



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association • Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 • June 2012

It's Time for the BPNA Yard Sale!!!

Saturday, June 2, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. • 22nd Street Between F and G Streets

COME ONE, COME ALL! – The annual BPNA yard sale extravaganza will be held June 2 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on the 22nd Street median, between F and G Streets. We have a huge assortment of things that could be yours, including furniture, kitchen items, glasses, dishes, games, books, children's toys, and sports items. Come see what great finds you can take home with you! This event is BPNA's largest fundraiser, helping us to publish the monthly Park Beat newsletter that you're reading right now, make grants to organizations, and finance such events as the Annual Holiday Party and the Spaghetti Dinner.

Many thanks to those who have already donated items for the yard sale. We are still accepting donations. We'll gladly take virtually any saleable item that is usable and in decent condition — such as sports equipment, household goods, kid's toys, furniture, knick-knacks and garden items (no clothing, please). To arrange for pick-up or drop-off of your items, please call Pat Cosentino at 444-0506.

Can you spare an hour or two of your time to help with the Yard Sale?

We still need more volunteers to work an hour or two, helping with such tasks as unloading the items in the morning, keeping the tables reasonably orderly, answering questions and steering our customers to the cashier, helping with clean-up at the end of the sale. We also need help at the pricing party on Friday evening before the sale – a fun couple of hours, no previous experience needed. To volunteer, please contact Asha Jennings at ashajennings@gmail.com.



Don't Forget to Vote !! Tuesday, June 5

Our primary elections are on June 5th. Your vote in the primary election will determine the candidates for several national and local representatives. As you may know, Boulevard Park was included in the new City Council District 4 after redistricting. This seat has been held by Councilmember Rob King Fong, who is not seeking reelection. The primary vote is therefore especially important for our neighborhood to determine who the candidates will be for our district and who will represent our interests at City Council. There are also two propositions on the ballot: Proposition 28—Limits on state lawmakers' terms of office and Proposition 29—Tobacco Tax increase. Remember – the democratic process is still the best form of government in the world, and your vote does make a difference. For more information and to locate your polling place, visit www.elections.sacounty.net.

New & Renewing Members April 15th – May 9th

**Dues received after May 9th will be listed in July's Park Beat*

Donna & Vince Bezdecheck
Michael Gibson • Russ Henly & Martha Turner

Oh Captain, My Captain! (apologies to Walt Whitman)

You may have wondered how the Park Beat finds its way to your doorstep each month. It's not magic - it's the product of efforts by a chain of BPNA volunteers who create and distribute the newsletter. Each block in the neighborhood has a Block Captain, who drops off a newsletter at each home. (Some Block Captains deliver to multiple blocks, up to 4 blocks in a couple of cases!) Overseeing all the block captains is the Distribution Coordinator (aka, the Captain of Captains), who picks up the printed newsletters from the printer at 16th & E Streets and drops them off at the homes of the individual Block Captains. The packets are pre-packaged and sorted by location. The Coordinator can drop them off in order without having to sort them. Picking up the order from the printer and dropping them off takes about an hour each month.

Hal Edmonds has faithfully served as Captain of Captains for several years and would like to pass the honor and the duties to a new volunteer. All you need is a car and a spare hour at around the end of the month. Please contact Asha Jennings at ashajennings@gmail.com or Hal himself for more information or to volunteer at 599-5814, or CapnHal@gmail.com. And many, many thanks to Hal for his service to the Association – it has been much appreciated.

Places to Go, People to See

Every Monday – Monday Night Skate – 7:00 p.m. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of 3rd and S Streets. For more information, go to www.sacramentoskating.com or call Brian Malone at 715-2808 or Bernard Scoville at 447-8288.

Certified Farmers' Markets Return To The Central City!!!
Open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Tuesdays: Fremont Park, 16th & P; Roosevelt Park, 9th & P
- Wednesdays: Cesar Chavez Park, 10th & J streets
- Thursday: Capitol Mall, 6th & Capitol Capitol Park, 15th & L

June 1 – Pricing Party for Yard Sale. Volunteers needed (see article)

June 2 – YARD SALE! Come to help! Come to buy! (see article)

June 2 – Scooter's Clean Air Fun Fest – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fremont Park (see article)

June 2 – Pops in the Park – 6 p.m. The Nibblers at McKinley Park

June 5 – PRIMARY ELECTION. DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

June 6 – BPNA Board Meeting – 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Asha Jennings at 803-7409 for location and to add items to the agenda. Open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors.

June 8 – Small Business Workshop – 7:30 to 11:45 a.m.
Woodlake Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane. Free workshop for small business owners including marketing and social media, finance and business tax programs, networking opportunities. Registration is on the City of Sacramento's website <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/econdev/sacramentobusinessfirst/index.cfm>.

June 9 – Friends of the River Bank – 8:00 p.m. Evening walk and talk on bats! Meet at the northernmost end of 28th Street, near the skateboard park in Sutter's Landing Park. (see article)

June 9 – Pops in the Park – 6 p.m. Chris Gardner Band at Glenn Hall Park

June 9 – 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.

June 15 – Copy and Ad Deadline for July issue of Park Beat.
To submit articles and calendar entries, email Margaret Buss at mbuss@jps.net or call 448-6246. To place an ad, call Jim Younkin at 997-5081 or email jayounkin@gmail.com.

June 16 – Green Thumb Brigade – SUMMER HOURS – 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., meet in the alley behind 711/715 22nd Street (see article)

June 16 – Pops in the Park – 6 p.m. The Q-Balls at East Portal Park

June 23 – Pops in the Park – 6 p.m. Ivan Najera and Friends at Bertha Henschel Park

SAVE THESE DATES

July 14 – BPNA Summer Meeting & BBQ

July 21 – Screen on the Green "Rocky Horror Picture Show"
– Sutter's Landing Park

August 7 – National Night Out

September 8 – BPNA Spaghetti Dinner

September 16 – Sacramento Old City Association Home Tour
– Poverty Ridge

Music Under the Canopy

Every summer, city residents have the opportunity to enjoy free concerts "al fresco" in the city's famous tree-shaded parks, a perfect way to enjoy the balmy evenings. Councilman Steve Cohn and his staff work diligently each year with East Sacramento neighborhoods to bring the "Pops in the Parks" programs to parks nearby. The concerts are free and begin at 6 p.m. Food and beverages are available for purchase at each concert, and the traditional beer and wine gardens will be open, too. All sales benefit the "Pops in the Parks" program and the neighborhood where the concerts take place. The 2012 series begins on June 2.

Saturday, June 2 – The Nibblers at McKinley Park

Saturday, June 9 – Chris Gardner Band at Glenn Hall Park

Saturday, June 16 – The Q-Balls at East Portal Park

Saturday, June 23 – Ivan Najera and Friends at Bertha Henschel Park

Spare The Air – Kick-Off Party June 2

Summertime is Spare the Air Time. To raise awareness and kick-off the summer right, Scooter, the Spare The Air doggy mascot, will be hosting the third annual Scooter's Clean Air Fun Fest, June 2, in Fremont Park, 15th & P, 11 a.m to 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to this free, family-friendly event to enjoy live music and entertainment (with a surprise special guest performance), and learn about ways they can reduce air pollution. Numerous local vendors will share their services. The first 300 visitors will receive goodie bags, and raffles and prizes will be given throughout the day.

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	Julianne Richards	443-6149	jrichards@cde.ca.gov
	Catherine Turrill	498-0437	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.

BPNA's Biggest Event The Annual Spaghetti Dinner September 8th Volunteers are needed

- Set up: morning of the 8th, about an hour
- Kitchen crew: 45 minute shift during dinner
- Serving crew: 45 minute shift during dinner
- Clean up: morning after on the 9th, about an hour

The more the merrier and the shorter the work hours!

Email Suzie Johnston at suzqquincy2@sbcglobal.net or Roberta Franklin at rlfranklin1@comcast.net to let us know what you would like to do. If you have already been contacted to volunteer – find a friend! We can put you to work together.

Friends of the River Bank June 9th Bats? Birds? Both?

The Friends of the River Banks (FORB) program on Saturday, June 9 will be batty! Instead of the usual morning nature walk, JoEllen Arnold will lead us at dusk to learn about those amazing creatures of the night – bats. The program will start at 8 p.m. at Sutter's Landing parking lot, over the railroad tracks and all the way to the skateboard park. It should be magical sitting on the beach watching the sky grow dark, the stars and planets becoming visible, and ducks and geese flying in, paddling about. Have towels or chairs to sit on if you don't want to sit in the sand. Bring binoculars if you have them – and mosquito repellent, water, and a light jacket. We also recommend bringing water and a change of clothes for little ones who cannot resist the water, grass and mud. Please try to walk or carpool to minimize our carbon footprint, and, for the sake of the critters we look for, please leave your dogs at home

COMING IN JULY

Don't Forget BPNA General Meeting and BBQ on July 14 – 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. between F & G, 21st & 22nd Streets

BPNA provides hot dogs and condiments, plates and plasticware – you bring a dish to share, beverage of choice, and blanket or chair. Representatives from Mayor Kevin Johnson's office, Assemblymember Roger Dickinson's office, and Councilman Rob Fong's office have been invited. In addition to the BBQ & speakers, this year we'll host the 1st Annual Bean Bag Toss tournament – similar to horseshoes but less dangerous for participants and onlookers. Look for more information in the July newsletter.

Committees

Membership: Sally Flory-O'Neil, 446-3390

Preservation: Suzie Johnston, 397-9294

Park Beat Production Team

Editor: Margaret Buss, 448-6246, mbuss@jps.net

Advertising Manager: Jim Younkin, 997-5081, jayounkin@gmail.com

Graphic Designer: Kevin Boyd, 442-4429, silverpixelworks@att.net

Block Captain Coordinator: Hal Edmonds, 599-5814

Great ad rates! Call Jim at 916.997.5081 for details.

Don't forget! The deadline for ads and copy for the July issue of *Park Beat* is June 15 by 5:00 p.m.!

HORROR ON THE LANDING!

If you did not have the original "Rocky Horror Picture Show" experience back in the 1970s, you'll soon have your chance – collect your props, don your costume, and join the jubilant adult audience at a special midnight (well, actually, 11:59 p.m.) showing in Sutter's Landing Park on Saturday, July 21. An outdoor venue below the looming mounds of the old city landfill will be ideal for this famously over-the-top movie, sometimes described as the "longest running release in film history."

For the uninitiated — if there are any in Boulevard Park! — recommended props for members of the audience include rice, toast (unbuttered), newspapers, water pistols, flashlights, noisemakers, confetti, toilet paper, and party hats.

"Rocky Horror Picture Show" is the first of several FREE outdoor movies that are being sponsored by Councilman Steve Cohn as part of the annual "Screen on the Green" series (<http://sacscreenthegreen.com/>), but it is the only film being shown in the greater Boulevard Park area.



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It's Not Easy Being Green – Green Thumb Brigade in the Summertime

The Green Thumb Brigade is a small but true-blue (true-green?) volunteer group that tends to the pedestrian islands and traffic circles (now with periodic assistance from city street maintenance). In spring and summer, we weed, trim plants that are too exuberant, and sweep the devices. In fall and winter, we rake leaves and sweep. With temperatures rising, it is time for the Green Thumb Brigade to switch to its summertime hours. Instead of working from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., the Thumbs will start work at 8 a.m., ending at 10 a.m. to beat the heat.

The Thumbs welcome any and all new members – no expertise in plants needed; we usually have our indefatigable plant advisor Daisy Mah along. We meet in the alley behind 711 22nd Street the third Saturday of every month. While bringing your own trowels, brooms, dustpans, or rakes is helpful, we also share tools, but you should bring your own gardening gloves.

We cannot get to all the devices each month, so we very much welcome the support of those “Anonymous Green Thumbs” who “adopt” a pedestrian island, diverter or traffic circle. In summertime, the most important task is to keep the devices watered – one bucket a week per pedestrian island is all the plants ask. Traffic circles must be watered by hose. If you enjoy the street greenery and are willing to help our leafy friends, contact Sally Flory O’Neil at 446-3390 or sfoneil@comcast.net for more information on traffic calming devices which need watering – some of them may be near your home. Many thanks from the GTB – our motto: “We’re All Thumbs!”

Our Good Friend: Vincent Bezdecheck

Many long-time residents of Boulevard Park know the Vincent Bezdecheck family as part of a group of “restoration pioneers” of the 70s, 80s and 90s, drawn by the beautiful (if often rundown) old houses, moving into the neighborhood when it was challenged by crime, too many drug houses, and other social problems. The current Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association was started in the early 1990s by a group of neighbors passionate about making the neighborhood more livable, taking on issues of reducing and slowing traffic, trying to bring streetlighting to reduce crime and enhance safety, ensuring preservation of the historic homes, and many more. One of those passionate neighbors was Vince Bezdecheck, who worked on all those issues, including serving as Co-Chair of BPNA in the 90s. Vince’s interests were wide-ranging and enterprising, including preparing an electrified float for the 1995 city parade celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first electricity delivered from the Folsom Power House to Sacramento – and competing in Eppie’s Great Race. He lovingly and painstakingly restored his own historic home, which was featured in the 2009 Sacramento Old City Association Home Tour. Vince, his wife Donna, and their three children have been important fixtures in and supporters of the neighborhood.

Vince has been diagnosed with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. He and his family invite friends and neighbors who would like to keep in contact and send good wishes to go to the CaringBridge website, caringbridge.org, scroll to “Visit a Caring Bridge Website” and enter “vincentbezdecheck1”, then hit “visit.” You will be asked to enter your email address as a security measure. You can then view Donna’s updates on Vince, as well as leave a message for him and the family. Dealing with chronic disease is difficult and wearying; even short messages can lift their spirits. To the Bezdechecks – and to all our neighbors battling disease and other sorrows – we send our heartfelt best wishes.

The View From the Top: A FORB Report on the Sutter’s Landing Landfill

For May’s Friends of the River Bank expedition, a group of fifty plus adults and children were given the rare treat of hiking to the highest point in Sacramento – the Sutter’s Landing Landfill. Usually off-limits to anyone but city staff, the group climbed the 100+ feet to hear Sacramento’s Solid Waste Management Department staff explain how the landfill is maintained and how, due to excellent collaboration between staff, residents and Friends of Sutter’s Landing members, it may become a park feature in the future. Fifteen years ago, the landfill’s trash was capped by a layer of clay; the clay layer keeps water from getting into the trash and infiltrating the groundwater. The trash below the clay produces methane gas, which used to be used by the Blue Diamond Almond Factory at 17th & C Streets. As the years passed, Blue Diamond switched to natural gas; also, the dump produces less and less methane, which is now burned off in controlled flares. City staff check the clay cap regularly to ensure no water seepage occurs, and they keep the site mowed to reduce fire danger. The site also serves as habitat for mice and other small animals that are forage for resident hawks and coyotes, the mowing actually aids that function. On this trip, critter sightings included a jackrabbit, garter snake, killdeer (leading us away from her nest), red-shouldered hawk, Swainson’s hawks on their nest (!), and numerous ducks, geese and other birds in flight.

Corey Brown, a Boulevard Park resident and co-founder of the Friends of Sutter’s Landing, and Councilman Steve Cohn, who has been instrumental in creating and protecting Sutter Landing’s Park’s interests, spoke of the long-term vision for a regional Sutter’s Landing Park and how the site may be integrated into the park once the landfill is declared “clean” in

continues next pg.



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Historic Homes of Boulevard Park

2100 F Street – Joseph Marzen House



Reputed to be designed by Rudolf Herold, a prominent local architect who designed the City Hall, this house was built by Joseph Marzen in 1910 when he was 82 years old. Construction costs on the building permit were estimated at \$9,800. Joseph Marzen was a successful capitalist who first came to Sacramento during the Gold Rush in 1849. After first working in the butcher business, he made his fortune in livestock and banking in Lovelock, Nevada. He and his wife, Catherine, were active in Sacramento civic activities.

This Colonial Revival or Federalist home features Art Nouveau stylized acanthus leaves and flowers on the pilasters and capitals and also as a chimney detail. Other features include projecting cornices, wheel and cross porch railings and leaded glass windows. A full second story wrap-around porch is unique to this large formal home. Like many of the larger homes in Boulevard Park, it became a boarding house, in this case for elderly reformed alcoholics. It was purchased by Bonnie Fitzpatrick, a former Senior Vice President of Lyon Realty in 1979 and champion of the value of midtown's historic homes. She extensively restored the house to be a single family home, and graciously opened her home for many community events.

[Adapted from "Boulevard Park: A Walking Tour" by the Historic Boulevard Park Committee. For a copy of this brochure, contact BPNA Co-Chair Jon Marsback.]

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 Margaret Buss, Park Beat editor, at 448-6246 or mbuss@jps.net.



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The View From the Top:

continued from pg. 4

another fifteen years. The site settles a little each year, so this highest ground in Sacramento may be a few feet lower by the time it is open to the public. On this trip, the view of the Sierras was obscured by haze, but local conservationist Randy Smith's photos taken on a clear day showed participants how grand it can be. For more information on the long-term vision for the park, go to http://www.friendsoftheriverbanks.org/uploads/6/4/1/2/6412949/sutters_landing_vision-081611-lores.pdf.

Important Phone Numbers

There are different numbers for filing police reports and for emergencies in Sacramento.

Call **916-264-5011** to reporting lights out, animal control, and other *non-emergency* city issues.

Call **916-264-5471** to file a non-emergency police report. This is the direct line to the Sacramento Police Department incident reporting system.

For emergencies:

Dial **9-1-1** from *land lines*, or

Dial **916-264-5151** from *cell phones* within City of Sacramento.

Please note that dialing 9-1-1 from a cell phone connects you to California Highway Patrol, and it will take time to be connected back to the City's police dispatch unit. Save the cell phone emergency number listed above in your personal cell phone for ready access.

Five Ways to Improve The Neighborhood

Adapted from City of Sacramento, Neighborhood Services Department

- Get involved with your neighborhood association. You'll be better informed of issues facing the neighborhood and have a chance to shape, guide and participate in the future of your neighborhood.
- Report crime promptly. Whether the issue is graffiti, petty vandalism, or something much more serious, police cannot act without first hearing about the problem from you.
- Meet the youth on your and greet them by name. This one simple step can help in a crisis where adults and young people need to communicate.
- Turn your porch light on. Do this every night at dusk and keep it on until dawn. Crime tends to decline in well-lit neighborhoods. It also makes the street feel more welcome which communicates that we care about our neighborhood.
- Walk around the block. Neighborhoods benefits when its residents walk around, meet and chat with their neighbors.

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Critter Corner

While Frank Graham reads or Kym Roberts sets the table, Bella Blu often sits out on the screened porch of their one hundred and one year-old Craftsman bungalow (some of the architecture changed to suit different decades).

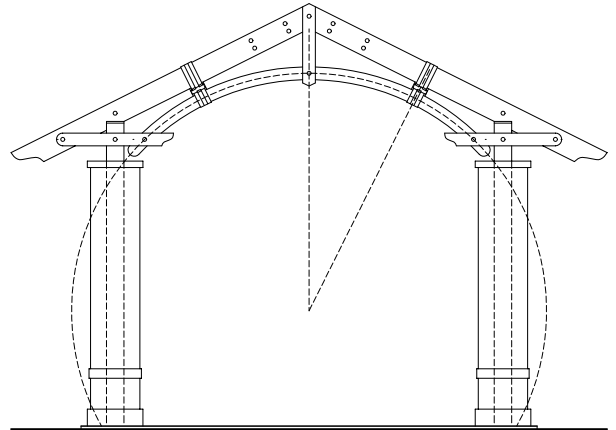


Ms. Blu Eyes enjoys poking around in shopping bags, preening, morning sprints on the carpet, occupying "her" chair, taking afternoon naps, and challenging or flirting with fellow felines that occasionally visit. Bella sometimes appears hypnotized or unresponsive when she's in dialogue with the local robins and finches, but she will wait faithfully bathside to catch droplets of water and lick calves. She munches on poppies and meows repeatedly until she gets her favorite treat, an ice cube.

Got an unusual pet you'd like featured in Critter Corner? Send information and/or a photo to Board Member Suzie Johnston at suzynquincy@sbcglobal.net or Newsletter Editor Margaret Buss at mbuss@jps.net.

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