



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

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

Spaghetti Western, Boulevard Park Style



Saturday, September 14 - Bar opens at 5 p.m.; dinner is served from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Pete and Robyn Bramson are again hosting the neighborhood's annual spaghetti dinner at their historic home, 2101 G Street. The popular event is one of the best dining bargains in town: only \$10 for adults and \$5 for children aged 6-12 (children aged 5 and younger eat for free). Both beer and wine will cost \$4, while soda will cost \$1 (*water is available at no charge*).

The fresh pasta, homemade sauces (both meat and vegetarian), leafy green salads, and sliced garlic bread always are prepared and served by volunteers. For the dessert table, we welcome food donations from the diners—please bring a favorite treat to share.

In addition to good company and great food, BPNA will offer everyone old-style family recreation with free rides in a horse-drawn hay-wagon (provided by Top Hand Ranch, starting around 5:30). There also will be entertainment for children. The evening also includes the presentation of our annual award to an individual, couple, or family for outstanding service to the neighborhood and our community. Please join us! Also, for the FULL spaghetti dinner experience, please consider volunteering some of your time. Extra pairs of willing hands always are welcome (call Emily Herbert at 916-444-6690 if you are interested).

Tip: Consider making the spaghetti dinner the first part of your evening's activities by following it up with a stroll through the midtown art galleries or attendance at one of the two outdoor movie screenings at Sutter's Fort (see the calendar on **page 3**).



FIRST CALL, Candidates for BPNA'S 2020 Board of Directors



Every autumn the BPNA solicits members in good standing (annual dues paid) to serve on the next year's Board of Directors. Once a slate is formed with a minimum of seven individuals, the names of the declared candidates are announced in November or December. The candidates' personal statements are printed in that month's issue of *Park Beat*, and voting takes place at the general membership meeting in January.

Being an officer on the BPNA board is a great way to serve the community while also learning more about the issues that affect the quality of life of everyone in the neighborhood. Board meetings are held once a month and each session lasts about two hours. In collaboration with other BPNA members, the seven officers coordinate the four public events sponsored by the association each year—the general membership meeting in January, the progressive dinner for National Night Out in August, the Spaghetti Dinner in September, and the Holiday Party in December. The neighborhood yard sale, usually held every other year, also is coordinated by the officers. Finally, the officers are the leading contributors to *Park Beat*, although submissions and suggestions from other BPNA members always are welcome.

If you are interested in serving on the BPNA board and have questions about it, please contact any current board officer (their names are listed on **page 3** of the newsletter).

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

At their July meeting, members of the BPNA Board listened to a presentation by two guests about the on-going construction project that will result in an underground wastewater/stormwater storage tank beneath the baseball field in McKinley Park. As previously reported in *Park Beat*, this project has been controversial. Some residents currently are suing the City in an attempt to halt it.

City employee James Yorita explained that Sacramento is required by the State to mitigate the higher-than-normal flooding risk in this part of East Sacramento, specifically during very heavy rains. The McKinley Water Vault is intended to address this problem. Lucy Eidam Crocker, representing the Lucy Company Public Relations, told Board members that the project, which also involves some truck traffic between the excavation site and Sutter's Landing, should have minimal impact on the Boulevard Park neighborhood (see the article and map in the August issue of *Park Beat*). For more information and updates, go to the City's website (<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/mckinleywatervault>).

Other topics and issues addressed at the July meeting included recent proposals to split two lots in the Boulevard Park neighborhood (2012 C Street and 2221 D Street), the Historic District Plans project (see the article on **page 5**), the next California Preservation Conference (an annual meeting that will be held in Sacramento on May 17, 2020), and the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner (see article on **page 1**).



Another Successful National Night Out

On the evening of August 6th, neighbors came together for the 36th Annual National Night Out (NNO) event. Councilmember Steve Hansen, District Representative Morris Thomas, and several City of Sacramento police officers also attended one or more courses of our progressive dinner. NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. We are grateful for the neighborly collaboration of the Marshall School/New Era Park Neighborhood Association, which sponsored the dessert course (coordinated by Carrie Pederson). Our thanks go as well to the hosts of the two courses that preceded it—Suzie Johnston, who arranged for the *hors d'oeuvres* on 22nd Street (and who also took the photo of the assembled participants), and Fred Hull and Susan Allair, who shared their courtyard for the dinner that followed. We also want to acknowledge the BPNA members who helped with furniture storage, transport, set-up, and take-down before and after the event: Pete Bramson, Dave Herbert, Eric Knutson, and Catherine Turrill Lupi. Finally, thanks to all of the participants for their company and for the fantastic food/refreshments they brought to this popular potluck event.

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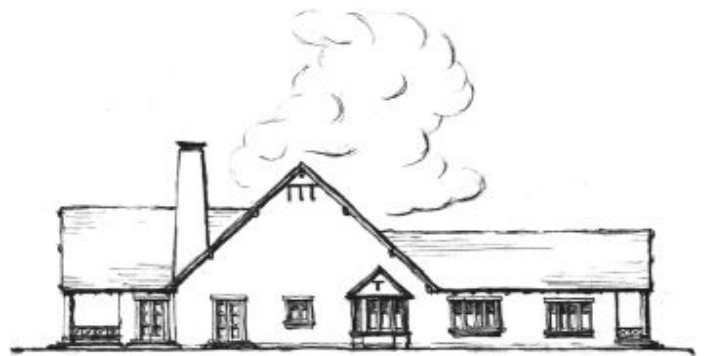
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Eric Knutson	eric@knutsonarchitecture.com
Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@att.net
Catherine Turrill Lupi	turrill@csus.edu

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

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., 20th Street between J and L Streets

Sept. 1 & 2: 28th Annual Chalk It Up! Festival, Fremont Park (10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day). See the article on **page 4**.

Tues., Sept. 3: 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.

Thur., Sept. 5: Community workshop about Sacramento Valley Train Station Master Plan (4:30-6:30; Stanford Gallery, 111 I Street). **Website:** www.sacramentovalleystation.org

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

Sat., Sept. 7: American Begonia Society Show and Sale, Shepard Garden and Arts Center (10 a.m.-4 p.m.).

Sat., Sept. 7: Gold Spike Lecture: Glenn Willumson, "Photographing the Transcontinental Railroad" (Crocker Art Museum, 2 p.m.). Go to: <http://sachistorymuseum.org/programs-events>

Sept. 13-15: Canoe lessons hosted by Friends of the River (registration fee charged; see the article on **page 6**).

Sept. 14 & 15: Sac Open Studios, Weekend #1: Artist studios west of Business 80/Highway 99 will be open 10-5 each day. This is the weekend for downtown and midtown artists. **Website:** <https://www.vergeart.com/open-studios/visit-sac-open-studios/>

Sat., Sept. 14: FORB's nature walk at Sutter's Landing Park. **Website:** <https://www.friendsoftheriverbanks.org/calendar.html>

Places to Go, People To See (cont.)

Sat., Sept. 14: 2nd Saturday Arts & Crafts: Kids' Open Studios, DOCO, 660 J St. (10-noon). **Website:** <https://www.docosacramento.com>

Sat., Sept. 14: BPNA's Annual Spaghetti Dinner, 2101 G St., 5-7:30 p.m. See the article on **page 1**.

Sat., Sept. 14: Second Saturday ArtWalk. Galleries throughout the city will be open. **Website:** <http://www.2ndsaturdaysacramento.com>

Sat., Sept. 14: Movies at Sutter's Fort: Last double feature of the season! (two choices: *Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse*; or *Zootopia*). Screening starts at 8:45 p.m.; free admission.

Sun., Sept. 15: Preservation Sacramento's Historic Home Tour, in Woodlake (10 a.m.-4 p.m.). See the article on **page 5**

Wed., Sept. 18: Monthly meeting of the Preservation Commission (New City Hall Council Chambers, 5:30 p.m.). See the article on **page 5**.

Sept. 21 & 22: Sac Open Studios, Weekend #2 Artist studios east of Business 80/Highway 99 will be open from 10-5 each day.

Sat., Sept. 21: Rio Velo: Sacramento Bike Festival, Township 9 Park, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. See the article on **page 4**.

Sat., Sept. 21: Smithsonian Museum Day: Free admission for two, California Museum (10 to 5). Advance registration is required. **Website:** <https://www.californiamuseum.org/event/smithsonian-museum-day>

Thur., Sept. 26: Gold Spike Lecture: David Haward Bain, "Overview of the Creation of the Transcontinental Railroad from 1842 to Its Completion" (California State Railroad Museum: 7 p.m.). **Website:** <http://sachistorymuseum.org/programs-events/>

Sept. 27 & 28: 2019 Farm-to-Fork Street Festival, Capitol Mall: 4 p.m.-9 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday (see article below).

... And, looking ahead to early October:

Oct. 4, 5 & 6: Sacramento Greek Festival, 616 Alhambra Boulevard (11 a.m.-10 p.m. on Fri., with free admission until 3 p.m.; Noon-10 p.m. on Sat.; Noon-8 p.m. on Sun.). Admission charged on Friday after 3 and all day on Sat. and Sun. **Website:** <http://sacramentogreekfestival.com>

Tues., Oct. 8: 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.

Seventh Annual Farm-to-Fork Street Festival, September 27 and 28

This year admission to the street festival—a culinary, visual, and aural banquet staged on Capitol Mall—will be **free** on both days: on Friday evening (4-9 p.m.) and all day on Saturday (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.).



There will be cooking demonstrations, family activities, interactive exhibits, live music and, of course, a wide selection of regional foods and beverages—more than a mile of sensory experiences. To access the street festival, visitors may choose between seven entrances along Capitol Mall (both ends of Fourth, Fifth, and Seventh Street; also, the intersection of Sixth and L Streets). Free bike valet parking will be available on Saturday. For more information, go to: <https://www.farmtofork.com/about/>

Rio Velo: A Sacramento Bike Festival



Sacramento is truly a cycling city, hosting numerous events that celebrate the bicycle as sport, recreation, and transportation. Township 9 Park, at the heart of the River District, will be the venue for Rio Velo on **Saturday, September 21** (north end of North 7th Street, just off the Two Rivers Bike Trail; valet bike parking will be available nearby at North 7th and Vine Streets). Between **11 a.m. and 4 p.m.**, this free festival will offer a range of entertainment (including expert stunt cyclists, a bicycle rodeo, and live music) as well as information about cycling. Refreshments will be sold and exhibitors from different agencies and businesses will be present. For more information, go to its website (<http://riovelo.com/about.php>).

The Trees of Midtown Sacramento: Bay Laurel

Not widely planted in Sacramento, the bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*) can be found along some central city streets and in our parks. Also known as sweet bay, bay laurel, or just laurel, this is a slow-growing evergreen tree that reaches about 40 feet in height, is not fussy about soils, and is drought tolerant. It does best in filtered shade in Sacramento's climate. Bay trees are native to the Mediterranean region where they are a remnant of the laurel forests that once covered much of the area. They have clusters of small yellow flowers followed by purple or black berries.



The bay tree is the source of several herbs and one spice, the aromatic bay leaves that often are added whole to Italian sauces. Ground bay leaves are used in soups and stocks, also for Bloody Mary drinks. Dried laurel and pressed leaf oil can be used as a robust spice. The shelf life for dried leaves is about one year. The wood can be burnt for strong smoke flavoring. Bay leaves also can be used for medicinal purposes. Aqueous extracts made from bay leaves have been used as an astringent and as a salve for wounds. Bay is also used in massage therapy, aromatherapy, and to make soap.

In ancient Greece, laurel wreaths were worn as a symbol of the highest status. In ancient Rome, the laurel was a symbol of victory. Accordingly, "laurel" is the source of the words and phrases related to achievement, such as "Baccalaureate", "poet laureate", and "resting on your laurels." To see two very large and majestic bay trees, visit Fremont Park. You can't miss them.

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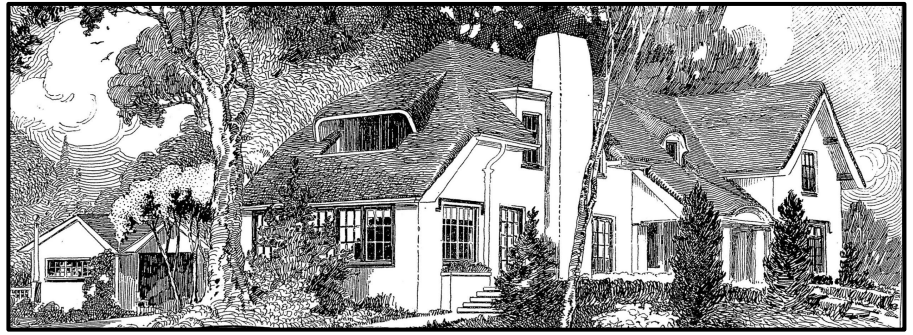


Chalk It Up! Festival Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 31-Sept. 2 (10 a.m.-6 p.m. each day)

This free annual event, now in its 28th year, turns the sidewalks around Fremont Park (16th and Q Streets) into an explosion of brilliant color and imaginative imagery. Over a three-day period, hundreds of chalk masterpieces will be drawn on the pavement by volunteer artists. The festival also features arts and crafts booths, a wide variety of food and beverage vendors, and free performances by many musicians who donate their time and talent to the event. Through its fund-raising program (of which the annual festival is an important component), Chalk It Up promotes and supports youth arts by offering small grants to individuals, groups, and arts organizations in the Sacramento region. For more information, go to the event website (<https://chalkitup.org>).

Annual Historic Home Tours: Sunday, September 15 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Six buildings will be open to the public for Preservation Sacramento's 44th Historic Home Tour, held for the first time in Woodlake, North Sacramento. The exclusive subdivision was launched in the 1920s and grew rapidly through the 1930s. The five houses selected for the home tour 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 (the illustration from 1923, on the right, shows the type of home that Johnston envisioned for Woodlake).



Many of the older homes often were influenced by English designs, although French Norman and Spanish Colonial styles also are represented, in accordance with Johnston's expressed preference for architectural variety in the new subdivision. Johnston was then vice president of the North Sacramento Land Company, which is still in existence and is still run by his descendants. Its distinctive office building, dating from the 1960s, also will be open to the public on the day of the tour. For a preview of the six buildings included in the tour, and to purchase advance tickets (for a reduced price of \$30, until September 14), 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, starting at 9:30 a.m. To begin the tour, go to the Preservation Sacramento ticket booth in Woodlake Park, near the corner of Woodlake Drive and Forrest Street, where wristbands (needed for admission to all six of the buildings) and illustrated tour programs will be given to ticket-holders.

BPNA Board Acts to Protect Historic Districts

June 14 was the deadline for public comment about the draft of the Historic District Plan guidelines that was produced by the consulting firm, Page & Turnbull (see previous issues of *Park Beat*). A summary of comments received, along with responses from City planning staff, will be considered by the members of the Preservation Commission at their 5:30 p.m. meeting on **September 18** in New City Hall. The Commission is expected hold a hearing on a revised version of the Historic District Plans on **November 20**, when it also may recommend one or more ordinances. The City Council's adoption of the revised HDP and enacting ordinances is expected either this December or early next year. The HDP also includes updates to the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources, based on recent surveys conducted by Page & Turnbull.

At its July meeting, the BPNA Board decided to provide the City with additional feedback on the draft HDP guidelines. It is the Board's opinion that weakly-worded guidelines could be easily ignored, to the detriment of the very neighborhoods that the HDP were intended to protect.

Below is the text of the Board's letter to the Preservation Commission:

The Central City area of Sacramento is a rare survivor in that its historic residential neighborhoods remain relatively intact, having cohesive areas rich with historic buildings, an old-fashioned tree lined streetscape, and lots of charm. This wonderful place is at a crossroads today as people discover Sacramento's Central City residential neighborhoods and hope to move here in great numbers. People who see these neighborhoods as a financial gold mine are also very excited. The beautifully restored old homes also often have beautiful backyards. Those backyards can be cut up into parts and sold off for big money via "lot splits." This lot split process is already well underway, a real estate gimmick that has been studied by the City's "Historic District Plan design guidelines" (HDP) effort, a draft of which was recently completed by the consultant, Page & Turnbull.

As currently worded, the new guidelines may be little more than suggestions with little potential for enforcement. The historic residential areas which define the unique place that is Sacramento could be replaced with historic houses in the front and imposing high end housing where the back yard used to be. This development pattern is now often presented as an "opportunity" for gaining wealth. Home sellers opt for wealth and the Central City's historic residential neighborhoods lose much of their character.

Sacramento also has an affordable housing crisis that is being exacerbated by current City development approvals and land speculation. The City is approving large and expensive infill housing by granting variances and deviations from existing planning and zoning requirements and guidelines, which drives up the price of available real estate. If a developer can cleave off the back half of a 40' by 160' lot and then subdivide that portion into two 20' by 80' lots, build two three-story houses with roof decks, and charge upwards of \$700,000 for each, lots that can be subdivided become more valuable. With the increased land values caused by this practice, construction of affordable housing becomes impossible. But prescriptive development controls can stop this process.

With only weak guideline suggestions the likely result of the HDP effort, upcoming decisions by the Sacramento Preservation Commission and the City Council may be Sacramento's last hope for saving one of Sacramento's most important features. In September 2017, the Preservation Commission adopted a set of infill development recommendations, designed not to stop but merely to control the height and massing of alley infill development. If implemented as written, these prescriptive recommendations would require that new development behind our historic homes be subordinate in stature, similar to the relationship between the homes and the carriage houses that often accompanied them on the alley end of their lots. The Commission's 2017 recommendations need to be incorporated into the Historic District Plans and the remaining design guidelines need to be rewritten in a more prescriptive manner.

One of the purposes of government is to look at the big picture, protecting what is good for the entire City of Sacramento, even though that will at times be at the expense of individual interests and desires. An architect may want to express their individuality with a totally out of character architectural style. A developer may want the maximum profit possible for himself and his client. An historic home owner may see his property as the key to personal wealth. Without a firm commitment from local government, short-term thinking for a few will win over long-term benefits for the many.

Without careful attention to new building heights, spatial relationships, land speculation, and similar considerations, we will lose the unique historic districts that make Sacramento, Sacramento.



Come Paddle with Friends of the River This Fall

Friends of the River (FOR), a group dedicated to preserving and restoring California's rivers, streams, and watersheds, hosts a canoe program of classes and excursions. Canoes and equipment will be provided.

In **September**, participants will learn how to paddle canoes in moving waters (one class taught in three sessions, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon: **September 13, 14, and 15**). Prior experience in flat-water canoeing is required. The \$175 per-person fee covers a "classroom" session on Friday evening and two full days on the river over the weekend. Saturday's session, held primarily at one location on the river, will combine a review of flat-water strokes with instruction in moving-water strokes. On Sunday, participants will learn how to use their new skills in a moving water environment during a trip down the Lower American River.

In **November**, paddlers will be able to enjoy excursions to view Chinook salmon spawning in the Lower American River Park (two sessions: **November 2 and 16**). These excursions are led by a fishery expert and will focus on the topics of salmon spawning and ecosystem impacts and successes. The per-person registration fee ranges from **\$25** (for FOR members) to **\$45** (for non-members and expired FOR members).

To learn more about the FOR canoe program and to register for its activities, go to <https://www.friendsoftheriver.org/get-involved/canoe-classes/>.

You also can get information from Tom Biglione (telephone: 209-601-2724; e-mail: ftbiglione@gmail.com).

SacRT's New Bus Network Arrives This Month

On Sunday, September 8, Sacramento Regional Transit will be launching a series of revised and new bus routes, three of them operating near our neighborhood. The project also includes new bus stop signs throughout the RT service area. The signage will indicate not only the number of each bus route and bus stop, but also the bus's destination. Midtown bus routes impacted by the changes include numbers **30** (CSUS-Sacramento Valley Station, with increased service), **38** (called "Tahoe Park"; connecting University/65th and the UCD Medical Center with the Sacramento Valley Train Station, traveling on J and L Streets); and **134** (the newly-dubbed "McKinley Commuter," connecting CSUS and Downtown via F Street, operating on weekdays only). Additional information about the changes to city bus and light rail service can be found on the SacRT Forward website (<https://www.sacrt.com/forward/>).

A welcome to all for the 5th annual Sac Porchfest, Saturday, October 19, 2 p.m.

3 different porch "stages" on 21st street. Performers range from solo vocalists to full ensembles.



Free for all ages (donations are welcome in support of Mustard Seed School), Sac Porchfest is a fun-filled, community-focused afternoon of local music in Midtown Sacramento. This annual grassroots event debuted in Sacramento in 2015. Artists will perform throughout the afternoon on a number of Boulevard Park porches near the intersection of 21st and I Streets.

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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

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