



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association • Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 • September 2008

Annual BPNA Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, September 13, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. • Bramson Family Home, 2101 G Street

This is BPNA's biggest annual event.

Dr. Solar, proprietor of the world's first solar-powered, old-fashioned medicine show, is returning this year to excite children and adults alike. As those of you that attended last year know, Dr. Solar puts on a great show from his gaily-painted solar-powered mobile stage, which is based on those from the 19th Century. The show includes magic, ventriloquism and puppetry, and was a big hit with kids and young at heart last year.

The festivities are once again at the landmark home graciously made available to us by Pete, Robyn & Jesse Bramson. The menu includes – surprise! – spaghetti, a choice of Bolognese (meat) and vegetarian sauces, green salad, garlic bread and dessert.

Tickets for the dinner are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. Member households presenting the postcard from BPNA received by mail in August will receive a \$1 discount for members of their household. Additionally, refreshments will be available for donations of \$2 and \$3.

Don't miss this terrific event. It will give you the opportunity to not only enjoy a great meal, but also a chance to meet or reunite with neighbors, and have a relaxing and enjoyable evening. We hope to see you there!

Volunteers are still needed to help in the kitchen, if you would like to volunteer an hour for this great event contact Sally Flory-O'Neil at 446-3390.



Historic Home Tour, September 21

The **Annual Home Tour** sponsored by the **Sacramento Old City Association (SOCA)** is on Sunday, September 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As announced in the July and August issues of *Park Beat*, this year's tour will be located in the the Winn Park and Capitol Avenue Districts, bordered by Q, K, 22nd, and 27th Streets. Seven historic homes dating from the late 1800s through the early 1900s are included in the tour. Saint Francis of Assisi Church, at 24th and K Streets, will also open its doors to tour participants in the afternoon, from 2 to 5 pm. There will be a ticket booth and a street fair with artisans, entertainment, and historic exhibits on the lawn outside the Fremont Adult School, at 24th and N Streets, from 10 am to 4 pm. Finally, as in past years, antique cars will be parked outside several of the houses on the tour. This year the car display is sponsored by the Sacramento Capitol A's Model A Club.

Discounted tickets may be purchased at select locations throughout Sacramento in advance of the tour day at \$18 instead of \$20. See the SOCA website at <http://sacoldcity.org/> for details. On the day of the tour, participants who arrive on bicycles, instead of in cars, will get a dollar discount on tickets purchased at the street fair (\$19 instead of \$20). Each participant will be given a SOCA-produced brochure with

photographs and brief histories of all of the buildings on the tour. Docents stationed at the different sites will be able to offer additional information about the homes.

The BPNA will be providing docents for the historic Farnsworth House, a Queen Anne-style residence built by an original Forty-Niner, William Calvin Farnsworth (1828-1902). He came to California at the beginning of the Gold Rush and settled in Sacramento about twenty years later. Trained as a carpenter, Farnsworth also was a gardener and served as sexton of the City Cemetery in the 1880s and 1890s. The house he built at 2527 Capitol Avenue in the 1890s was part of the 1993 SOCA home tour and also is featured in the book, *Vanishing Victorians*. During the tour, both the Farnsworth residence and the modern garage unit behind it, inspired by the original carriage house, will be open to the public.

Additional information about the Annual SOCA Home Tour, including photographs of the houses, is posted on the SOCA website at <http://sacoldcity.org/>.

Articles about the tour also will appear in issues of *Midtown Monthly* and *Inside Sacramento*.

Places to go, people to see

September 4 – BPNA Board Meeting – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Rob Sperling at 444-8147 for location and to add items to the agenda. *Open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors.*

September 8 – Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) – 7:00 p.m., home of Jan Seaman, 1822 G Street. Are you aware of illegal dumping, parking problems, or other city code violations in your area? Come see what can be done about them. *For more information or to report a code violation, contact Jan Seaman at janseaman42@comcast.net.*

September 13 – Green Thumb Brigade – 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., meet at 711 22nd Street. Come help keep our traffic circles in tiptop shape! We also need volunteers to water the traffic calming devices. Please contact Sally Flory-O'Neil at 446-3390 or at sallyfo@hotmail.com if you would like information on traffic calming devices in need of watering. Some of them may be near your home!

September 13 – ANNUAL BPNA SPAGHETTI DINNER – *See page 1 for details.*

September 13 – Second Saturday Art Walk – Each month, galleries around town stay open late into the evening to showcase specific artists and new showings. Many serve wine and hors d'oeuvres. *Check out their web site at www.sacramento-second-saturday.org.*

September 15 – Copy and Ad Deadline for October issue of *Park Beat*. To submit articles and calendar entries, email Asha Jennings at ashajennings@gmail.com or call her at 803-7409. To place an ad, call Jessica Mazur at 765-0621.

September 15 – Area 1 Neighborhood Advisory Group (NAG) Meeting – 6:15 to 8:30 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 27th & I Streets. Contact Janine Martindale at 808-8193 or at jmartindale@cityofsacramento.org for information.

Every Monday – Monday Night Skate – 7:00 p.m.
New Location: Stanford Park, (205 27th Street)

For more information, go to www.sacramentoskating.com or call Brian Malone at 715-2808 or Bernard Scoville at 447-8288.

Neighborhood Preservation Transportation Plan Update

The finalization of the NPTP has begun with the installation of the 4-way stop sign at F and 20th Streets. City staff is finalizing the remaining construction plans for the NPTP improvements that were approved by the City Council on January 28, 2008. They include a raised median on 21st Street between H and I Streets, a permanent concrete diverter at 21st and H Streets, which will allow left and right turns, a permanent diverter at 19th and G Streets, and bike lanes on F from 16th Street to Alhambra.

City crews will likely perform the construction for the diverters, island, and signing and striping work. Tentatively, construction will occur at the end of August. City crews do not have the resources to efficiently perform thermoplastic bike lane striping on F Street from 16th to Alhambra; so this portion of the work will be bid out to a contractor and may be done after the other construction. We are coordinating with Ed Cox on putting this final bid package together.

The City's website will be updated in mid-August with further details about the construction. Once begun, the construction will be completed within two weeks and construction impacts will include temporary lane closures and temporary parking restrictions. *Please check this website for any updates: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/transportation/traffic-engineering/trafficnptp.html>.*

BPNA Now A Corporation

Effective August 13, 2008, BPNA is incorporated as a 501(c)(4) public benefit corporation. Our legal name is now **Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association, Inc.** The Decision was ratified by mail-in balloting of the members, and all current directors were elected by the same ballot to serve the balance of the year until our regularly scheduled Board election in January 2009.

As noted in a previous edition of *Park Beat*, the association's Board decided to pursue this course of action in order to provide legal and financial protection for the members and directors of the association. Under our previous informal structure, the directors and members of BPNA were potentially legally and financially liable in the event of a judgment against the BPNA. This could theoretically happen, for example, if someone were injured at a BPNA-sponsored event and successfully sued the association. While unlikely, this presented a possible disincentive for some members who might otherwise consider serving as an officer or director of the association. As a corporation, we are now a legal entity, separate from the individual members and directors, and any financial award in the event of a judgment against us would be limited to the assets of BPNA, Inc. itself.

Our ability to form the corporation was due to the generosity of BPNA member Larry Watson, Esq. and his law firm, Banks & Watson, which donated its services to advise us and prepare all the necessary documentation. *Thanks again, Larry!*

Mark your Calendars!

4th Annual Midtown Children's Fair

October 5th – 12 to 3pm, Grant Park, 22nd & C Streets

Please join us for this great fall family festival in the park. Local businesses, community groups, parent groups, schools and more will be there to talk with you about resources for families with young children. The day will be filled with music, entertainment, and crafts for all ages.

For complete information or to find out how your group can host an information table, please contact Tiffanie at 446-2077 or tjsimpson7@aol.com. Special thanks to First 5 Sacramento, BPNA, Department of Neighborhood Services, Council Member Steve Cohn and many others for their sponsorship of this event.



Not getting your *Park Beat* newsletter regularly or can't remember where you put it? You can be added to the email distribution of the newsletter, just send an email to Jon Marshack at jmarshack@earthlink.net. You will still receive the paper copy, as usual.

BPNA Board of Directors 2008

CHAIR	Rob Sperling	444-8147	robsperling@sbcglobal.net
SECRETARY	Sally Flory-O'Neil	446-3390	sallyfo@hotmail.com
TREASURER	Patrick Cosentino	444-0506	
	Marc de la Vergne	448-6909	marcangela@comcast.net
	Hal Edmonds	599-5814	capnhal@aol.com
	Steve Rodgers	441-4350	srodgers66@comcast.net
	Catherine Turrill	278-7515	turrillc@csus.edu

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association purpose: The BPNA is 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 thereby to improve the quality of life for others who work and live in and around Boulevard Park and for Sacramento as a whole.

Friends of the River Banks and Sutter's Landing Park

The **Friends of the River Banks (FORB)** would like to remind all Boulevard Park residents that the **Second Saturday nature walks** are still taking place. In September, the walk will be on September 13. As usual, everyone is welcome to join the group for a stroll along the south bank of the American River, near Sutter's Landing Park. The walk will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the end of 28th Street, just above the river.

FORB also will be sponsoring a booth with displays of work inspired by the American River at the **Children's Fair** in Grant Park on **October 5**. Residents are encouraged to contribute photographs, art, poetry, stories or any other work reflecting their observations of the American River over the past year. Volunteers also are sought to help staff the booth at the fair. For further information about these two events or other FORB-sponsored activities, please contact Laurie Litman at llitman@pacbell.net.

FORB will be participating in the annual **"Great American River Clean-Up"** on **September 20**, from 9 am to Noon, starting at Sutter's Landing Park. For more information about this event and how you may help, go to: <http://www.arpf.org/garcu.shtml> or call (916) 486-2773.

Readers of **Park Beat** may be interested in the Sutter's Landing Area **Master Plan Background Report**, now available on the web at <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/planning/new-growth/sutter.cfm>. According to Scott Mende, this report "consolidates all of the information and reports prepared for the Sutter's Landing Park and surrounding area into one reference document and provide site history for the other parcels proposed to be included in the plan area." Questions about the report may be directed to Scott Mende, the New Growth and Infill Manager for the city's Planning Department at (916) 808-4756 or at smende@cityofsacramento.org.

New and Renewing BPNA Members

Kevin Baker & Liz Guillen,

Donna & Vincent Bezdecke

Megan Blackwell, Lawrence Levine.

Gina Shellhammer, Skip & Judie Vanderbundt

Committees

Preservation: Pat Cosentino, 444-0506

Park Beat Production Team

Editor: Asha Jennings, 803-7409, ashajennings@gmail.com

Advertising Manager: Jessica Mazur, 765-0621, mazur_jessica@yahoo.com

Graphic Designer: Katworks Desktop Publishing, 707-865-2899, katworks@comcast.net

Repro: Grady's Copy Shop, 1228 H Street, 444-6166

Block Captain Coordinator: Corey Lake, 444-8147

Great ad rates! Call Jessica at 765-0621 for details.

The deadline for ads and copy for the Oct. issue of **Park Beat** is **Sept. 15th by 5pm!**

Your Tax Dollars...Need to get to work!

By Jan Seaman

I've learned a lot about living in the city since becoming part of the **Neighborhood Response Team** of BPNA. Since I'm accustomed to suburbia (in Northern Virginia, no less), with its wide sweeping driveways and carefully groomed lawns, I've had an eye-opening experience since moving to midtown two years ago. The major thing I've learned is how naïve I was about the services available to me as a tax-paying citizen and how to tap into those services to enhance the quality of my life. Besides reporting code violations, persistent criminal activity and problems with hazardous buildings to the NRT, there are numbers you should have by your phone, to connect you with the services that can help maintain your quality of life.

Here are a few of them:

Police Non-emergency	264-5471
Clogged Storm Drain	808-5371
Graffiti	808-5948
Household Hazardous Waste	808-4938
Illegal Dumping	808-4900
Parking Enforcement.....	808-5354
Tree Services	808-6345
Weed Abatement	808-5266

So, if you suspect illegal activity going on in your neighborhood, have an overflowing gutter after a rain (*save this one for awhile!*), spot new graffiti, have motor oil or other hazardous waste to discard, find someone's mattress deposited in the alley behind your house, identify a perennial violator of parking laws on street cleaning day, see a broken branch on the parkway or have a vacant lot next door with high weeds, call the appropriate number above.

\\This is one way we can each take responsibility for our neighborhood and improve our quality of life at the same time.

Please patronize our advertisers!

Sutters Landing Interim Improvement Plan Community Meeting

Wednesday, September 3, 6:30 pm at Sutters Landing Skate Park

The purpose of this meeting is to review public comments of the EIR and discuss the scope of the project.

Sutter's Landing Regional Park: Next Phase of Improvements

A next phase of improvements to the Park is proposed by the City for completion by Summer 2009. These improvements are consistent with the City's adopted Master Plan for this Park, and environmental documents have been prepared.

A report by Parks and Recreation Department staff will be made on this project, including response to community concerns, to the Parks & Recreation Commission at the Commission's monthly meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 7 pm at the Coloma Community Center, 4623 T Street.

If you have questions, contact J.P. Tindell, Manager, Park Planning and Development, 808-1955, jptindell@cityofsacramento.org. Agendas for this Commission's meetings can be found at <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/prc/index.html>.

Historic Homes of Boulevard Park: 2015 H Street – S. Warder McKim House

Built circa 1906 on what was originally two lots, this large home exhibits many Greek Revival-inspired elements such as symmetry, fluted pillars, a full entablature, a classic pediment above the porch, and pilasters on the building's side. These elements embellish the early-twentieth century cube form, complete with hipped roof and dormer found on much simpler homes. Built by S. Warder McKim, a director and later president of Weinstock and Lubin Co., this is the only home in Boulevard Park that exhibits elements associated with the much earlier, mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival-style. It provides an example of adaptive re-use (as offices) as a means to save the building. Local residents call this building "Tara".



[Adapted from "Boulevard Park: A Walking Tour" by the Historic Boulevard Park Committee.]

Looking for Park Beat Content: Upcoming events, topics of current interest, observations of the area around you – we are always looking for interesting material for *Park Beat*, your newsletter of the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association. **Please call or write** Asha Jennings, *Park Beat* editor, at 803-7409 or ashajennings@gmail.com.

EDMONDS AND PHILIPP: *Your Way Home*



Whether buying or selling, call the team that lives & works in Boulevard Park.
Recycling vintage homes in record time is our specialty!

Dave Philipp
REALTOR
916.212.1322
dave@davephilipp.com



Liz Edmonds
REALTOR
916.838.1208
liz@lizedmonds.com



Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Send form with your \$5.00 to \$15.00 check (less than 4 cents a day per household!) for the remainder of the calendar year to:
P.O. Box 163179, Sacramento, CA 95816-9179

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

- ☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member ☐ Yes! I want to help. Call me.
☐ Would you like to receive the newsletter by email, as well as home delivery?