



## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association # Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 # January 2019

### Membership Meeting: Tuesday, January 8

All residents are encouraged to attend BPNA's annual membership meeting at the Ethel Hart Senior Center in Marshall Park (915 27th Street). The meeting will be held in Redwood Room East from 6:30-8:30 p.m. *There will be refreshments!* The agenda includes voting for the 2019 Board of Directors and guest presentations by Norm Leong (from the Sacramento Police Department) and Sean De Courcy (from the Community Development Department). Sean will be providing an update about the historic district planning process (see the article on **page 5** of this newsletter). There also will be opportunities for discussions about any other topics of interest or concern to neighborhood residents.

To vote in the election, you must be current in your BPNA membership dues payments (that is, have paid your dues for calendar year 2018). Dues payments for both 2018 and 2019 will be accepted at the meeting, and range from \$5 to \$15 per member (*whatever your income allows*). In alphabetical order, the seven candidates for the 2019 Board of Directors are: Ty Dockery, Liz Edmonds, Dave Herbert, Ellen Hunt, Eric Knutson, Catherine Turrill Lupi, and Steve Sander. Their personal statements appeared in the [December issue of Park Beat \(page 5\)](#). Print copies of the statements will be available at the January meeting. Please note: BPNA's bylaws permit other candidates to be proposed from the floor at the general meeting. To be eligible for nomination, any candidates must be active and informed members of the BPNA.

#### Brief Report from the BPNA Board

Much of the agenda of the December meeting was devoted to the final arrangements for the Holiday Party on December 15 and advance planning for the General Meeting on January 8. As stated above, the meeting will feature guest speakers from two different City departments. Volunteers from the BPNA membership also will be overseeing the ballot box during the election of the members of the 2019 Board of Directors.

After plans for the General Meeting were finalized, the Board members turned their attention to organizational issues, such as new ways to handle BPNA dues payments. There is strong interest in adopting PayPal (or a comparable system) so that members will have the option of paying their annual dues via the new BPNA website once it is fully operational.

### BPNA's Annual Holiday Party: A Fun and Festive Time for All!

A happy, spirited crowd of Boulevard Park residents enjoyed a great time together on December 15, thanks to the hospitality of this year's hosts, the de la Vergne family: Marc, his wife Angela, and their three children, Evan, Maria, and Claire. Their historic home on 22nd Street was filled with holiday cheer. A large and beautifully decorated tree greeted the guests when they first entered the spacious front foyer (some fortunate guests also were greeted by a friendly pet parrot!), while the cozy fire added ambience to the elegant living room. The dining room featured a long table covered with an array of delicious food: appetizers, entrees, salads, cookies, cakes, and more. Plenty of beverages were on hand as well. Although the large front porch offered extra space for mingling, most of the guests preferred to stay inside the house that chilly evening (fortunately, the rain originally predicted for Saturday did not arrive until Sunday). Thanks to everyone who attended this popular event and thanks for the home-cooked goodies that they brought with them. All in all, the holiday party was another great opportunity for neighborhood residents to visit with old friends and to make new ones.

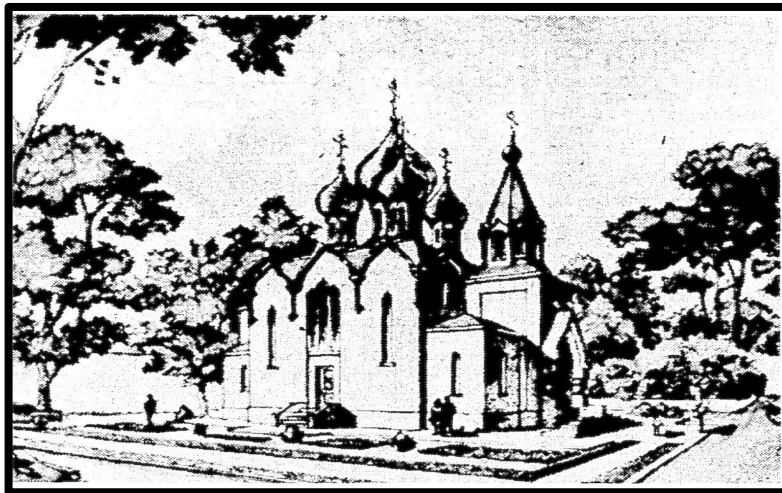
**Special note from our party hosts:** A few serving utensils were left behind at the de la Vergne house. If one of them is yours and you have not retrieved it yet, please contact Dave Herbert at (916) 444-6690.

# Old New Year Concert

Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox church, the picturesque onion-domed structure at the southwest corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and G Streets, will be hosting an “Old New Year” benefit concert on **January 11<sup>th</sup>**, the Friday before the Orthodox New Year, January 14<sup>th</sup> (7-8 p.m.; tickets and seats will be available from 6:15 p.m.). All proceeds from the ticket sales will go towards the re-gilding of the church domes (adults \$15, students \$10; children 12 and under are free). The concert presented by the church choir will give listeners the opportunity to experience both liturgical hymns and seasonal folk songs while surrounded by Russian Orthodox religious art and architecture. After the concert, there will be a reception in the church hall. Souvenirs from Russia will be on sale in the church’s gift shop.

More information, go to:

[https://holycathedralchurch.org/news\\_181203\\_1.html](https://holycathedralchurch.org/news_181203_1.html)



Described as one of the “most unusual churches in Sacramento,” Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church dates from the 1970s and replaces an old house that had served the congregation for nearly twenty years. According to an article printed in *The Sacramento Bee* in 1973, three years before the building permit was secured, the new church was designed by two San Francisco architects, Tigran I. Kirakosian and Frank Constable. It originally was projected to have five gilded domes, as shown in this architects’ drawing from 1973 (photo above).

## Holiday Tree Recycling

Once the holiday festivities are over and you are ready to say goodbye to your tree, please remember that it can be placed out on the street for collection, just like your yard waste. However, the **last day** for on-street collection of green waste of any kind in Sacramento is **January 27**. Before putting your tree on the leaf pile, please remove the stand, any nails, and all of the decorations. If you keep your tree up beyond the end of January, you still can dispose of it in your yard waste container (*be sure to cut the tree into pieces first so that it will fit completely into the bin and the lid will close*).

**Note:** on-street tree collection is for residential customers who receive yard waste service from the City. Businesses and residents who live in apartments or gated complexes should use one of the free drop-off events at various city locations. For more information, go to: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/RSW/Collection-Services/Yard-Waste/Christmas-Tree-Recycling>

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# BPNA Board of Directors 2018

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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:** Ty Dockery  
**Preservation:** Eric Knutson

## Park Beat Production Team

**Designer: Open - Contact Ty Dockery to volunteer**  
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**Ad Manager:** Dave Herbert, [davidmather446@gmail.com](mailto:davidmather446@gmail.com)

## Places to Go, People To See

**Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
20<sup>th</sup> Street between J and K Sts. (*winter hours and location*).

**Jan. 1-21:** Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink: open from 2-9 p.m.,  
Mon.-Thurs.; from 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri.-Sat.; and from 10 a.m. – 9  
p.m., Sun. Admission charged.

**Tues., Jan. 1:** FORB's Annual New Year's Gathering (Sutter's  
Landing, starting at 9 a.m.).

**Mon., Jan. 7:** Deadline to submit applications for the Landscape  
& Learning youth employment program (4 p.m.). See **page 5**.

**Tues., Jan. 8:** General BPNA membership meeting with election  
of 2019 board members (Redwood Room East, Hart Center,  
starting at 6:30 p.m.). See article on **page 1**.

**Wed., Jan. 9:** Deadline to submit applications for membership on  
the Measure U Community Advisory Committee (5 p.m.). See  
article on **page 4**.

**Fri., Jan. 11:** Old New Year Benefit Concert, Holy Ascension  
Russian Orthodox Church, 714 13<sup>th</sup> Street (7-8 p.m.). See **page 2**.

**Sat., Jan. 12:** Second Saturday ArtWalk. Galleries around town  
will be open to present individual and group shows of artists'  
work. **Website:** <http://www.2ndsaturdaysacramento.com>

**Sun., Jan. 13:** Sacramento Antique Faire, 21<sup>st</sup> and X Streets (6:30  
a.m.-3 p.m.; admission charged)

**Sat., Jan. 19:** Free Pruning Workshop with UCCE Master  
Gardeners, Fair Oaks Horticulture Center, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd.  
(9 to Noon). **Website:** <http://sacmg.ucanr.edu>

**Sat., Jan. 19:** Women's March, from Southside Park to the  
Capitol. **Website:** <https://www.womensmarchsac.com/about/>

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

**Sat., Jan. 19:** Sutter's Fort Candlelight Tours (6:30 p.m.; rescheduled  
from November). Tickets often sell out, so advance purchase is  
recommended. For more information, call: 916-445-8115

**Sun., Jan. 20:** "Pay-What-You-Wish" Sunday at the Crocker.

**Website:** <https://tickets.crockerart.org/Info.aspx?EventID=3>

**Mon., Mar. 21:** March for the Dream: from Sacramento City College  
(9-9:30 a.m.) to the Sacramento Convention Center (reviewing stand,  
11:15-11:45 a.m.). A "Diversity Expo" will be held at the Convention  
Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Website:** <http://marchforthedream.org>

**Sun., Jan. 27:** Last day of Leaf Season in Sacramento! (see **page 2**)

... *And, looking ahead to early February:*

**Sat., Feb. 2:** Sacramento Museum Day: Free or reduced admission.

**Website:** <http://sacmuseums.org/news-events/museum-day/>

**Tues., Feb. 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.

**Feb. 9 & 10:** Sacramento Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Open House,  
Shepard Garden & Art Center, McKinley Blvd. (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.).

**Website:** <http://www.sacweavespin.org/annual-show-and-sale>



## News from Friends of the River Banks

On December 1, FORB's team, the Otters, joined eleven other teams  
in the annual wildlife count organized by the American River  
Natural History Association (ARNHA). All seven of the "Otters"  
are neighbors or former neighbors. As shown in the photo above,  
they include Tom, an avid river advocate and advisor (and owner of  
the red canoe); Robert, a skilled nature photographer and leader of  
FORB walks; Jane, who also leads bird walks and who knows more  
birds from their calls than many people can recognize by sight;  
Dale, a biologist who was formerly with the Department of Fish and  
Wildlife; JoEllen, who has travelled the world and is an expert on  
bats (as well as being a talented photographer: note that she is taking  
this photo with her watch!); and two "love-birders," Kevin and Asli.  
Kevin was a docent at the Cosumnes River Preserve for many years.

As of this writing, the results of December's wildlife count are not  
yet available. Watch for updates on FORB's blog  
(<https://www.friendsoftheriverbanks.org/forb-blog>).

## The Trees of Midtown: Black Walnut

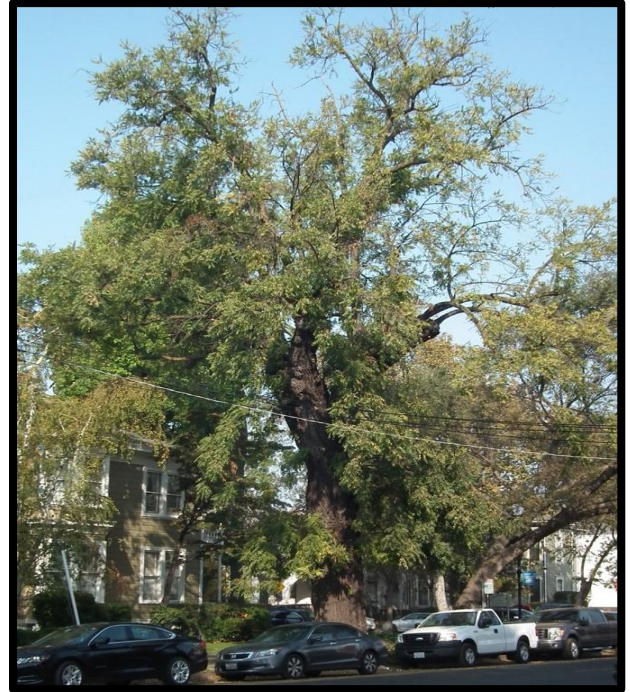
Black walnut trees are seen along the American River Bike Trail and occasionally in Sacramento's central city. The hazards posed by falling nuts may contribute to the lack of popularity of this tree for use along city streets. Furthermore, many other plant varieties do very poorly when planted near walnut trees because of a compound that they release, called juglone. The black walnut can be very attractive when planted in parks or large gardens, however.

World walnut production is led by China, the United States, and Iran. 99% of our country's walnut production is in California's central and coastal valleys. There are several varieties of walnut trees, with the Hind's black walnut variety being native to Northern California. Many parts of the walnut tree are of value commercially.

The nuts are rich in oil which, due to its high cost, is used sparingly (for example, as a non-toxic binding medium in some oil paints). Walnut trees are important for their attractive timber which is hard, dense, light grained, and prized for furniture. Veneer sliced from walnut burls is wonderful for cabinet making and is also sought by prestige car manufacturers. Walnut wood has been the wood of choice for gun makers for centuries. Walnut shells have many uses including cleaning and polishing, oil well drilling, and in the plastics industry.

Some of the black walnut trees planted on Sacramento midtown streets were topped long ago, probably to reduce their height or maybe to reduce the number of falling nuts.

The photograph shows a topped black walnut at the southwest corner of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Capitol Avenue. Topping trees is no longer practiced by Sacramento City Tree Services.



### Measure U Community Advisory Committee: Help Wanted!

Applications from City residents interested in serving on the Measure U Community Advisory Committee will be accepted until **5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9**. As approved by the City Council on October 2, 2018, this new committee will have fifteen members. Nine members will be appointed by Mayor Steinberg and the Council members, and six members will be appointed by the Personnel & Public Employees committee. All Advisory Committee members will be City residents. One information session was held at the Clunie Center on December 13, and there will be three others in January—two on **January 3**, each from 6-7 p.m. (South Natomas Community Center, 2921 Truxel Road; Sam and Bonnie Pannell Community Center, 2450 Meadowview Road), and one on **January 7**, also from 6-7 p.m. (Oak Park Community Center, 3425 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard). City Council Members will select their nominees in late January, the Personnel & Public Employees committee will interview the remaining qualified applicants on **February 5**, and the final six members will be confirmed by the Council at its meeting on **March 5**.

For more information about the process, go to:

<https://engagesac.org/blog-civic-engagement>.

Details about the Committee's structure are available at:

<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Clerk/Legislative-Bodies/Boards-and-Commissions>

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## BPNA Supports the Expansion of Sutter's Landing Park - by Corey Brown

Residents may be able to access the Lower American River just north of Boulevard Park if the City of Sacramento succeeds in acquiring open space properties between the existing Sutter's Landing Park and the Blue Diamond headquarters. The project is part of the City's vision to better connect children and their families to nature in the heart of Sacramento.

With BPNA's support, the City of Sacramento has applied for a \$2 million grant from the state's Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to protect key open space properties and expand the park. The funds would come from the \$10 million included in the voter-approved Proposition 68 state bond act for WCB's Lower American River Conservancy program. WCB is now reviewing the City's grant request and will rank projects for funding in early 2019.

Sacramento City Councilman Jeff Harris is leading the effort to expand and improve Sutter's Landing Park, which can be accessed at the northern end of 28<sup>th</sup> Street. If the City is successful in securing the funds and reaches agreements with the landowners, the City will purchase the Blue Diamond and Dellar Trust open space properties just north of Boulevard Park. These additions will allow the City to close a key gap in the Two Rivers Trail which will eventually provide a continuous paved bike and walking path from Discovery Park to CSU Sacramento along the south side of the American River. The trail is currently paved from Discovery Park to 16<sup>th</sup> Street and along a portion of Sutter's Landing Park.

The Blue Diamond and Dellar properties are very important for wildlife, providing habitat for threatened Swainson's hawks that travel to the American River each spring from Mexico and beyond. Other wildlife using this habitat include Peregrine falcons, White-tailed kites, and many other animals.

In addition to the BPNA, the City's grant request is also supported by the Midtown, Marshall-New Era, Newton Booth, Alkali and Mansion Flats, Winn Park, and Southside Park neighborhood associations, as well as by organizations such as Save the American River Association, Friends of Sutter's Landing Park, Friends of the River, Valley Vision, and the Environmental Council of Sacramento.

Sacramento Assemblyman Kevin McCarty is to thank for his effective leadership in authoring the legislation that established the Lower American River Conservancy program and for leading the effort to secure the Proposition 68 funding.

We can bring a large touch of nature to Boulevard Park for the enjoyment of children, families, and future generations by supporting the Sutter's Landing Park expansion project and the City's grant request. For a short and informative video about the project, created by volunteer videographer George Nybert, go to: <https://youtu.be/im1aDFIsLMw>.

Letters supporting the Sutter's Landing Park expansion project and the \$2 million LARC grant request should be sent to: Mr. John Donnelly, Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Board, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, 1700 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

## EDMONDS AND PHILIPP: *Your Way Home*

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## Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Send form with your \$5 to \$15 check per member for the remainder of the calendar year to: P.O. Box 163179, Sacramento, CA 95816-9179

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- New Member**       **Renewing Member**       **Yes! I want to help. Call me.**  
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## “The Coolest High-Class House in Town”

That is the way the original owner, Joseph E. Mayo, described one half of his duplex when he put it up for rent in 1917. Dating from 1911-12, the two-story double house at 2215 I Street was considered the very first of its type in Sacramento—a cast concrete structure built of sections that had been molded in forms, using a method perfected by Thomas A. Edison only a few years earlier. Edison believed that this new technique would facilitate the mass production of affordable, durable, fireproof housing. The first true monolithic Edison house was assembled in New Jersey in 1910-11, which also is when Mayo launched his project in Sacramento. He secured the permit for the reinforced concrete dwelling in October 1910, explaining that, if the project was a success, he planned to “go into the business of building concrete houses”—which was quite a stretch from his actual profession as sign-painter. Once he had built the forms used to cast the concrete sections for the first house, he anticipated being able to erect additional houses “at a much less cost than for the initial structure” (\$8,500). Mayo’s hopes notwithstanding, the I Street house may have been his only venture in concrete house construction.



2215 I Street

Framed between two tall palm trees, the double house is an impressive structure with half-timbering in the front gables, deep eaves, dormer windows, and a wide front porch with sturdy pillars (the architectural style has been described as “Craftsman Chalet”). It remained a duplex for many years before being converted to apartments. Joseph’s son Frank, a Stockton architect, secured a permit to remodel one half of the structure into three apartments in 1936. Members of the Mayo family lived in their “Edison Concrete House” from 1912 until the 1970s. The family firm, Mayo Paint Company, was located just over a block away, at 2318 J Street.



J. E. Mayo (in 1906)

### Historic District Plan Public Workshop

On December 6, the City’s historic preservation staff and historic consultants from Page & Turnbull presented the “historic contexts and surveys” portion of the draft document of Sacramento Historic District Plans (<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/HDP>).

BPNA Board member Dave Herbert also was there. He reported that the meeting, which was co-hosted by Preservation Sacramento and served as one of its quarterly round-tables, was well attended. The researchers working for Page & Turnbull were clearly enthusiastic about the project and about the City’s historic neighborhoods. Urban Design Manager Bruce Monighan and Associate Preservation Planner Sean de Courcy also were present to provide their perspectives.

Boulevard Park residents can learn more about the Historic District Plans project by attending BPNA’s general meeting on **January 8**. Sean de Courcy is one of the invited guests (see article on **page 1**).

### Spring Job Opportunity for Sacramento Teens!

Sacramento sponsors several youth employment programs. A very popular one is **Landscape & Learning (L&L)**, which offers paid work experience to City residents who are between 14 and 17 years of age. Teenagers who are accepted into the Spring L&L program help with landscape maintenance and general cleanup in city parks from mid-March until the end of May. They also receive specialized training in landscaping, employer expectations, teamwork, safety, customer service, and time management. The deadline for applying is 4:00 p.m. on **Monday, January 7**. Application forms are available at the Belle Coolege Community Center, 5699 South Land Park Drive.

For more information about the L&L program, call: (916) 808-8929. For more information about youth employment opportunities through the City of Sacramento, go to: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Recreation/Teen-Services/EmploymentPrograms>