. Following World War II, silver maples were commonly used to replace American Elms killed by Dutch elm disease. They were preferred as a landscaping and street tree in suburban developments and in cities due to their rapid growth and high tolerance for urban environments. However, they fell out of favor because their brittle wood was problematic in storms, they produce numerous unwanted volunteer seedlings, and they have a shallow root system.



Silver maples can be quite attractive if they are carefully pruned at the start. The long slender stalks of the leaves allow a striking effect even in a light breeze as the downy silver undersides are exposed. The autumn color is less pronounced compared with many other maple species, usually showing just a pale yellow.

Wildlife uses the silver maple in many ways. The large rounded buds are an important food source for squirrels in parts of the eastern U.S., this tree's natural range. The seeds are a food source for chipmunks, squirrels, and birds. The bark can be eaten by beaver and deer. The trunks tend to produce cavities which can shelter raccoons, opossums, and owls.

Native Americans used the sap of silver maples to make sugar, medicine, and bread. They also used the wood for making baskets and furniture. Today the wood is used for furniture, flooring, musical instruments, and tool handles. Maple wood pulp can be used to make paper. To see a mature silver maple in midtown, visit the southeast corner of 21st and "D" Streets (photo above).

The McKinley Park Water Vault and Where to Learn More About it

Park Beat readers who would like to learn more about the McKinley Park Water Vault should consult both the city website (<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/McKinleyWaterVault>) and the website developed by residents who oppose it (<http://savemckinleypark.com>). Be sure to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and its appendices, available via the city website. City-sponsored public meetings about the project will be announced on that same website. If you wish to be part of the discussion about the water vault project, attend the city council meetings where it is on the agenda. You also can write or call the mayor and city council members to express your concerns. To be added to the email list serving residents opposed to the project, send an email to: Halt-The-Vault@sonic.net



Record Attendance at the 2018 Historic Home Tour

The autumn weather co-operated beautifully and everyone seems to have enjoyed their strolls through the historic Capitol Mansions neighborhood on Sunday, September 16. Over 900 people participated in Preservation Sacramento's home tours this year. The greater Boulevard Park neighborhood was well represented by tour registrants and, most important of all, enthusiastic volunteers (house captains, docents, and workers). Photos of several of the homes, many of the participants, and a sampling of the restored "Model A" cars parked along the curbs were posted on the *Comstock Magazine* blog the week after the tour. Also taking place that day was the formal unveiling of the distinctive "sign-toppers" that were installed at the intersections in the Capitol Mansions neighborhood a few days before the tour (a green version of the sign-topper is pictured above this article).

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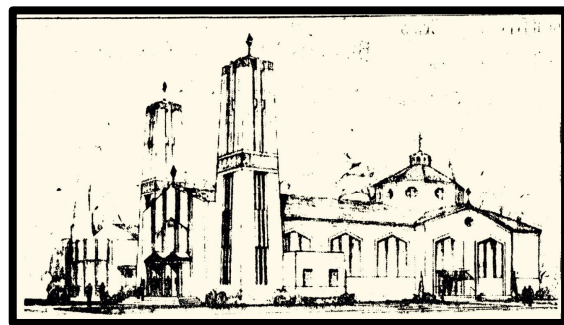
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Come shout *Opa* at the 55th Annual Greek Festival!

Last year the annual Greek Festival was held for the first time in the spacious new courtyard beside the church of the Annunciation at 616 Alhambra Boulevard. Visitors felt like they had been transported to an actual village square in Greece, with the food, the music, the dancing, the booths, the crafts, the art, and the opportunities to visit the historic church. The festival starts at 11 on Friday, October 5 (**with free admission until 3 p.m.**). From 3-10 p.m. on Friday, noon-10 p.m. on Saturday, October 6; and noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday, October 7, adults and children age 12 and older will pay \$5 admission (*children under 12 are free*). For more information, including a tantalizing list of the many typical foods and beverages that will be available at the festival, go to: <http://sacramentogreekfestival.com>

Founded in 1920, begun in 1921, and consecrated in 1934, Sacramento's first church of the Annunciation, located at 620 N Street, served the "oldest Greek Orthodox parish between the San Francisco Bay area and Salt Lake City." The building permit for the present church, located at the corner of Alhambra and F Street (600 Alhambra), was issued on September 1, 1950, a few days after the architectural drawing was printed in *The Sacramento Bee*. Both the church and its original social hall (since replaced) were built by the Erickson Construction Company. They were designed by Sacramento architect Clarence C. Cuff (1871-1965).

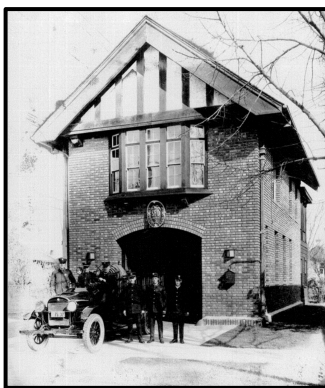


Boulevard Park's Fire House

After the earthquake and fires devastated San Francisco in 1906, Sacramento's fire chief, Henry A. Guthrie, said that he thought our city needed two new fire houses, one serving the northern part of the city, the other for the southern part. Within a year the city had purchased lots in both neighborhoods—one on 20th between C and D, and one on 22nd between S and T.



Left: Under Construction



Right: Fully Equipped



Right: Repurposed

By Fall 1911 the contractor (Murcell & Haley) and the architects had been selected for the two new structures. The Boulevard Park fire house was assigned to E. C. Hemmings, and the 22nd Street fire house was assigned to Rudolph Herold (although the city had to over-ride the objections of residents of Poverty Ridge, who feared that a firehouse would be a blot on its beauty!). The firehouse on 20th Street was finished by 1912 and fully operational by 1913. Originally called Chemical Engine Company No. 3 and expected to cost \$5,580 (in 1911), the 20th Street fire house was built mainly of brick. The more modern (and slightly less expensive) 22nd Street fire house was built of reinforced concrete.

As described in the Boulevard Park Historic District nomination, our little firehouse is in a Tudor Revival style, with half-timbering in its upper gable. Other picturesque details include the two brackets with carved human faces projecting beneath the three-sided window bay and the cartouche that serves as a keystone in the center of the arch over the entryway. That entry is now mainly walled up, but originally it was a wide opening to accommodate the "chemical engines." The cartouche is inscribed SFD Firehouse 4, the name and number later assigned to the building.

In the 1930s, the city decided that this and two other firehouses were obsolete and put the properties up for sale. Firehouse 4 was purchased by the Junipero Serra Hall Association (part of the Young Men's Institute) in 1936 and used as a meeting hall until 1960, when it was sold yet again and turned into professional offices. The firehouse has since been converted to residential use but remains one of the more unusual buildings in the Boulevard Park neighborhood.

Still Welcoming Back Those Salmon



For the past twelve or thirteen years, the **Friends of the River Banks** have been going to the edge of the American River near Sutter's Landing to look for and greet the returning Chinook salmon as they make their way upstream (a few Steelhead salmon also may show up, if the water is cold enough—they like temperatures of 56 degrees or less). Sometimes a curious sea lion swims by, too. And there almost always are sightings of the usual inhabitants, such as river otters, turtles, egrets, cormorants, ospreys, ducks, and geese (the photo above was taken in October 2016).

As of this writing, plans for the **October 13** event still are being finalized, but typically there are several informed volunteers on hand, including a California Department of Fish and Wildlife interpreter from the Nimbus Fish Hatchery. Because this is a very family-friendly event, there also are salmon-related activities for young folks. Please bring them along! (*and possibly a change of clothes for the little ones, in case they get wet on the water's edge*) Participants will be meeting at the far north end of 28th Street, near the skateboard park, at 10 a.m. (but check the FORB calendar first for updates: <https://www.friendsoftheriverbanks.org/calendar.html>).

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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

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