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of greater
Boulevard Park



June
2025

BOULEVARD PARK'S *PARK BEAT*





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COMMUNITY YARD SALE!

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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OPTION A

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Hunt for Treasure at the Community Yard Sale

The Community Yard Sale is back with a new location and a new twist! Similarly to last year, you can join in on both the selling and buying at a communal “flea market”, this time held at Washington Park, behind Washington Elementary School (1631 F Street). Neighbors can spend the morning perusing dozens of stalls while enjoying music and eats from Sabrocita Tacos. New this year is the ability to sign up for the neighborhood yard sale map, enabling you to sell those hard-to-transport goods from right in front of your home for just a \$10 fee. Sellers must live within Boulevard Park, Marshall Park, or New Era Park, or be parents of Washington Elementary School students. No similar restriction exists for purchasers, so get the word out to help move all of those dusty treasures into new homes!

Before and After Stories of Washington Park



The Nielsen/Van Hall house today. (Catherine Turrill-Lupi)

The tree-shaded, grassy park behind Washington Elementary School was created in the mid-1970s, making it one of the younger parks in midtown. However, it has an interesting back story. From the 1870s until the 1890s, this entire block, bordered by 16th, 17th, E, and F Streets, was owned by Governor Leland Stanford, who had one of his training stables here. The stable's most famous occupant was the racehorse known as Occident, one of the inspirations for the sign-toppers used in Boulevard Park today.

In January 1897, several years after Governor Stanford's death, the block was acquired by realtor Charles E. Wright,

a founder of the firm that later developed Boulevard Park. The barn was sold, and the vacant lots were gradually filled with buildings, including a row of Victorian houses along the west side of 17th Street between E Street and F Street.

These houses and that section of the street were removed in the mid-1970s, following the demolition of the old Washington School (formerly at 1716 E Street), the construction of the new school building facing 18th Street, and the decision to convert the east half of the old Stanford Block into a minipark.

One of the Victorian houses removed from the park's site was built for a Danish immigrant in Spring 1897. Soren Nielsen, his wife Andrea, and their son Jack lived at 508 17th Street for about two years. Charles Van Hall, a German-born cabinet maker and owner of a lumber mill, was here with his wife Minnie from 1908 until 1929. According to his advertisements, Van Hall was a "manufacturer and builder of store, office, and bank fixtures," making cabinets and display cases to order. Possibly he used his cabinetry skills to modernize the woodwork inside his home.

In June 1976, when Washington Park was being created, the Nielsen/Van Hall house was moved from 17th Street to an empty lot at 614 19th Street. It is still there today, a charming Queen Anne cottage with decorative shingles in its front gable, Eastlake-style spindles in the upper section of the front porch, and finely crafted interior woodwork.

49th Annual Home Tour (Sunday, September 21): Volunteers Welcome!

This year Preservation Sacramento's historic home tour will be held in South Land Park Hills, where developer Joseph Eichler built a new neighborhood of Mid-Century Modern homes. The tour will include four Eichler homes from 1955, and a 1960s home by a local developer. All five of the featured homes will be staffed by volunteer docents. To sign up as a volunteer, go to www.preservationsacramento.org/volunteer and specify "Home Tour volunteer" in the Additional Information section.

Volunteers Wanted

Sign up to help out today!

Want to get involved? Consider helping out with one of these great events! We are always seeking neighbors to help plan and organize all of the fun offerings we provide throughout the year. Events we have planned so far:

- Neighborhood Yard Sale (June 7th)
- National Night Night Out (August 5th)
- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser (September 13th)
- Halloween (mid-October)
- Holidays (early/mid-December)



In addition to these fantastic opportunities, **we are always in need of Park Beat Block Captains**. These are the wonderful people who help deliver this newsletter to your door! Finally, note that we have an **open position for our newsletter designer**, who would help put together these papers.

To sign up for any of these great ventures, contribute ideas of your own, or just put your name in to help when it's needed, visit boulevardpark.org/volunteer or scan the above QR code.

Report from the BPNA Board

The BPNA Board welcomed three guests and a couple of neighborhood residents at the monthly meeting on May 15. The first guests were two members of SMUD's Community Engagement team. Karla Gonzalez, a Community Impact ambassador, was the spokesperson. She told attendees about SMUD's projected rate increases. If approved by the SMUD Board on June 19, the 6% increase will be in two increments of 3% each. The funds will be used for electric service maintenance, fire prevention measures, and similar programs. The average residential customer will see an approximately \$4.35 per month increase starting Jan. 2026 and another \$4.85 increase starting Jan. 2027. Residents are encouraged to attend the public hearing on June 4 (see <https://www.smud.org/Rate-Information/2026-2027-proposed-rate-changes>).

Our third guest, D4 City Council member Phil Pluckebaum, spoke of the challenges that the City faces this year due to a budget shortfall. (Note: *Sacramento City Council is scheduled to vote on the proposed FY 2025-2026 on June 10. Readers interested in learning more about the budget can go to: <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/finance/budget>.*) On the brighter side, Phil is hosting the 1st Annual Capital City Jazz Festival in Old Sacramento later this month (May 24); the swimming pool in Southside Park will be reopened in June after a 3-year closure; and the Clunie Pool at McKinley Park, opening on May 24, will have an exciting summer schedule (<https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/ypce/aquatics/pools/clunie>). Phil wound up his report with information about some high-tech systems that the City may implement to improve the enforcement of traffic laws and reduce vehicle noise. To receive District 4's email newsletter, send a request via its website (<https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/mayor-council/district-4>).

The meeting ended with a discussion of several topics of neighborhood interest, such as the creation of a Grant Park Improvement Committee, the Community Yard Sale hosted by BPNA in Washington Park on (June 7: see article on page 1), and advance planning for other events this year.

Join Us for the June Neighborhood Mixer!

In March we hosted our first Neighborhood Mixer to help neighbors connect and learn about the great opportunities we have in store for this year. We're going to run it back again on **Friday, June 13th from 4 PM to 7 PM in the courtyard of 2216 H Street**. Food will be provided!

2025 BPNA Membership Form

Please send this form with your dues payment (recommended: \$5-15 per adult member, per year) to:
BPNA, P. O. Box 160811, Sacramento CA 95816-0811

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Amount paid: _____

Please mark as appropriate:

- ☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member
- ☐ Interested in Volunteering
- ☐ Would like to receive the *Park Beat* newsletter by email (paper copies are delivered only to residents living in the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood)



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Connect with the BPNA!



Become a member at
boulevardpark.org/join or
scan this QR code or fill out
the form above!



Follow us on Instagram!

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Riding Through Summer on the Delta Breeze

By Arjun S. Byju

As we approach June and triple digit mercury, I find myself filled with apprehension. Yellow grass, sunburns, sky-high utility bills—a dismal vernal free association. Having lived for over a decade in some of the coldest, darkest, and snowiest parts of the country, I long ago vowed to not only endure winter, but embrace it. This meant cultivating activities principally enjoyed amid frost—cross-country skiing, snowball fights, hot cocoa by the fireplace. My wife and I welcomed the Danish concept of *hygge*, roughly translated as “coziness,” and filled our home with candles, soft lights, and plenty of tea.

But, what would *hygge* look like during a Central Valley summer?

It starts, I propose, with *breeziness*. Delta breeziness.

Embrace an air of leisure—of untroubled, simple, delights. Roll up the rug and set your feet on cold tile. Have a beverage on the porch: lemonade or for those who imbibe, maybe a *tinto de verano*. Chilled foods are a must: cucumber sandwiches on airy white bread, gazpacho, watermelon, key lime pie, fresh berries with whipped cream. Beach body season be damned, make sure you have all manner of slushies, popsicles, and ice cream, the kind that melts into the crook of your thumb.

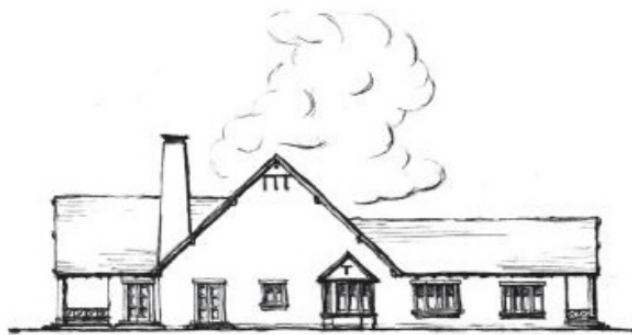
Open windows and hang chimes. Read a book under the shade of a tree. Jump in a mountain lake with all your clothes on. Picnic on a boulevard. Tidy out the garage for a yard sale (BPNA has one on June 7!). Invest in solar powered lights. Line dry laundry; they'll be crisp in an hour. Avail yourself of the evening sun and take a post-dinner stroll, what the English once called a “constitutional.” Drive in movies, pool parties, barbecues—sure, these frivolities can be had year-round in California, but why not save, and savor, them for the dog days of September?

Even health-conscious decisions can be effervescent. A sun hat and shades immediately lend a sense of mystery and glamour to which celebrities can only aspire. A scented sunscreen feels less like a chore and more like a luxury. You might drink more water if it's in a chic bottle. But should you forget your chosen vessel, you might find yourself stumbling upon a well-stocked water cooler provided by a neighborhood resident.

Please write in with any customs, hobbies, or daily delights that help you survive—no, thrive—in the summer by sending an email to bpna@boulevardpark.org!



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June 2025: Places to Go, People to See

TIP: For more information about public events this month, go to: sacramento365.com

Most weekend mornings, 9 to Noon: Join volunteers in beautification tasks at Sutter's Landing Park. Contact FOSL's volunteer coordinator, Betsy Weiland (flweiland@yahoo.com; or 279-202-4677).

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market (8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th St. between I and L Sts.; K St. between 19th and 21st Sts.). Website: <https://exploremidtown.org/midtown-markets/>

Every Sunday: Sacramento Certified Farmers' Market (8 a.m. to noon; under the freeway at 8th and W Sts.; free parking).

Wed., Jun. 4: Public hearing about proposed SMUD rate changes, at the headquarters auditorium, 6201 S Street (6 p.m.). For more information, go to: <https://www.smud.org/Rate-Information/2026-2027-proposed-rate-changes>

Fri., Jun. 6: Concerts in the Park: "Dexter and the Moonrocks," César Chávez Plaza, 910 I St. (6 to 9:30 p.m.; free). Website: <https://www.downtownsac.org/downtown-sac-experiences/concerts-in-the-park/>

Sat., Jun. 7: BPNA's Neighborhood Yard Sale, this time held at Washington Park, 1631 F St. (9 AM - 1 PM). See article on page 1.

Sat., Jun. 7: "Soiled Doves," guided walking tour in the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (5 p.m.; advance ticket purchase required). Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sat., Jun. 7: East Sacramento's "Pops in the Park," with music by Clean Slate in East Portal Park (6 p.m.; free admission; food and beverages for sale). Website: <https://www.eastsacpopsinthepark.org/>

Fri., Jun. 13: Volunteer Interest Mixer at 2216 H Street (4-7 p.m.; food provided). Meet your neighbors and learn about opportunities to volunteer in the community.

Fri., Jun. 13: Concerts in the Park: "The Expendables," César Chávez Plaza, 910 I St. (6 to 9:30 p.m.; free). Website: <https://www.downtownsac.org/downtown-sac-experiences/concerts-in-the-park/>

Jun. 14 & 15: Sacramento Pride Festival at the Capitol Mall, between 7th and 3rd Streets (Noon to 9 on Sat.; Noon to 6 on Sun.; admission charged); Sacramento Pride March, from Southside Park to the State Capitol (Sun. only, starting at 11 a.m.). Website: <https://sacramentopride.org/about/about-us/>

Sat., Jun. 14: "Art Elephant Sale & Indigo Dye Day," Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10 to 2).

Sat., Jun. 14: "Capital Creative Showcase," an annual celebration of the region's gaming and creative industries (Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I St., 11 to 5; admission charged). Website: <https://www.capitalcreativeshowcase.com/>

Sat., Jun. 14: "Odder than the Odd Fellows," guided walking tour in the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (5 p.m.; advance ticket purchase required). Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sat., Jun. 14: East Sacramento's "Pops in the Park," with music by Big Crush in Bertha Henschel Park (6 p.m.; free admission; food and beverages for sale). Website: <https://www.eastsacpopsinthepark.org/>

Sat., Jun. 14: "Juneteenth Block Party at Forty Acres," presented by St. Hope at Esther's Park, 3408 3rd Ave. (4 to 9 p.m.; admission free). Live music, performances, car show, family fun, vendors, and more.

Thur., Jun. 19: BPNA Board Meeting, Washington Elementary School, 520 18th St. (6:30 to 8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Noah Mebane for information.

Fri., Jun. 20: "Sacramento Juneteenth: Gospel Under the Stars," free outdoor concert at William Land Park (6 to 9 p.m.).

Fri., Jun. 20: Concerts in the Park: "Winona Fighter," César Chávez Plaza, 910 I St. (6 to 9:30 p.m.; free). Website: <https://www.downtownsac.org/downtown-sac-experiences/concerts-in-the-park/>

Jun. 21-22: Bromeliad Show & Sale, hosted by the Bromeliad & Carnivorous Plant Society at the Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10 to 4 on Sat.; 10 to 3 on Sun.).

Sat., Jun. 21: East Sacramento's "Pops in the Park," with music by Apple Z in McKinley Park (6 p.m.; free admission; food and beverages for sale). Website: <https://www.eastsacpopsinthepark.org/>

Fri., Jun. 27: Concerts in the Park: "Jackie Greene," César Chávez Plaza, 910 I St. (6 to 9:30 p.m.; free). Website: <https://www.downtownsac.org/downtown-sac-experiences/concerts-in-the-park/>

Sat., Jun. 28: "Saxophone Sounds: Echoes of America," with saxophonist Gabe Read and pianist Jason Sia, at Geery Theatre, 2130 L Street (1 p.m.; admission charged: discounts for seniors and students). Website: <https://www.saxophoneread.com/shows>

Sat., Jun. 28: "Stonemasons," guided walking tour in the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (5 p.m.; advance ticket purchase required). Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

Sat., Jun. 28: East Sacramento's "Pops in the Park," with music by Tom Rigney and Flambeau in Glenn Hall Park (6 p.m.; free admission; food and beverages for sale). Website: <https://www.eastsacpopsinthepark.org/>

And looking ahead to early July ...

Fri., July 4: Independence Day concert by the Capital Brass Quartet, on the grass in the park in the center of the F, G, 21st and 22nd Street block (3 p.m.). Bring lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the music.

July 6-27: Capitol Junior Ranger program, with free sessions held in Capitol State Park on Sunday mornings (ages 7 to 12). These sessions fill up quickly, so book soon! For more information: <https://capitolmuseum.ca.gov/learn/capitol-junior-rangers-program/>

The Doctor Is *In*: Health Notes for Boulevard Park Residents

By Dr. Jessica Nunez de Ybarra

Valley Fever (also called coccidioidomycosis or “cocci”) is a disease caused by the *Coccidioides* fungus that grows in the soil and dirt in some areas of California and the southwestern United States; most cases of Valley Fever in California are reported from the Central Valley and Central Coast regions of the state. Both Stanislaus County and San Joaquin County reported a dramatic surge in cases of Valley Fever last December. The fungus can infect the lungs and cause respiratory symptoms, including cough, fever, difficulty with breathing, and tiredness or fatigue. Anyone who lives, works, or travels in an area where the Valley Fever fungus grows can breathe in these fungus spores from outdoor dust without knowing it and become infected. Valley Fever is not contagious, meaning it cannot spread from one person or animal to another. Valley Fever and COVID-19 share many of the same symptoms, including fever, cough, fatigue, and body aches. If you are experiencing these symptoms, isolate yourself from others and contact your healthcare provider immediately. Usually, Valley Fever is diagnosed using a blood test. There is no vaccine to prevent this illness. To get more information, visit the new California Department of Public Health Dashboard at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/ValleyFeverProvisionalDashboard.aspx>.

Wild Mushrooms of Sacramento's River Areas

Mushrooms are nature's decomposers, breaking down organic material to recycle nutrients back to the soil. Roughly 14,000 species of mushroom are known. The fruiting body of a fungus, mushrooms often consist of a stem, a cap, and gills. The gills produce microscopic spores which fall in a rain of powder to help the fungus spread.

Mushrooms have been valued as a human food source since antiquity. In modern times, gathering wild mushrooms for culinary or medicinal purposes is popular throughout much of Eurasia, Australia, and much of temperate regions of North America. Since some poisonous mushroom species can be extremely difficult to distinguish from safe mushroom species, expert knowledge is needed before gathering them in the wild. Wild mushroom varieties common to the Sacramento riparian ecosystem include common puffball, scarlet elf cup, honey mushroom, artist's conk, and turkey tail.

If you are interested in learning more about wild mushrooms in our region, go to the website of the Sacramento Area Mushroomers, a local club affiliated with the North American Mycological Association (<https://sacmush.com/index.html>). They organize wild mushroom-hunting forays and other educational events for their members. Three years ago, their president, mushroom expert Jim Adams, spoke to the group about mushroom hunting in the region and beyond (a video recording of his lecture is linked to their website). The website also has a very useful list of publications, PDFs, and online resources. Be sure to read its cautionary statement about “Collecting and Eating Wild Mushrooms.”

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