



## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ■ Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 ■ March 2020



### Exercise Your Rights as Citizens: Please Vote!

Voting in California's first-ever March presidential primary election started on February 18 and will conclude at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3 (mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before March 3 and must be received at the elections office no later than Friday, March 6).

Voters who are listed as "No Party Preference" can vote a party ballot from the American Independent, Democratic, or Libertarian parties only. To vote a Green, Peace and Freedom, or Republican party ballot, you must be registered with the respective party. If you are eligible to vote but have not yet registered, a new California law allows you to register to vote up to and including election day, by going to the county elections office, a neighborhood polling place, or a Vote Center. Also, with the passage of Senate Bill 207 on February 13, registered voters will be able to change their residential address or political party preference up until the close of polls on March 3.

Some Central City and Midtown Vote Center locations, with their open hours on election day (March 3), include: Sacramento County Administration Building, 700 H St., Rm. 2450 (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.); Central Library, 828 I Street (7 a.m. – 8 p.m.); Sacramento City Hall, 915 I St. (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.); and McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd. (7 a.m. – 8 p.m.).

For more information about the voting process, go to: <https://elections.saccounty.net/Pages/default.aspx>

### Many Volunteer Opportunities with the BPNA

New and renewing members of BPNA may have noticed this line on the membership form on the last page of every issue of *Park Beat*: "Yes! I want to help. Call me." That is an important question and your replies are much appreciated. Without the active participation of Boulevard Park residents, our several public events would not be possible, much less successful.

We welcome the assistance of BPNA members at the semi-annual yard-sale (sorting and pricing items, helping out at the sale itself), the annual progressive dinner for National Night Out (set-up and take-down at the appetizer and dinner courses), and the annual Spaghetti Dinner. The last listed event, which draws the most participants of all, requires the most volunteers. They arrange the tables and chairs, prepare some of the menu items, serve up food and beverages, and clean up afterwards. Each of these events offers volunteers the opportunity to get to know other Boulevard Park residents better. So, please check that box when you join the BPNA or renew your membership. Send an email to any of the Board members (their names and email addresses are listed on page 3) if you want to be contacted about volunteer activities, or if there is a specific event with which you would like to help. Thank you for everything you do to help our neighborhood thrive!

## Ballot Measure Under Consideration by the Sacramento Transportation Authority

Boulevard Park residents may be interested in a proposed ballot measure under consideration by the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA). A representative from two advocacy organizations—Sacramento Metro Advocates for Rail and Transit (SMART) and SacMoves (a coalition of environmental, business, and neighborhood organizations)—provided information on the developments at the BPNA Board meeting in February (see article on page 5).

The Sacramento Transportation Authority is considering placing a measure on the November 2020 ballot to double the existing local half-cent transportation sales tax (Measure A) to a full cent. Such a measure would raise \$135-\$200 million per year additional funds (for a total of \$8-10 billion over 40 years) for transportation-related projects and programs in Sacramento County. In March, the STA will be adopting an expenditure plan establishing how the funds raised by the potential sales tax will be allocated.

The last STA measure proposed to voters in 2016 directed only 25-30% of future funds to transit and bicycle and pedestrian alternatives. The 2016 plan had limited community input and ultimately failed at the ballot.

SMART and SacMoves believe that, in contrast to the situation four years ago, the region now needs an expenditure plan that anticipates the need for transportation mode shifts over time and allocates funding accordingly.

The two groups are asking the Sacramento Transportation Authority to invest in existing communities by prioritizing funding that fixes existing road and transit conditions first, maximizing previous investments along existing commercial and rail corridors.

They are advocating for the plan to invest in active transportation by creating safer, more connected bicycle and pedestrian networks; and by prioritizing funding for complete streets with more sidewalks and bike paths. They also want to invest in local and regional transit to reduce travel times and to improve public transit's frequency, coverage, and access. SMART and SacMoves are also proposing a citizen oversight committee to ensure transparency.

The STA held two hearings on the proposed measure in February (February 13 and 19) and will be holding a third meeting on **March 12** (1:30-3 p.m., 700 H St., Suite 1450; for more details, go to <https://www.sacta.org/meetings>).

If you would like to get more information about SMART and the SacMoves Coalition, contact them by email ([sac.mass.transit.team@gmail.com](mailto:sac.mass.transit.team@gmail.com)) or go to their shared Facebook site ([facebook.com/groups/1012985222384978/](https://facebook.com/groups/1012985222384978/)).

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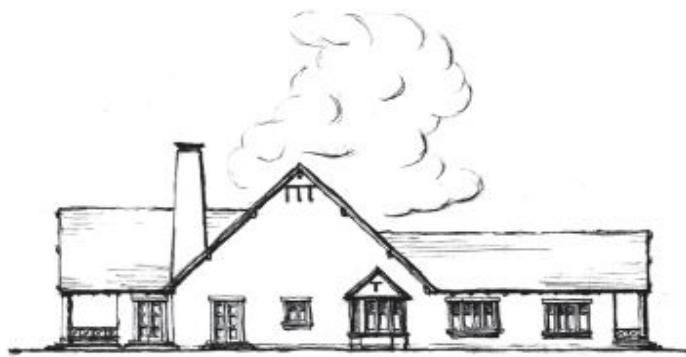
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# BPNA Board of Directors 2020

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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: Ellen Hunt  
Preservation, Planning, and Land Use: Jon Marshack

## Park Beat Production Team

Newsletter Designer: Pete Bramson  
Newsletter Editor: Catherine Turrill Lupi  
Social Media: Sher Singh  
Block Captain Coordinator: Joe Cress, (916) 698-7938  
[cressj@saccounty.net](mailto:cressj@saccounty.net)

## Places to Go, People To See

**Every Saturday:** Yoga in the Park, McKinley Park (9 a.m.; now held inside the Clunie Center). **Website:**

<http://yogamovesus.org/calendar-items/yoga-in-the-park-mckinley-park/>

**Every Saturday:** Midtown Farmers' Market, winter hours still in effect: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 20<sup>th</sup> St. between J and K Sts.

**Tues., Mar. 3:** Presidential Primary Election: all ballots must be delivered by close of polls (polling places are open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.), or, if mailed, postmarked on or before March 3. See article on **page 1**.

**Tues., Mar. 3:** BPNA Board Meeting: open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors (6:30-8 p.m.). Contact Dave Herbert for location or to suggest agenda items.

**Mar. 7 & 8:** 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Sacramento Camellia Show, Elks Lodge, 6446 Riverside Blvd. (3-6 p.m. on Sat.; 10 a.m. -5 p.m. on Sun.; free parking and free admission). Over 200 camellia plants will be on sale.

**Sun., Mar. 8:** Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday. *Set your clocks ahead!*

**Sun., Mar. 8:** Sacramento Antique Faire, every second Sunday under the freeway at 21<sup>st</sup> and X Streets (6:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.; admission charged).

**Mar. 13 & 14:** Saint-Saëns Thundering Organ Symphony, Fremont Presbyterian Church, 5770 Carlson Drive (8 p.m.; admission charged): <https://www.sacphilopera.org/production/saint-saens-thundering-org-an-symphony/>

**Mar. 14 & 15:** Spring Sale, Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10-4 each day; free admission). Flowers, plants, art, jewelry, handmade crafts, and antiques will be for sale.

**Sat., Mar. 14:** Monthly FORB gathering with the theme "Home-Grown Habitat" (tentative: check the website for updates). See article on **page 6**.

**Sat., Mar. 14:** 24<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, Old Sacramento. See article on **page 4**.

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

**Sat., Mar. 14:** Second Saturday ArtWalk. Galleries all over town will be open to present individual and group shows of artists' work.

**Website:** <https://www.2ndsatdaysacramento.com>

**Sun., Mar. 15:** "Pay What You Wish Day" at the Crocker Art Museum (every third Sunday; visitors also may enter the museum for free).

**Fri., Mar. 20:** "Ecstasy of the Chaconne," concert by the Sacramento Baroque Soloists, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1430 J St. (7:30 p.m.; admission charged). **Website:** <https://sacramentobaroque.org>

**Sat., Mar. 21:** Perennial Plant Club Vendors' Sale, Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; free admission)

**Sat., Mar. 21:** 10<sup>th</sup> annual Brazilian Carnival, Brazilian Center for Cultural Exchange, 2420 N Street (4-11 p.m.; \$5 admission)

**Sat., Mar. 21:** Verdi's Requiem, performed by the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra; Memorial Auditorium (pre-concert talk at 7 p.m., concert starts at 8 p.m.; admission charged). **Website:** <https://sacramentochoral.com/verdi-requiem-march-21-2019/>

**Mar. 26-29:** "Homegrown: A Festival of New Works," performances by the Sacramento Ballet at The Sofia, 27<sup>th</sup> St. and Capitol Ave. (7:30 p.m., Mar. 26-28; 2 p.m., Mar. 29; admission charged). **Website:** <https://www.sacballet.org>

**Sat., Mar. 28:** Sacramento Antiquarian Book Fair, Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H St. (9:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.; \$5 admission fee, free parking). **Website:** [www.sachbookfair.com](http://www.sachbookfair.com)

**Sat., Mar. 28:** "Capitol Connections," historical tour at the Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway (10 a.m.; free). For a complete list of tours, go to: <https://www.historicoldcitycemetery.org/upcoming-events>

**Sat., Mar. 28:** "S.T.E.A.M. at the Fort": a "Hands on History" event with activities for all ages at 2701 L St. (10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; admission charged for adults and youth, children 5 and under are free). **Website:** <https://suttersfort.org/event/s-t-e-a-m-at-the-fort-march-2020/>

**Sat., Mar. 28:** Sacramento Valley Cymbidium Society Show, Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; free admission).

**Sat., Mar. 28:** Fremont Park Marketplace, 1515 Q St. (11 a.m. – 4 p.m.): Over 100 local art and craft vendors, also food vendors, live music, and family-friendly activities.

### ... And, looking ahead to early April:

**Tue., Apr. 7:** BPNA Board Meeting: open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors (6:30-8 p.m.). Contact Dave Herbert for location or to suggest agenda items.

April is "Photography Month" in Sacramento, with many shows and events scheduled—check the next issue of *Park Beat* for more information (or go to the website: <https://www.photomonthsac.org/>).



### Block Captain Needed to Distribute Copies of Park Beat

We are in need of a Block Captain to cover the area bordered by **F, G, 23rd and 24th Streets**. If you can spare 15 minutes a month and like to walk and talk with your neighbors, please contact our Block Captain Coordinator,

Joe Cress, at 916-698-7938 ([cressj@saccounty.net](mailto:cressj@saccounty.net)).

## **Tree Canopies Reduce the “Urban Heat Island” Effect in Sacramento**

In the early 1850s, when Sacramento was founded, there were few trees, except those growing beside the rivers and streams and a scattering of large Valley Oaks along the valley floor. However, residents soon began planting trees of their own, often selecting east coast varieties that were familiar from their native regions. James McClatchy, founder of *The Sacramento Bee* (1857), was a staunch supporter of urban tree planting. In one editorial he envisioned the city filled with mature trees—almost appearing a forest—whose ample shade would prevent the “intense heat of the summer.” Large specie elms were one of the preferred varieties for street planting. They eventually towered over city streets, often providing an unbroken canopy from one side of the street to the other. As McClatchy anticipated, the benefit of this canopy was obvious during sweltering central valley summer days. It is even more important today with our much greater population of people, cars, trucks, and urban sprawl. What can be done to reduce high temperatures and other unhealthy impacts of what we call “the urban heat island effect”? For one thing, we can plant more trees, especially in our neighborhoods which currently do not have tree canopies.

Fortunately, the trees that are suitable for our region come in many shapes and sizes. Large trees can be planted where appropriate and smaller varieties can be used under utility wires and in other areas where space is limited. Boulevard Park was planted long ago with many large tree varieties including American and English elms, London planes, sycamores, and ginkgos. Our neighborhood also has many smaller tree varieties, such as Chinese Pistache, Chinese elms, zelkova elms, and others.

The big elm trees have suffered in recent years from old age and from Dutch elm disease, which first appeared in Sacramento in 1990. Many of these trees have been removed and replaced. New disease resistant elms have been developed which hopefully will not be subject to Dutch elm disease. These new varieties have been used for the more recent plantings in Capitol Park and along midtown sections of R Street. Visit the “Ice Blocks” development on R Street near 16<sup>th</sup> Street to see how well these new elms are doing and to imagine the canopy these will provide in their neighborhood 50 years from now.

### **Semi-Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale: Set Those Items Aside, Please!**

BPNA’s Board of Directors will host a neighborhood yard sale in mid-June (the exact date and times will be announced later). All funds raised will support the organization’s outreach and service activities. We welcome household goods, collectibles, books, sports items, toys, garden tools, and small pieces of furniture (items that one person can easily carry). We cannot accept electronics. So, the next time you are engaged in Spring cleaning activities, please set aside those gently used, salable items for the sake of your neighborhood. More information about when and where yard sale items will be stored will appear in future issues of *Park Beat*.

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### **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade (March 14, 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.)**

Join Councilmember Steve Hansen (this year's Grand Marshal) and hundreds of

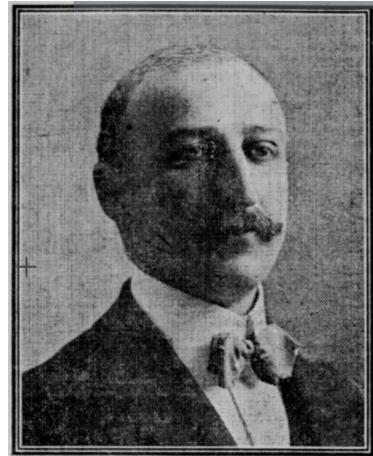
colorful marchers dressed in green, along with Irish and Highland dancers, pipe and drum bands, historic re-enactors and a variety of cultural organizations at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Starting at 11:00 a.m., musicians and dancers will be performing throughout the Old Sacramento Waterfront district. The parade will step off from Neasham and Front Streets at 1 p.m. For the best view, head to the boardwalks of L Street, Front Street, J Street, and 2nd Street. Watch the live band following the parade at 2nd and K Streets and don't forget to swing by the Vendor Village on K Street to see what local businesses have to offer. There also will be an outdoor beer garden with a live performance by Rebel Heart (K Street stage, 2-5 p.m.). Other scheduled performers include the BlyueRose Dance Project, McKeever School of Irish Dance, Dirty Chops Brass Band, and Voice Academy.

Website:

**[https://www.oldSacramento.com/event/st-patricks-day-parade](http://www.oldSacramento.com/event/st-patricks-day-parade)**

# The L. Stuart Upson House

Possibly designed by contractor William Murcell, the house at 715 21<sup>st</sup> Street was built for L. Stuart Upson and his wife, May L. Upson, in the summer of 1909. Ten years later, Upson had Murcell build a garage. As with other Sacramento residences constructed by Murcell during these years, the house combines Craftsman, Prairie Style, and Shingle Style features. The roof is hipped, the walls are shingled, the deep overhanging eaves have rafter-tails, and the front porch, which wraps around one corner of the house, is large (*see the photo below*). Decorative details include the wooden sunburst filling the front gable and the diamond-shaped vents on either side of the dormer window.



1913 photo of L. Stuart Upson

Stuart Upson was vice-president of the Kimball-Upson Company, a prominent sporting-goods store, and he, his wife May, and their son Lauren were all athletes. Whereas both May and Lauren excelled in golf, Stuart was considered “the prize all-around sportsman of the Pacific Coast” (as reported in the *Sacramento Union* in October 1913). He boxed; played golf, tennis, and football; was both an avid fisherman and an excellent shot; and won several state championships as a cyclist. He also raced dogs and horses. In fact, given Upson’s involvement with racing, it seems only natural that he should choose to build his home in the new neighborhood occupying the site of the former Union Park racetrack, where he had worked as an assistant ticket clerk in 1888.



## First Report from BPNA's 2020 Board of Directors

At their meeting on February 6, the first one hosted by the 2020 Board, the continuing members greeted the two newly-elected directors (Travis Silcox and Sher Singh), listened to three guest presentations, discussed a recent proposal that impacts City planning and permitting processes, divided up the Board assignments, and made some preliminary plans for the upcoming year.

Guests Amber McGarvey, a Project Associate with the Local Government Commission, and Shelley Jiang, an Air Quality Planner/Analyst with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, reported on recent studies about the “urban heat island effect” in the Sacramento area. They explained that heat stored during hot summer days by roof tops, street surfaces, and similar, can create significant health issues that are exacerbated by the effects of climate change. In Sacramento, as in other cities, “heat islands” often coincide with impoverished neighborhoods. Recommended solutions include increasing tree canopies (especially in the neighborhoods that lack them), reducing auto emissions, making streets more bike friendly, and using cooler roofing materials. More information about the Capital Region Urban Heat Island Mitigation Project can be found on the web (<https://climatereadiness.info/sb-1/>). The third guest, Emil Wadhwan, spoke about efforts to influence the content of Measure A, which may appear on this year’s November ballot (see related article on **page 2**). If approved this measure would raise an additional half cent sales tax to help fund countywide transportation projects and programs. Emil represented SMART and SAC Moves, two groups working to ensure that funds are focused more on projects such as improving public transit and limiting urban sprawl, as opposed to the construction of more and more freeways.

After the guest presentations, Board members discussed proposed changes to City planning and permitting processes. These changes would devolve many decisions now heard at the Planning and Design Commission and Preservation Commission to a Zoning Administrator, Planning Director, or Preservation Director level, thereby removing the elected City Council as the final appeal hearing body. The Board has since sent a letter to the City on behalf of our neighborhood, asking for more advanced public notice policies and a continuation of current public appeal opportunities.

The 2020 Board members have these assignments: Dave Herbert, Chair; Travis Silcox, Secretary; Liz Edmonds, Treasurer; Ellen Hunt, Membership; Jon Marshack, Preservation, Planning, and Land Use; Catherine Turrill Lupi, Newsletter Editor; and Sher Singh, Social Media. Most Board meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month (the date will be listed in the events calendar in *Park Beat*). This year we look forward to four neighborhood events: the semi-annual BPNA yard sale on June 13 (see article on **page 4**); the progressive dinner for National Night Out on August 4; the Spaghetti Dinner on September 12; and the Holiday Party on either December 5 or 12 (some dates are tentative: watch for more information in future issues of *Park Beat*).

## Cohabiting with Coyotes

Last month a series of photographs of a pair of coyotes in hot pursuit of a terrified cat caused quite a stir after being posted on the internet. That kind of wildlife spectacle, which happened in our neighborhood (the photos were taken near 25<sup>th</sup> and C Streets), was all too familiar to the city residents who have been concerned about the increased presence of coyotes in Midtown for months.



Photo by Allyson Seconds

Although urban coyote sightings are now common, and have caused some alarm in our neighborhood, these animals **rarely** initiate aggression towards humans. There also are a number of ways to minimize problems with them. As reported in a recent issue of *Sacramento City Express*, Jace Huggins, Chief Animal Control Officer for the Front Street Animal Shelter, recommended that residents take some basic precautions, such as keeping small pets inside, limiting the outdoor food supply (keep trash cans sealed, clean up fallen fruit, and don't leave pet food outside), and avoiding close encounters with coyotes. "Coyotes should be left alone," Huggins warned. "Never approach, touch, or feed a coyote." For more advice about coping with coyotes, go to the Humane Society's website (<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-about-coyotes>).

It also provides guidelines for "hazing" coyotes—scaring them away by making yourself as large and loud as possible.

## Friends of the River Banks: Now Under the FOSL Umbrella

The group known as Friends of the River Banks (FORB) was founded in 2005 when a few Midtown residents got together to share their love of the neighborhood jewel that we know as Sutter's Landing. A grant from "First 5 California" supported activities directed towards families and young children. In the past fifteen years those children have grown up and the group is now seeking to reach out to wildlife lovers of all ages. To be added to the FORB email list, contact Laurie Litman ([llitman@pacbell.net](mailto:llitman@pacbell.net)).

Last year, Friends of the River Banks joined forces with Friends of Sutter's Landing (FOSL), a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose members are committed to being good stewards of Sutter's Landing Park, and will now serve as an educational program for FOSL. FORB's upcoming activities will include not only walks and talks about the various denizens of Sutter's Landing (as in past years), but also work parties and other activities related to the care of the landscape where those walks and talks take place. For its part, FOSL will continue to plan ways to restore and improve our neighborhood stretch of the American River. Residents are encouraged to get involved in these efforts to preserve and enhance this special area for both people and wildlife.

More information about the two organizations can be found on their websites:

FORB: <https://www.friendsoftheriverbanks.org>

FOSL: <http://www.sutterslandingpark.org>

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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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