



## PARK BEAT

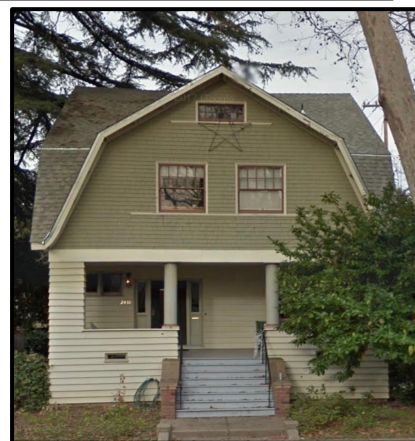
*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ■ Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 ■ August 2019

### 36<sup>th</sup> National Night Out: Tuesday, August 6



This progressive potluck dinner and community-building event, held annually on the first Tuesday in August, is a great way to see old friends and make new ones in the Boulevard Park and Marshall School/New Era Park neighborhoods. A few of the beat officers are likely to be present, and city representatives usually attend too, as they make the rounds of the different NNO events throughout Sacramento.



See page 4 article on Hull and Allair home

Please come to all three courses if you can (join the informal parade as we walk between venues), and please bring a favorite dish to share with your neighbors. Especially during the *hors d'oeuvres* course, participants may want to bring bug spray and bottled water (other beverages also will be provided). It can be hot on the grassy median at that hour, despite the tree canopy.



**6 p.m.:** *Hors d'oeuvres* course on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street median, near C Street

**7 p.m.:** *Entrée* course outside the Hull and Allair home, H Street near 25<sup>th</sup>

**8 p.m.:** Dessert course in Marshall Park, near the tot-lot (28<sup>th</sup> and I Streets)



## Hold Your Horses!

Leave those steeds at home on **Saturday, September 14**, the night of the annual Spaghetti Dinner, because Top Hand Ranch will be again providing a hay-wagon, driver, and two horses for free rides around our neighborhood. The hay-wagon rides are a traditional highlight of one of BPNA's most popular events (sometimes other entertainment is provided as well). The dinner will be held at its usual venue, the backyard of 2101 G Street, the historic Cranston-Geary House, from 5:00-7:30 p.m.

This event would not be possible without the help of enthusiastic volunteers. You can choose between several assignments: (1) the set-up squad, on Saturday morning (starting around 9 a.m.; one hour); (2) the kitchen squad (tasks include stirring sauces, monitoring pasta, tossing salads, replenishing bread baskets, and lowering refilled bowls of food down to the servers outside: 45-minute shifts); (3) the food and beverage service squad (also for 45-minute shifts); and (4) the clean-up squad (Sunday morning, starting around 9 a.m.; about one hour). Please contact **Emily Herbert at (916) 444-6690** if you would like to volunteer and be part of some great neighborhood camaraderie.

**Note:** Due to an editing error, the wrong date was printed in the June issue of *Park Beat*.

The Spaghetti Dinner will be on **September 14**, not September 7.

## The Trees of Midtown: White Birch

European White Birch trees are among the most popular deciduous trees in the Western USA. Delicate and lacy, its white bark marked with dark clefts, this tree is successful planted singly or in groups, and is especially attractive in the winter months.

The light shade provided by its foliage allows many other plants to grow nicely beneath it. In Sacramento, birch trees are usually seen in private yards or public parks, where they can receive the watering and fertilizing they need.



The birch is a fairly hardy tree, but does not tolerate drought and is highly susceptible to aphid attack, which can result in the dripping of sticky honeydew onto patios and driveways. Native to Europe and parts of Asia, the white birch typically grows to about 30 or 40 feet tall in our area. Its light seeds are easily blown by the wind and, in some states, the birch is considered invasive and difficult to control. The birch supports a large variety of butterflies, moths, and other insects which depend on its leaves and other tree parts. Commercial uses of the white birch include firewood, lumber, pulp, plywood, veneer, parquet blocks, furniture, kitchen utensils, and skis. The bark can be heated and the resin collected to make an excellent waterproof glue. The resin can also be tapped and used in a way similar to maple syrup. Traditional medicinal uses include use as a diuretic and for relief from eczema and psoriasis. Birch leaves turn yellow in the fall before dropping. The photograph shows a European white birch in Capitol Park, opposite the Hyatt Hotel.

## Be Water-wise in These Last Summer Months

For Sacramento residents, the "Spring" watering schedule is in effect until **October 31**.



In the meantime, here are a few reminders. Watering is allowed **any day** of the week for hand-watering, edible gardens or potted plants, car-washing, drip irrigation systems, and soaker hoses. Otherwise, the usual rule applies: residents with even-numbered addresses may water on Wednesdays and Sundays, those with odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays and Saturdays. In all cases, watering should be done only between 7 p.m. and 10 a.m.

For more information, go to the city website <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Utilities/Water/Conservation/Water-Wise-Tools>

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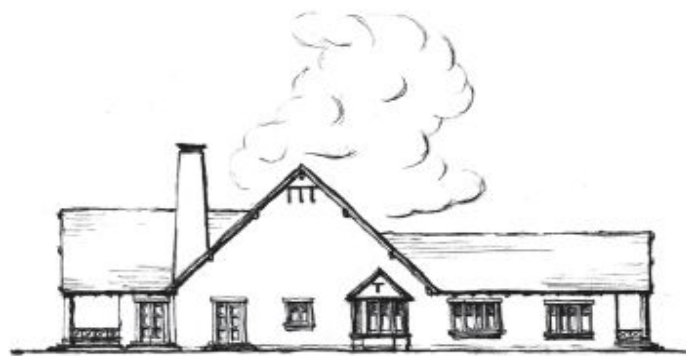
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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life for others who work and live in and around Boulevard Park, and therefore in Sacramento as a whole.

## Committees

**Membership:** Ellen Hunt  
**Preservation:** Jon Marshack

## Park Beat Production Team

**Newsletter Designer:** **Contact Ty Dockery to volunteer**  
**Newsletter Editor:** Catherine Turrill Lupi  
**Webmaster:** Ty Dockery  
**Block Captain Coordinator:** Joe Cress, (916) 698-7938  
[cressj@saccounty.net](mailto:cressj@saccounty.net)

## Places to Go, People To See

**Every Saturday: Yoga in the Park, McKinley Park** (9 a.m.; by the Rose Garden). **Website:**

<http://yogamovesus.org/calendar-items/yoga-in-the-park-mckinley-park-indoors/>

**Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, 20<sup>th</sup> Street between J and L Streets

**Sat., Aug. 3:** Harvest Day 2019, hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County, Fair Oaks Horticultural Center (8 a.m.-2 p.m.). **Website:**

[http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Harvest\\_Day/](http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Harvest_Day/)

**Sat., Aug. 3:** "Mausoleums," free thematic tour of the city cemetery, 1000 Broadway (10 a.m.). **Website:**  
<https://www.historicoldcitycemetery.org/upcoming-events>

**Tues., Aug. 6:** National Night Out: Progressive pot-luck dinner co-sponsored by Boulevard Park NA and Marshall School/New Era Park NA. See article on page 1.

**Aug. 7-11:** River City Wine Week: Celebrating wine and food in Sacramento. **Website:** <http://rivercitywineweek.com>

**Aug. 8-18:** 2019 Wide Open Walls, the west coast's premiere mural festival. **Website:** <https://www.wideopenwalls.com>

**Sat., Aug. 10:** FORB event: "Effects of Climate Change on the River" (meet at Sutter's Landing Park, north end of 28<sup>th</sup> Street, at 10 a.m.). For information and updates, go to:  
<https://www.friendsoftheriverbanks.org>

**Sat., Aug. 10:** Second Saturday ArtWalk. Galleries around town will be open to present individual and group shows of artists' work. **Website:** <http://www.2ndsaturdaysacramento.com>

## Places to Go, People To See (cont.)

**Sat., Aug. 10:** "Gather: Movies at the Fort": two outdoor walls with two films, starting at dusk (*The Fast and the Furious; Mean Girls*). Sutter's Fort, about 8:45 p.m. (free; preceded by a lively art market with music, starting at 5 p.m.). **Website:**  
<http://exploremidtown.org/movie-nights/>

**Tues., Aug. 13:** "Ice Cream Social" with magician Trevor Watt, McKinley Library (free admission; 6-7:30 p.m.).

**Thur., Aug. 22:** Gold Spike Lecture: Prof. Gordon Chang, "The Recovery and Interpretation of the Experiences of Chinese Railroad Workers in North America." California State Railroad Museum, 7 p.m. (admission charged). **Website:**

<http://sachistorymuseum.org/programs-events/gold-spike-lecture-series/>

**Thur., Aug. 29:** "Conversations That Matter: Immigration," at Crocker Art Museum (6:30 p.m., museum admission charged). See article on page 4.

**Website:** <https://www.crockerart.org/event/2045/2019-08-29>

**Sat., Aug. 25:** "Music in the Park": SCNA Summer Park Series in Curtis Park, 6-8 p.m. (free admission). **Website:**  
<https://sierra2.org/event/augconcert/>

**Sat., Aug. 31:** Sacramento NAACP Rhythm & Blues Festival, Miller Regional Park, 2701 Marina View Drive (11 a.m.-7 p.m.; admission charged).

**Sat., Aug. 31:** "Silver Screens and Summer Nights," free outdoor movie series at the Sacramento Hostel, with a showing of *Mean Girls* (925 H Street, 8 p.m.).

... And, looking ahead to early September:

**Mon., Sept. 2:** Labor Day!

**Sat., Sept. 7:** "A Dozen Ways to Die," free thematic tour of the city cemetery, 1000 Broadway (10 a.m.). **Website:**  
<https://www.historicoldcitycemetery.org/upcoming-events>

**Sat., Sept. 7:** Gold Spike Lecture: Glenn Willumson, "Photographing the Transcontinental Railroad." Crocker Art Museum, 2 p.m. (admission charged). **Website:**  
<http://sachistorymuseum.org/programs-events/gold-spike-lecture-series/>

**Help the McKinley Library folks celebrate another great summer reading session on Tuesday, August 13.**



Popular Folsom magician Trevor Wyatt will be on hand to entertain the kids, and there also will be face-painting. Ice cream and face-painting start at 6 p.m., the magic show starts at 6:30. This is a summer event not to be missed. How often are you invited to eat ice cream in or near a library?

## Historic House: 2431 H Street

The spacious tree-shaded courtyard outside the house at 2431 H Street has provided a great location for National Night Out's dinner course over the last several years. However, the imposing corner residence also deserves the attention of NNO participants and other passersby.

The house may have been built in 1902 by its first recorded occupant, a former miner named Henry C. Vandenburg. However its best-known owners were William Geary, his wife Isabella, and other members of the Geary family (from 1906 to about 1920). Once described as the oldest wholesale druggist in the United States, Geary was a native of Canada who came to California in 1862 and settled in Sacramento twenty years later. He rose to president of Kirk, Geary & Company, a flourishing pharmaceutical firm that later was run by his son, William F. Geary. The younger Geary lived briefly at 2431 H with his parents before purchasing the Cranston house at 2101 G Street (the site of BPNA's annual spaghetti dinner) in 1912. Built with a brick foundation and a "balloon" frame, the Geary house has a cross-gambrel design. Each of the four sides has a gable with this distinctive shape, typically associated with Dutch architecture and also seen on other midtown residences from the early 1900s.

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## See School, Go Slow!

As recently announced in the city's e-newsletter, *Sacramento City Express*, the City Council has approved a resolution establishing a **fifteen-mile-per-hour** speed limit near 115 public, private, and charter schools within the City of Sacramento. 225 two-lane residential streets will be affected.

There also will be a public education campaign in the late summer to educate students, parents, and community members

about the dangers of driving at unsafe speeds in the vicinity of schools. Special events highlighting this issue and the new resolution (approved on June 4) will be scheduled in council districts, too.

It is sobering to learn from the same *City Express* article that, in 2016, Sacramento was "the worst city in California for collisions in which a pedestrian under the age of 15 was killed or severely injured." To subscribe to *City Express* and receive regular updates about city services, accomplishments, and plans, go to its website (<https://sacramentocityexpress.com/about/>).

## Conversations that Matter: Crocker Event on August 29

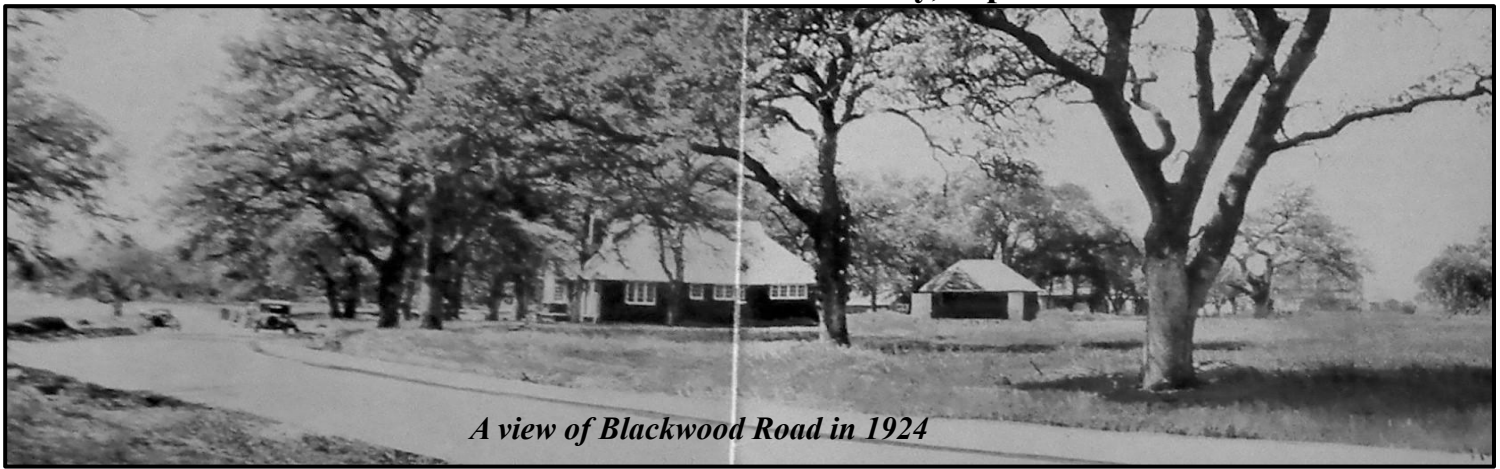
As announced on the museum website, this month's "Conversations that Matter" event will offer both a panel talk and a community discussion about immigration in California, an important issue that is related to themes addressed in two current exhibitions, *Chiura Obata: An American Modern* and *Race to Promontory: The Transcontinental Railroad and the American West*. A panel of local experts will be on hand to discuss the historical, legal, and political components of immigration, including the critical issues faced by immigrants, residents, and citizens today. A moderated community dialogue will follow the panel presentation, which starts at **6:30 p.m.** Admission to the event is free for museum members; nonmembers need to pay only the museum entrance fee. For information about the two exhibitions, go to the museum website (<https://www.crockerart.org/exhibitions>).



## Neighborhood "Tweets"

It has been awhile since we printed a new piece in the "Neighborhood Treat" series that Margaret Buss initiated, but we always are ready to show off what there is to see around Boulevard Park (*dear readers, that is a hint! Your suggestions are welcome*).

For this month's issue of *Park Beat*, we offer a sleepy barn owl, precariously perched at the top of a palm tree in the 300 block of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. This particular owl may have been evicted from another palm tree that used to tower over China Alley, and which was removed recently because its long fronds kept hitting the powerlines below. (S)he is a nice representative of the avian population that generously shares the neighborhood with us.



*A view of Blackwood Road in 1924*

As of this writing, six buildings will be open to the public for the 44<sup>th</sup> Historic Home Tour, held for the first time in Woodlake, North Sacramento. Described by *Sacramento Magazine* as “one of the best kept secrets of local real estate,” the new subdivision dubbed Woodlake was launched in the twenties and grew rapidly through the thirties. The five houses selected for the home tour all were built during this phase of the neighborhood’s history, and range in date from about 1925 to 1937. Several of them represent the period styles associated with Woodlake, whose developer, Carl E. Johnston, was an unabashed Anglophile. Accordingly, many of the streets have English names (such as Oxford, Canterbury, York, Lochbrae, and Blackwood) and the older homes often were influenced by English designs, although French Norman and Spanish Colonial styles also are represented. Mature oaks and other heritage trees abound throughout the neighborhood. At the time Woodlake was founded, Johnston was vice president of the North Sacramento Land Company, which is still in existence and is still run by his family. Its distinctive office building, dating from the 1960s, also will be open to the public on the day of the tour. To purchase tickets in advance for the home tour (reduced price of \$30), go to the website of Preservation Sacramento (<http://www.preservationsacramento.org/hometour>). Tickets also may be purchased for \$35 on the day of the tour, at the PS ticket booth in Woodlake Park, corner of Woodlake Drive and Forrest Street. If you are interested in donating a few hours of your time on the day of the tour, please contact Preservation Sacramento Volunteer Coordinator, Vickie Valine, by email ([yhvaline@cwoc.com](mailto:yhvaline@cwoc.com)) or by phone (916-442-1160). Volunteers perform important services, and in return are eligible for a deep discount on the tour price, paying only \$10 for their ticket.



### From Save-Rite to Simpleton: A New Coffee Shop in Our Midst

In mid-June, Identity Coffees (based at 1430 28<sup>th</sup> Street) opened its second neighborhood affiliate at 701 19<sup>th</sup> Street (the other one is the Westside Café at 289 Third Street in West Sacramento).



The new coffee shop is in the corner building that was converted into a grocery store by J. Paul Green in 1923, and which kept that function under different names until last year (Green’s Grocery, Ideal Grocery, Bargain Market, and finally Save-Rite Market, its name since the late 1940s). However, like the row of houses beside it, this building was constructed as a Delta-style Victorian residence in the late 1800s, and still preserves some of its characteristic gingerbread trim in the upper story. It may be the same as the “desirable” eleven-room dwelling (including a bathroom and a double parlor) that was up for auction at this location in 1881.

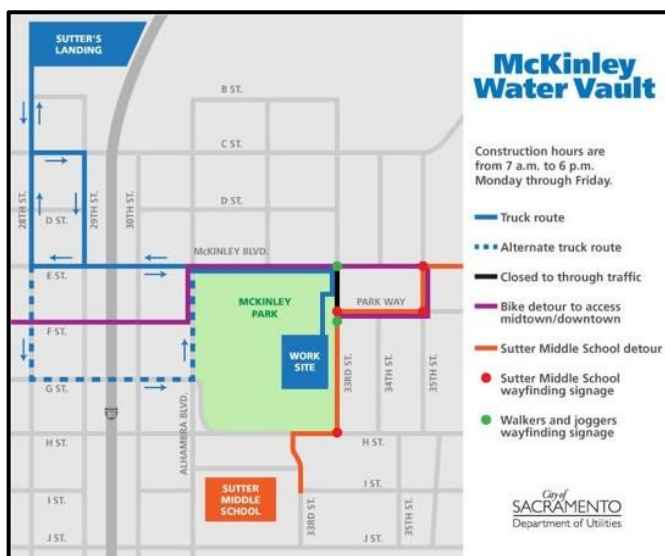
As of this writing, Simpleton is open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with continuous beverage service. The kitchen is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and serves up a variety of breakfast, brunch, and lunch dishes (table service is offered from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Bella Bru provides most of the baked goods, except for the biscuits, which are house-made using a Kentucky recipe provided by one of Simpleton’s employees. The generous windows, facing west and north, fill the coffee shop with light and offer good views of the streets outside. Eventually there will be outdoor seating too.

## Construction Underway on the McKinley Water Vault

Construction of the McKinley Water Vault, the underground storage tank that will hold combined storm water and sanitary sewage during big storms, is underway.

To accommodate construction activity, some areas around the park will be closed or modified. During construction, 33<sup>rd</sup> Street from Park Way to McKinley Boulevard will be closed to traffic. Residents who walk, jog or bike in the area are asked to be aware of their surroundings when they are in close proximity to the construction area and to watch for detour signs.

"The plan in place for this project's construction is to try to mitigate interference for the residents as much as possible," said Department of Utilities Director, Bill Busath. He continued: "This is a critical improvement to the McKinley Park and East Sacramento areas. The project will not only reduce flooding, but will also include significant improvements to the park, such as a new multi-purpose field, improved jogging paths, new restrooms, picnic benches and shade structures, new landscaping, and the addition of more than 60 trees."



## Why Is This Project Needed?

The older portions of Sacramento have a single sewer system that conveys both sanitary sewage and stormwater from homes, businesses and streets. East Sacramento is at the top end of the combined sewer system that flows to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. During heavy storms, the sewer system cannot handle all of the flow, resulting in street flooding and risks to health and the environment. The City of Sacramento is under an enforcement order from the state's Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to correct this problem.

The McKinley Water Vault will temporarily store the combined wastewater during storms to reduce the chance of overflows and street flooding in East Sacramento. Some McKinley Park area residents would prefer that the city replace the combined system with separate stormwater and sanitary sewer systems. But that alternative would cost substantially more and would cause considerably greater disruption, tearing up nearly every street in the area.

## Four Phases of Construction

The McKinley Water Vault construction is broken into four main phases. These include:

- Phase 1 (Summer-Fall 2019): Mobilization, traffic control, site prep and excavation.
- Phase 2 (Fall 2019 to Fall 2020): Concrete vault built.
- Phase 3 (Fall 2020 to Spring 2021): Import dirt to bury the newly constructed vault.
- Phase 4 (Spring-Summer 2021): Park enhancements.

During Phases 1 and 3, excavated dirt will be hauled to and from Sutter's Landing, resulting in increased truck traffic along McKinley Boulevard and C, E, 28th and 29th Streets.

For more information, go to <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Utilities/Wastewater/Current-Projects/McKinley-Water-Vault>. To ask questions or express concerns, please send an email to [MckinleyWaterVault@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:MckinleyWaterVault@cityofsacramento.org) or call (916) 808-5545.

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