



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.

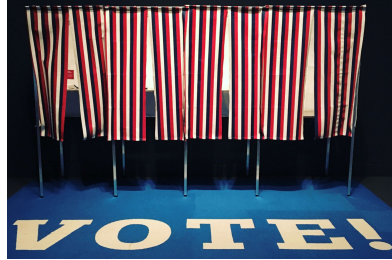
Clearly it takes a village to support a big event like this one, and the other essential requirement is a generous homeowner. Our heartfelt thanks to Pete and Robyn Bramson for welcoming us into their kitchen and backyard. The location has been perfect for us, and we look forward to returning next year.

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://sacramentothentandnow.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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