



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

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

Another Festive Spaghetti Dinner at 2101 G Street

On Saturday, September 14, a large and enthusiastic crowd feasted together on a great spaghetti dinner complete with pasta, green salad, fresh-baked garlic bread, a fine selection of home-made desserts, and multiple beverages. Residents of all ages enjoyed the horse-drawn hay-wagon rides around the neighborhood, provided by Top Hand Ranch. Carolyn Geiger, founder of Balloon Twisters, kept the children amused with face painting and colorful balloon sculptures (*one satisfied customer is shown seated on the hay-wagon in the photo on the right*).

The evening passed so quickly that we did not have a chance to announce the names of the recipients of our annual "Volunteer of the Year" award, Fred Hull and Susan Allair. Year in and year out, they have hosted the main course of our progressive dinner at National Night Out. Countless neighborhood residents (and the occasional city official) have enjoyed eating supper in Fred's and Susan's shady courtyard before moving on to the dessert course in Marshall Park.

Boulevard Park's 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. We are again indebted to our energetic event organizer, Emily Herbert, for recruiting the volunteers and overseeing the entire dinner. Thank you as well to the many neighbors

who set up the tables and chairs, handled the cash box, worked in the kitchen, served the beverages, dished out the spaghetti and salad, oversaw the dessert table, and cleaned up afterwards (*purely for space reasons, their names are not included here!*). We also are grateful to the anonymous donors of the tasty treats to the dessert table.

Most of all, we thank the homeowners—Pete, Robyn, and Jesse Bramson—for their generous hospitality. The spacious yard behind their historic house has been a perfect venue for the annual spaghetti dinner.



5th annual Sac Porchfest Saturday, October 19, 1 p.m.

What's a PorchFest and why do you want to know ?!

Porchfests are annual music events held across the United States on front porches. Porchfest music festivals began as a means for neighbors and local community members to highlight their music on front porches. The concept was to find musicians and the porches on which they could play.

Sac Porchfest is Saturday October 19, from 1p and 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 perform throughout the afternoon on a number of Boulevard Park porches near 21st and I Streets.



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

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

The September 3rd Board meeting began with a presentation by Boulevard Park resident Katie Valenzuela, who is running for the District 4 seat on Sacramento City Council in the 2020 election. She discussed her vision and goals, such as more affordable housing stock, increased support for small businesses, leading the way in climate issues, more effective rent stabilization, more transparency in City spending, and addressing homeless issues.

After Katie's presentation, Board members turned their attention to other agenda items, ranging from the Spaghetti Dinner (see article on **page 1**) to recent proposals to split lots for development purposes. Board member Jon Marshack will send a BPNA position letter to city officials about two separate "lot-split" development applications now under consideration for our neighborhood (2012 "C" Street and at 2221 "D" Street, as reported in the September issue of *Park Beat*). Both proposals are of concern to nearby residents, some of whom have questioned aspects of the applications, such as the compatibility of the newly proposed buildings with adjacent older structures. Both projects also appear to require multiple deviations from City design policies and zoning codes. Despite all the efforts made by the City government to ensure an effective planning process that benefits Sacramento as a whole, disregard for reasonable zoning rules and design principles seems to be the norm at this time. Board members also were concerned about the City's current policy of informing impacted neighbors about new development proposals only ten days prior to the hearing date, when it is usually too late for residents to provide meaningful comments and input. Towards the end of the meeting, the Board members discussed, and agreed to endorse, the Central City 2040 Vision document (see the article on **page 6**).

Historic District Plans Project Update

BPNA Board member Jon Marshack was the first speaker in the public testimony part of the September 18 meeting of the City's Preservation Commission. The second item on the Discussion Calendar, the Historic District Plans (HDP) Public Comments and Responses, brought several speakers to the podium. As noted in the meeting's agenda, this ongoing project has been the subject of a "robust public outreach process," generating hundreds of comments from residents. This feedback and the staff response to it will contribute to the next revised draft of the HDP guidelines, which should be available for public review in the first week of October. The same document will be taken to the Preservation Commission for a public hearing in November or December. Also under review this Fall are proposed changes to the Sacramento Register of Historic & Cultural Resources. Readers can track the progress of the HDP project by going to the City website (<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/hdp>). For an easily searchable version of the Sacramento Register, go to: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Urban%20Design/Preservation/Sacramento%20Register>

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

Oct. 4, 5 & 6: Sacramento Greek Festival, 616 Alhambra Boulevard. See article on **page 4**.

Oct. 5 & 6: California Capital Airshow, Mather Airport (9 a.m.-5 p.m., with flying performances between noon and 4; admission charged). **Website:** <https://californiacapitalairshow.com>

Sat., Oct. 5: "Cream of the Crypt," thematic tour at the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (10 a.m.). **Website:**
<https://www.historicoldcitycemetery.org/upcoming-events>

Sat., Oct. 5: 20th Annual "A Place Called Sacramento" Film Festival, Crest Theater, 1013 K St. (doors open at 6 p.m.; admission charged). **Website:**
<https://www.crestsacramento.com/event/1878164-20th-annual-place-called-sacramento/>

Tues., Oct. 8: BPNA Board Meeting, open to BPNA members and interested neighbors (**6:30-8 p.m.**). Contact Eric Knutson for the location or to suggest agenda items.

Oct. 11-12: Oktoberfest, Sacramento Turnverein, 3349 J St. See article on **page 4**.

Sat., Oct. 12: Sixth Annual Russian Festival, Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church, 714 13th St. See article on **page 4**.

Sat., Oct. 12: FORB's Annual "Welcome Back the Salmon" event, Sutter's Landing Park (10 a.m.). See article on **page 6**.

Places to Go, People To See (cont.)

Sat., Oct. 12: 2nd Saturday Arts & Crafts: Kids will be able to make Halloween decorations. Downtown Commons, 405 K St. (at the west end of the Plaza; 10 to noon).

Sat., Oct. 12: Second Saturday ArtWalk, with galleries open. **Website:**
<http://www.2ndsaturdaysacramento.com>

Sun., Oct. 13: Sacramento Antique Faire, held the second Sunday of every month (under the freeway at 21st and X Streets; 6:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.; \$3 admission fee for adults).

Website: <https://www.sacantiquefaire.com>

Wed., Oct. 16: Monthly meeting of the Preservation Commission, New City Hall Council Chambers (5:30 p.m.). **Website:**
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Commissions/Preservation-Commission>

Sat., Oct. 19: Sacramento Vegan Food Festival, Cesar Chavez Plaza: vendors will offer vegan foods from around the world. Cooking demos; musical entertainment; arts and crafts (1-6 p.m.). **Website:**
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2199512266750676/>

Sat., Oct. 19: Fifth Annual Sac PorchFest, vicinity of 21st and I Streets, starting at 2 p.m. See **article on page 1** and **photo below**.

Website: <https://www.sacporchfest.com/>

Oct. 26-27: 83rd Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Rock Show, hosted by the Sacramento Mineral Society of California; Scottish Rite Center (10-5 on Sat.; 10-4 on Sun.; admission charged). **Website:**
<http://sacgemshow.com>

Sun., Oct. 27: Premier Orchestra Fall Concert of the Sacramento Youth Symphony, McClatchy High School Performing Arts Center (3 p.m.)

Website:
<https://www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org/concerts-events>

... And, looking ahead to early November:

Sun., Nov. 3: End of Daylight Savings Time. Turn your clocks back an hour at 2 a.m.!

Nov. 4 & 5: 2019 Natural Climate Solutions Symposium, co-sponsored by UC Davis and the Nature Conservancy; Citizen Hotel, 926 J St. **Website:** <https://www.washingtonnature.org/natural-climate-solutions-symposium-general>

Tues., Nov. 5: 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.



Photo credit Jose Barajas

Seasonal & International Festivities in October

The month of October offers many festivals, and they are not all connected to Halloween, as shown in the selection listed below. As of this writing, no announcements had been made about the annual **Midtown Halloween & Festival & Pooch Parade** that usually is held the weekend before the 31st. Check the Midtown Association website for updates!

Fri. through Sun., Oct. 4, 5, and 6: Sacramento Greek Festival, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 616 Alhambra Blvd.

Enjoy the Greek village atmosphere on the plaza beside the church. There will be tours of the church, music and dance performances, cooking demonstrations; booths selling a full range of Greek foods, both sweet and savory; and more!

Times: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on Fri., Noon-10 p.m. on Sat.; Noon-8 p.m. on Sun. (\$5 admission fee on Fri. after 3 p.m. and all day on Sat. and Sun.)

Website: <http://sacramentogreekfestival.com>

Sun., Oct. 6: Parish International Festival, St. Peter - All Hallows Church, 5501 14th Ave. Celebration of the flavors of American, Mexican, Hmong, Portuguese, Filipino, and Tongan cuisines. Also offered: live music, family fun, and games for all ages.

Time: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Website: <https://sp-ah.org/news/parish-international-festival>

Fri. and Sat., Oct. 11 and 12: Oktoberfest, Sacramento Turn Verein, 3349 J St. German beer, wine, and food (including an outdoor Biergarten); German music and dancers (live music from three different bands); kid-friendly activities. Admission charged.

Times: 6 p.m.- midnight on Friday; 3 p.m. to midnight on Saturday.

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

Sat., Oct. 12: Sixth Annual Russian Festival, Holy Ascension Church, 714 13th Street: traditional Russian food, dance, live music, art, crafts, souvenirs, literature; an activities area for children; two tours of the church for everyone (2:05 and 3:35).

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for students)

Website: https://holyascensionchurch.org/news_190907_1

Sat., Oct. 19: Fifth Annual Sac PorchFest, vicinity of 21st and I Streets, starting at 2 p.m. See article on **page 1**.

Website: <https://www.sacporchfest.com/>

Fri., Oct. 25: Spooky, Slimy STEAM Crafts, McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Boulevard: participants will make seasonally-inspired arts and crafts, such as spooky slime and creepy three-dimensional objects for children.

Time: 3:30-4:30 p.m. (free admission)

Sat., Oct. 26: Trick-or-Treat on the "BOO"-levard, Del Paso Boulevard. Eleventh annual family-friendly celebration hosted by the Del Paso Boulevard Partnership & BIA. Over 25 local businesses will be handing out candy and treats to costumed children.

Time: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., or while treat supply lasts!

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/436327750573624/>

Sat., Oct. 26: Trunk or Treat, Fremont Presbyterian Church, 5770 Carlson Drive. Families are invited to sign up to bring their car or other wheeled vehicle to the church, then wait to greet the costumed children who stop by. A food truck will be on hand. Candy donations are welcome prior to the event. For further information on how to participate in this "Trunk or Treat," go to the event website.

Time: 4-6 p.m. (free admission)

Website:

<http://www.fremontpres.org/new-events/2019/10/26/trunk-or-treat>

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SECOND 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 following year's Board of Directors, which is replenished each year. Once a slate is formed with a minimum of seven individuals, the names of all 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 six 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).

Trees of Midtown: The Eucalyptus

Although not common in Sacramento's midtown, eucalyptus trees can be found in parks and along some of the streets of the Central City. There are over 700 different types of eucalyptus. Most are native to Australia where they comprise three quarters of the forests. Eucalyptus trees were introduced into California during the great Gold Rush of the 1850s. They were especially valued for their rapid growth—10 to 25 feet per year for the fastest growing varieties.

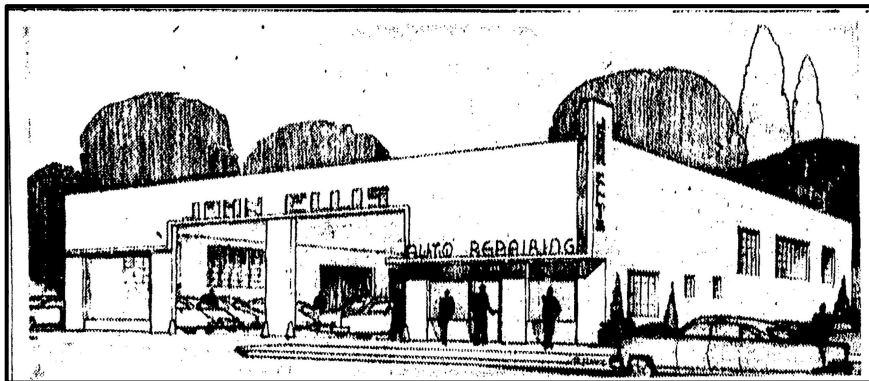


The trees also serve many practical purposes. Oil-rich eucalyptus wood, being highly resistant to decay, is ideally suited for fence posts. The trees also provide wind breaks, shade, and firewood. Other products derived from eucalyptus include essential oils, antiseptics, deodorants, fuels, fragrances, insecticides, insect repellants, cough drops, and toothpaste.

Eucalyptus trees are among the tallest in the world with some varieties up to 300 feet tall. The trees draw up a tremendous amount of water from the soil and, in some parts of the world, are planted to drain swampy areas for mosquito control. Eucalyptus trees are not tolerant of cold temperatures but do well in Sacramento's climate. To see examples of eucalyptus trees in our general area, visit Capitol Park or McKinley Park (near the horseshoe pits). Two very large eucalyptus trees, shown in the photograph above, can be found beside Stockton Boulevard between 39th Street and Colonial Way.



John Ellis & Son, Auto Repair



Built between April and August 1950, the concrete-block garage at the southwest corner of 19th and I Streets is the site of one of the oldest continuously-operating businesses in the Boulevard Park neighborhood. The Shasta Linen Supply Company, described in the March 2019 issue of *Park Beat*, opened at the corner of 20th and E Streets in 1948.

However, whereas the laundry occupies a repurposed trio of Victorian houses, the Ellis Garage was a new structure. It is one of several surviving examples of the work of Clarence Cuff, a famous local architect who designed many buildings in Sacramento, including the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on Alhambra Boulevard (see the October 2018 issue of *Park Beat*) and the Lawrence Warehouse (now Warehouse Artists Lofts) on R Street.

Clarence Cuff's client, John Buckley Ellis, first started operating a garage in Sacramento in the mid-1920s. One of his early locations is now occupied by Time-Tested Books, at 1114 21st Street. Described in 1961 as "Sacramento's Senior Architect," Cuff (died in 1965) was ten years away from retirement when he designed the new 19th Street garage for Ellis. The letter style that he selected for the exterior signage (*as shown in the original drawing, at the top of the page*) is typical of the 1950s and the red and green neon signs that still glow on the façade are also vintage. They have been carefully maintained by Boulevard Park resident Dave van Hulsteyn; another long-time resident, Bob Pugh, worked at the Ellis Garage from 1959 until his retirement in 2002 (see his profile in the September 2016 issue of *Park Beat*). Four years ago, the company was purchased by Miguel Frias, but the name and the history—nearly a century of service—remain the same.



A Neighborhood Taproom: At Ease Brewing Co.

The Boulevard Park neighborhood gained a microbrewery this year when retired Army Colonel Mike Conrad opened his new business, [At Ease Brewing Co.](#), in the remodeled 1950s commercial building that used to be occupied by Whisler Land Company (1825 I Street). As reported in a story broadcast on station KCRA 3 in May, Mike Conrad has been brewing beer at home for more than twenty years, has won medals for his beers in state and county fairs, and recently completed the Master Brewers Program at UC Davis. His daughter Taylor, a Boulevard Park resident, is managing the business. Her sister and another part-time employee also live in the neighborhood.

As of this writing, the brewery offers nine hand-crafted beers on tap, each with a distinctive name that aligns with the place's military name and theme (recent examples include a cream ale called "Copy That," a West Coast IPA called "Presidio," a lager called "Master Gunner," and a brown porter called "Buck Sergeant Brown"). The former office space was completely redecorated to have a combined industrial/military look. The gleaming metal brewing tanks installed at the front of the room catch the attention of passersby. There also is an open patio behind the building. In the interest of reaching out to neighborhood residents, the brewery hosts a range of family-friendly activities and events, including pilates, game tables, trivia nights, and even flower arranging ("Blooms & Brews"). It will be holding an Oktoberfest celebration on **September 29**, in case readers would like to anticipate the two-day festival at the Turn Verein on J Street (for that event, see the article on **page 4**).

Still Welcoming Back Those Salmon



For about fourteen years or so, the Friends of the River Banks (FORB) have been gathering at 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 area's usual inhabitants, such as river otters, turtles, egrets, cormorants, ospreys, ducks, and Canada geese (*the photograph above was taken by Kathy Kayner in 2018*).

As of this writing, plans for the **October 12** event still are being finalized, but typically there are several informed volunteers on hand, including representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Because this is a very family-friendly event, there also are salmon-related displays and activities for folks of all ages. Please bring the children 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.

Please check the FORB's online calendar for updates before heading out to Sutter's Landing (<https://www.friendsoftheriverbanks.org/calendar.html>). On the same website you also will find descriptions of past years' events.

BPNA Board Endorses Central City Vision 2040 Document

Over the course of the summer, community workshops were held throughout Sacramento so that residents could participate in group discussions about their visions for the City. The goal was to develop a 20-year framework for Sacramento's future that addressed a wide range of topics, among them land use and urban design, historic and cultural resources, housing, transportation, education, recreation, culture, environmental resources, and public health and safety.

At their September 3rd meeting, BPNA Board members agreed to endorse the vision statement that was drafted collaboratively by several Central City neighborhood associations. Emphasizing that residents were the priority, the document laid out a series of principles considered essential for the well-being of the Central City of the future. Eight topics were selected as focal points for the principles spelled out in the single-page statement: the built environment, climate change, economic vitality, historic preservation, housing, mobility (including both cyclist and pedestrian safety), noise, and public safety.

At its September 12th meeting, the Planning and Design Commission discussed the draft vision and guiding principles. The BPNA Board also sent a letter of endorsement for the Central City statement and was informed that there will be future opportunities for public input during a second round of community plan area meetings in the Fall.

For information about the updates to the City's general plan, go to: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Major-Projects/General-Plan/About-The-Project>.

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