



## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

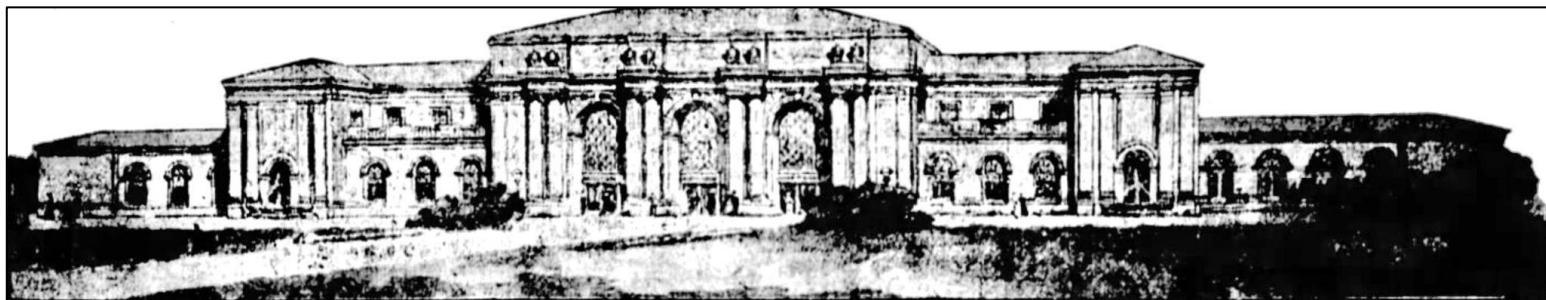
Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ☐ Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816-0811 ☐ October 2023

### Boulevard Park's "Temporary" Passenger Station

According to an article printed in *The Sacramento Bee* on October 29, 1909, when the building was very close to completion, the new Western Pacific Passenger Depot at J and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets was not intended to be a permanent structure. It was a temporary building that was going to be replaced after the railroad tracks had been elevated above street grade, the condition imposed by the City when it granted the franchise to Western Pacific. This was supposed to happen within ten years. Instead, the surface railroad was retained, and so was the Mission Revival style station that stands today. Chicago architect Daniel H. Burnham, famous for his skyscrapers, drew up the plans for the building. His first design was for a much more ambitious and expensive structure that was expected to cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000 (see the illustration below). The temporary station that was finished in 1909 cost about \$30,000.

Designed in 1907, Burnham's unbuilt "San Francisco Beautiful" passenger depot for Sacramento was in a grand Beaux-Arts style, much like his Union Station in Washington, D.C. It would have faced 19<sup>th</sup> Street and would have taken up the entire width of the block between J and K Streets. Although Burnham also was credited with the design of the more modest Mission Revival style station that was built instead (for example, in the *Sacramento Bee* article cited above), it is understood to be the work of Willis Polk, the head of the west coast branch of Burnham's firm. With its red tiled roof, stucco-covered concrete walls, and long arcades, it is considered the best example of Mission Revival style architecture in Sacramento.

Western Pacific's passenger rail service was launched in August 1910 and lasted less than sixty years, ending in March 1970. In 1976, after an award-winning renovation by architect Dean F. Unger, the repurposed building opened as a railroad-themed restaurant called the Sacramento Depot. Two years later, it was reopened as the Old Spaghetti Factory, still in business today.



Above: D. H. Burnham's original design for the Western Pacific Passenger Depot (from the front page of *The Sacramento Bee*, July 23, 1907)



Left: The Western Pacific Passenger Depot in about 1910 (photo in the collection of the California State Railroad Museum Library)



## Celebrating the New Central City Bikeway Network

At 9:00 on Wednesday morning, **October 4**, there will be a celebration and ribbon-cutting at the Truitt Bike Park, 1818 Q Street. This event highlights the new Central City Bikeway and its connectivity to the midtown passenger rail station that will be built near 19<sup>th</sup> and Q Streets in the next few years. Local elected officials, city and agency representatives, and project stakeholders will be present. There will be information about the nexus between active transportation, rail transportation, and affordable housing. After the ceremony ends, cyclists will be invited to participate in a voluntary bike ride for a few blocks to experience the new network. If you are interested in attending this event, please send an email to [midtownsacramentostation@gmail.com](mailto:midtownsacramentostation@gmail.com)

## Free Backyard Composting Workshops

The last of five free, City-sponsored workshops about backyard composting will be offered on **October 4 and 14**. The first workshop will be at the Sojourner Truth Community Garden, 7365 Gloria Drive (Oct. 4, 6-7 p.m.); the second and third workshops will be at the Southside Community Garden, 2226 5<sup>th</sup> Street (Oct. 14, 8-9 a.m. and 9-10 a.m.). All seminar participants who are City residents can receive a free Geobin Composter (instructions for using the bin will be offered at the workshop). For more information and to register, go to: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/RSW/Collection-Services/Yard-Waste/Backyard-Composting>

## Free Family Yoga Classes in Grant Park

Julia Davis, who led a family movement and yoga session at Boulevard Park Kids' Day in Grant Park in September, is returning to the park with two half-hour yoga classes on **Saturday, October 7 and Saturday, October 21**. Both sessions run from **11 to 11:30 a.m.**, are intended for families, and are open to all levels and ages. Please bring a blanket or yoga mat. It's also recommended that you bring some water. "Yoga Moves Us" sponsored the equipment for these classes.



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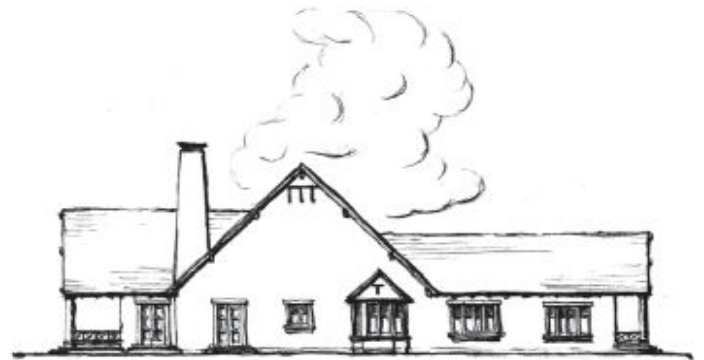
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*Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life for others who work and live in and around Boulevard Park, and therefore in Sacramento as a whole.*

## Committees

Membership:	Geoff Embler
Preservation, Planning, and Land Use:	Morris Lum

## Park Beat Production Team

Newsletter Editor:	Catherine Turrill Lupi
Columnist:	David Herbert
Newsletter Designer:	<i>Position Open</i>
Social Media:	Sher Singh
Block Captain Coordinator:	Joe Cress, (916) 628-3130 <a href="mailto:josephmcress@yahoo.com">josephmcress@yahoo.com</a>

## October 2023: Places to Go, Things to Do

**TIP:** For more information about public events this month, go to: <https://www.sacramento365.com>. Be sure to check individual organization websites for announcements and updates.

**Every Wednesday:** "Wednesdays at Winn," a certified farmers' market in Winn Park, May.-Nov. (28<sup>th</sup> and P Sts, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.). Website: <http://exploremidtown.org/wednesdays-at-winn/>.

**Every Saturday:** Midtown Farmers' Market (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20<sup>th</sup> St. between J and L St.; K St. between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> St.). Website: <https://exploremidtown.org/midtownfarmersmarket/>

**Most weekend mornings:** Join other volunteers in tackling a variety of beautification tasks at Sutter's Landing Park. For more details, contact FOSL's volunteer coordinator, Betsy Weiland, by email ([flweiland@yahoo.com](mailto:flweiland@yahoo.com)) or phone (279-202-4677).

**Oct. 1-8:** Sacramento Ballet presents "Beer and Ballet" at CLARA. Website: <https://www.sacballet.org/events/beer-ballet-2023/>

**Oct. 1-22:** "Thurgood," award-winning play directed by James Wheatley, at Celebration Arts Theatre, 2727 B Street. Website: <https://www.celebrationarts.net/productions>

**Thu., Oct. 5:** 28<sup>th</sup> Annual "Treasures of the Valley," fundraising event for the Sacramento Valley Conservancy at Camp Pollock, 1501 Northgate Blvd. (6-8 p.m.; for ages 21 and over; \$75 per person). Locally sourced produce, meat, beer, and wine will be served. Website: <https://sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/event/toy2023/>

## Places to Go, Things to Do (continued)

**Thu., Oct. 5:** BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents (completion of COVID vaccinations required). Contact Dave Herbert for information.

**Oct. 6-8:** 60th annual Sacramento Greek Festival, 600 and 616 Alhambra Boulevard (11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Fri. and Sat.; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sun.). See article on [page 4](#).

**Oct. 6 & 7:** Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera Present "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in concert at SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L Street. Website: <https://www.sacphilopera.org/production/harry-potter/>

**Oct. 7 & 8:** Fall Sale, at Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-4 on Sat.; 10-3 on Sun.). Jewelry, art, crafts, plants, food. Website: <https://www.sgaac.org/calendar/>

**Sat., Oct. 7:** "Myth, Folklore, and Legend": annual Sacramento Archives Crawl: Four archives and libraries will be open to the public, with special "behind the scenes" tours (10-4; shuttle bus transportation will be provided). Website: <https://www.sacarchivescrawl.com/>

**Sat., Oct. 7:** "Murder Most Foul," tour of the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (5 p.m.; \$10 paid in advance). Website: <https://historicoldcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

**Oct. 7-28:** "Papi, Me, and Cesar Chavez," part of the Family Series at the Sofia Tsakopoulos Center for the Arts, 2700 Capitol Ave. (matinees and evenings; admission charged). Website: <https://bstreettheatre.org/family/papi-me-cesar-chavez/>

**Fri., Oct. 13:** Oktoberfest, at Sacramento Turn Verein, 3349 J St. (6-11:30 p.m.; admission charged). See article on [page 4](#).

**Fri., Oct. 13:** "Día de los Muertos Fiesta," California Museum, 1020 O St. (6-10 p.m.; \$10 advance admission). See [page 4](#).

**Oct. 14 & 15:** 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Porcelain Show & Tea, hosted by Camellia City Porcelain Artists at the Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-3 each day).

**Sat., Oct. 28:** Annual Fall Show & Sale, presented by Art by Fire at Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-4). Handcrafted art in clay, glass, and metal.

**Sun., Oct. 29:** "Mariachi Festival de Sacramento," Memorial Auditorium, 1515 J Street (4 p.m.; admission charged). Website: <https://mariachifestival.net/>

*... And looking ahead to early November:*

**Sun., Nov. 5:** Turn back your clocks! **Daylight Savings Time** ends at 2 a.m.

**Thu., Nov. 9:** BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information.

## October is a Festive Month in Sacramento



**Sac Greek Fest:** There are several festivals being held this month, starting with the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Sacramento Greek Festival in the courtyard beside the church of the Annunciation at 606 and 616 Alhambra Boulevard. This three-day event begins on **Friday, October 6**, continues on **Saturday** (both days from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.), and concludes with a full day of activities on **Sunday** (11 a.m. to 8 p.m.). Admission is \$5 for ages 13-64, and \$3 (for ages 65 and older). If you arrive on a bicycle, admission is free! (enter from 30<sup>th</sup> Street and bring your own lock).

As of September 25, the schedule has not been posted, but typically this popular festival offers live music, Greek dancing, cooking demonstrations, tours of the church (designed by architect Clarence C. Cuff in 1950), and a wide range of authentic Greek foods, home-made by volunteers. Souvenirs, art, crafts, books, and other items will be for sale. The whole event recreates a Greek village festival and is lots of fun for people of all ages. Website: <http://sacramentogreekfestival.com/>

**Oktoberfest:** Located at 3349 J Street, the German community's Turn Verein building is just a short distance away from the Greek church. It will be hosting its annual Oktoberfest on **Friday, October 13** (6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.; admission \$20 for adults, \$5 for children 12 years and younger). There will be a traditional outdoor Biergarten, German beer on tap, wine, and German food. Also offered will be live music from three different bands, German music and dancers, and kid-friendly activities.

Website: <https://sacramentoturnverein.com/event/oktoberfest/>

**Dia de los Muertos Fiesta:** The California Museum at 1020 O Street will be hosting a "Día de los Muertos Fiesta" to celebrate the opening of the museum's exhibit *Arte Activista: Dia de los Muertos 2023* (**Friday, Oct. 13**; 6-10 p.m.; \$10 advance admission). There will be live music, entertainment, art workshops, a costume contest, and refreshments. Website: <https://californiamuseum.org/visit/events-public-programs/fiesta-2023/>



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*For more information contact:*  
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### Do Something Spooky in October: Visit the Old City Cemetery at Night

By the time you read this, there still may be a few tickets available for the Lantern Tours in the Old City Cemetery, but these popular tours tend to sell out well in advance of the date. So, if you are unable to get tickets this year but are still interested, mark your September 2024 calendar, and see if you can score a ticket or two next year. To further ensure that you get tickets for these and other special cemetery tours, consider joining the Old City Cemetery Committee. Each OCCC member gets early access to two tickets for October's Lantern Tours (<https://historicoldcitycemetery.org/membership/>).

The theme of this year's Lantern Tours, scheduled on **October 13, 14, 20, and 21** is "Calamity!" There are several half-hour long tours each evening, with the first one starting at 7 p.m. and the last one at 9:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 and must be purchased in advance. Go to the website: <https://historicoldcitycemetery.org/lantern-tours/>

## Historic, Not Haunted: The Aden C. Hart House

The mansion at 2131 H Street has been this neighborhood’s “Halloween house” for decades, partly due to its lack of occupants and the air of neglect resulting from their absence. Another contributing factor is the original sculptural decoration. No other house in the area has a lion glaring down from above the front porch. In fact, the house has many original features, as well as an interesting history. For the last 116 years—that is, from 1907 until now—only two families have owned the place.

The first owner, Aden C. Hart, was a prominent physician. He, his wife Alice, and Lloyd F. Chase, her son from her first marriage, moved into their new home in summer 1907. The Harts had been married two years. Their architect, Alden W. Campbell, outdid himself when designing the two-story frame and concrete block residence. There are two types of wall shingles, many windows and window panes of different shapes and sizes, four Ionic columns, and two sculpted lion heads. One journalist, impressed by the sheer variety of detail, compared the “artistic and luxurious dwelling” to an *olla podrida*, a spicy Spanish stew (the same term is used for a miscellaneous assortment of items).



A broad veranda extends around the front and east sides of the house at ground floor level, a feature later adopted by Edward F. Dalton for his even larger mansion at 2131 F Street (built in 1912). The second story has both a front balcony and a side porch, and there also is a balcony at the attic level. Inside, the house boasts a beamed reception hall, a library, a drawing room, and a paneled and beamed dining room with a stained-glass window, among other rooms. It was a house designed for entertaining. When Alice Hart hosted an “at home” party for a family friend in April 1908, a small orchestra performed on the upper landing of the main staircase.

The Harts sold the house to an Italian poultry farmer from Worcester, Massachusetts in 1945 and moved to San Francisco. According to family lore, Tommaso Amoruso, his wife Angelina, and their five children piled into two Packard automobiles and drove across the country in 1942. After settling in Sacramento, they began raising almonds and olives. Members of the family continued to ranch while also managing a boarding house and several motels in and around Sacramento, always retaining ownership of the big house in Boulevard Park. The last home of Tommaso (died in 1949) and Angelina (died in 1980), it still belongs to the Amoruso family today. Its future remains a mystery.

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## ***Second Call, Candidates for the 2024 Board of Directors***

Every autumn the BPNA solicits members in good standing (annual membership dues paid up) to serve on the following year’s Board of Directors. Once a slate is formed with a minimum of seven individuals, the names of all declared candidates will be announced in the December issue of *Park Beat*, where the candidates’ personal statements also will appear. Voting for the 2024 Board will take place at the general membership meeting in January 2024.

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 this neighborhood. Board meetings are held monthly, and each session lasts about an hour and a half. In collaboration with other BPNA members, the seven officers also 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, held periodically, 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 (contact the editor for more information!).

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



## Familiar Fauna in Sacramento: The Wood Duck

A common sight at the McKinley Park duck pond and in other local parks, the North American wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) lives here year around while wood ducks living in colder climates migrate to the south in winter.

The adult male has stunning multi-colored iridescent plumage and red eyes, while the females are less colorful. The male's call is a rising whistle while females have a drawn-out, rising squeal, very different from the "quack quack" often associated with ducks.

Wood ducks usually nest in tree cavities near water, but they also take advantage of appropriately placed nesting boxes, like those installed in some Sacramento parks.

Other animals, such as squirrels and bats, sometimes move into the nesting boxes before the wood ducks find them. Unlike most ducks, wood ducks have sharp claws used for climbing and perching in trees. Baby wood ducks waste no time starting their own lives as they jump down from the nest the day after hatching, making their way to the water, where they can swim and find food on their own immediately. The mother continues to watch over her ducklings for several weeks, sleeping with them and carrying them on her back. Adult wood ducks are omnivores, eating berries, seeds, acorns, insects, snails, and tadpoles. In serious decline in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when wood ducks' plumage was used to adorn women's hats, the populations have since recovered.

For more information about wood ducks and to listen to recordings of their distinctive calls, go to:

<https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/kids-corner/meet-the-wood-duck>

Photo source: Sacramento Audubon Society website (photograph by Chris Conard)

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### Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

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