



## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association

Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816

July 2022

### Looking Forward to Getting Together on August 2 and September 10

The **July 4 concert** is our neighborhood's inaugural public event this year (*see the article below*), because the January membership meeting was conducted online rather than in person. August brings **National Night Out**, a nation-wide community celebration. In September, for the first time since 2019, BPNA will host its most popular event, the **Spaghetti Dinner**, at its traditional location, the spacious backyard of the historic Cranston-Geary House (2101 G Street).

Last year we had a scaled-back version of **National Night Out**, with a well-attended appetizer course on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street's grassy median between Fig Alley and G Street. This year we plan to return to the traditional format, a progressive potluck dinner with three separate locations for appetizers, the main course, and dessert. The date is definite (**Tuesday, August 2**), but, as of June 23, other details still are being worked out. Typically, the first course starts at **6 p.m.**, the main course at **7 p.m.**, and the dessert course at **8 p.m.** The three locations are separated by just a few blocks, so participants often form a friendly parade as they stroll from one venue to the next. Participants are requested to bring a favorite dish to share at any one of the three courses and perhaps a favorite beverage as well. BPNA will provide bottled water at the first two venues.

The **Spaghetti Dinner** has been held at 2101 G Street ever since 1998, when the previous owners, the Bramson family, offered to host the event. It is a sit-down meal prepared and served entirely by volunteers from the neighborhood. There will be entertainment for the children and horse-drawn hay-wagon rides for everyone (more details will be provided in the next issues of *Park Beat*). Since the Spaghetti Dinner is on the second Saturday of the month (**September 10** this year) and is held early in the evening (5-8 p.m.), many people like to go to the receptions at the Midtown art galleries afterwards.

BPNA members and neighborhood residents, please consider **volunteering** to help at the Spaghetti Dinner. We will need volunteers to assist with food preparation in the days before the event, to set up the tables and chairs on Saturday morning, to work in the kitchen or serve food and beverages on Saturday evening, and to help with the final clean-up on Sunday morning (between 40-50 volunteers all told). This is a great way to help the BPNA while also getting to know your neighbors. Please send us an email if you are interested in volunteering ([BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com](mailto:BoulevardParkNA@gmail.com)). We all are very grateful to the new owners of the Cranston-Geary house, **Maximilian Beach** and **Roxane Duka**, for hosting the Spaghetti Dinner this year.



*A vintage brass quartet from ca. 1910*

#### **Free Boulevard Park Concert on Independence Day!**

Very few Sacramento neighborhoods boast their own bands. The residents of Boulevard Park are very fortunate to have the incomparable **Capital Brass Quartet** to regale us on selected holidays. Starting at **3 p.m. on July 4**, the four horn-players will be performing patriotic and other American music in the grassy park at the center of the block bordered by F, G, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets. Please enter from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street side of the park, using Fig Alley (if you are driving, please leave your car outside the park). You may want to bring a lawn chair, blanket, or other portable surface for sitting on the ground, as well as something to drink (or to share with the band—horn playing can be thirsty work on a hot July afternoon!).

## A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

The June meeting, rescheduled from the first Thursday to the third Monday, began with a report from Preservation Chair Jon Marshack, in which he offered Board members a summary of the highlights of the last Preservation Roundtable, conducted via Zoom (for a video recording of the Roundtable, go to: <https://youtu.be/YbgrkRA8gWs>). Topics covered at that May 14 meeting included progress on several initiatives, such as the architectural survey of the Richmond Grove Historic District; a landmark nomination for the area once occupied by the downtown neighborhood called Japantown; and an application for an African American Experience Grant. As reported at the Roundtable, Preservation Sacramento's annual historic home tour will include in-person tours on Sunday, September 18 and a series of video tours that will be accessible online in the days that follow. The Preservation Roundtable also covered plans for new apartments and townhouses at N, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets. The residential complex will surround the old Jefferson School Building (1921), a National Register landmark that will be rehabilitated by the developers.

Jon also reported on some of the sessions he had attended at the 2022 California Preservation Conference, "Opening Doors" (see the article in the June *Park Beat*).

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to advance planning for the National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 2, and the annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, September 10 (see the article on [page 1](#)).

### No News Yet About the Next Tenant at 2211 F Street

Rite Aid's lease at the corner of F and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street ended on May 31, and the empty building is ready for its next tenant, whoever it may be. Although rumors about a Walgreen's pharmacy opening at the site were circulating around the neighborhood in May, CBRE Retail Properties, the company handling the rental, tells us that only "general interest" had been shown in the building as of mid-June. Here is the website with CBRE's ad for the Rite Aid property: <https://retailproperties.cbre.us/p/retail-real-estate-listings/Sacramento-CA-95816/formerdrugstore#highlights>

Most of the respondents to the BPNA survey about the future usage of the building said that they would like to see a grocery store here. Many people expressed a preference for a Trader Joe's market. Residents who would like to lobby TJ's for a store are encouraged to contact the company directly (<https://www.traderjoes.com/home/contact-us/request-a-store>). Residents who would prefer to see a Whole Foods Market at the F Street site can contact that company instead. Before writing, be sure to check its specifications for viable store locations on the "real estate" page of its website (<https://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/company-info/real-estate>).

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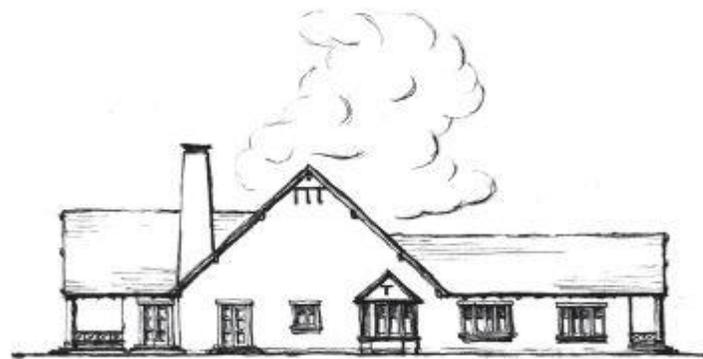
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*Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life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

## Committees

Membership:	Ellen Hunt
Preservation, Planning, and Land Use:	Jon Marshack
District 4 Homelessness Task Force:	Travis Silcox <a href="mailto:silcox5@gmail.com">silcox5@gmail.com</a>

## Park Beat Production Team

**Newsletter Editor:** Catherine Turrill Lupi  
**Columnist:** David Herbert  
**Newsletter Designer:** Pete Bramson  
**Social Media:** Sher Singh  
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## July 2022: Places to Go, Things to Do

**NOTE:** For more information about public events being held this month, go to the city's Sac 365 website (<https://www.sacramento365.com/>). Be sure to check individual organization websites for announcements and updates. Below are a few events, programs, and dates to remember.

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

**Every Wednesday:** Informal gathering on the 21<sup>st</sup> Street median between E and F Streets—no host, no agenda, just the opportunity to meet neighbors of all ages, orientations, and pronouns (5:30-7 p.m.).

**Every Saturday:** Midtown Farmers' Market (8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20<sup>th</sup> Street between J and L; also, K Street between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Street). Website: <http://exploremidtown.org/midtown-farmers-market/>

**Most weekend mornings:** Join other volunteers in tackling a variety of beautification tasks at Sutter's Landing Park. For more details, go to: [tps://www.instagram.com/friendsofsutterslandingpark/](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofsutterslandingpark/)

**July 1-3:** Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*, Music Circus. See the article on **page 4**.

**Fri., July 1:** The City of Sacramento launches its new organic recycling program (see the article on **page 4**).

**Mon., July 4:** Free concert in Boulevard Park by the Capital Brass Quartet, on the green in the center of the block bordered by F, G, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets (3 p.m.). See the article on **page 1**.

## Places to Go, Things to Do (cont.)

**Mon., July 4:** "Fourth on the Field," presented by Sacramento River Cats at Sutter Health Park, West Sacramento. Vendors and experiences for all age groups; live music. Website: <https://www.sutterhealthpark.com/fourthonthefield>

**July 7-24:** Celebration Arts presents Nancy Barr's play, "Mrs. Cage," directed by James Wheatley (2727 B Street). Website: <https://www.celebrationarts.net/>

**Thu., July 7:** BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents (completion of COVID vaccinations and boosters required). Contact Dave Herbert for information or to suggest agenda items.

**Sat., July 9:** Kitchen waste pail giveaway at Sutter's Landing (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.). See the article on **page 4**.

**Sat., July 9:** Kids' Tour in the Old City Cemetery, at 5 p.m. (fascinating stories and fun facts). Fee charged. Website: <https://historicalcitycemetery.org/tours-events/>

**Sat., July 9:** Lecture by N.Y. Times architecture critic, Michael Kimmelman, on the art and life of Wayne Thiebaud (2 p.m.; in conjunction with the Thiebaud show at the Crocker Art Museum). Website: <https://www.crockerart.org/event/2970/2022-07-09>

**Sun., July 10:** Sacramento Antique Faire, at Sleep Train Arena, 1 Sports Parkway (6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; use east entrance off Truxel Road; park in Lot K; \$3 per person admission, but parking is free). Website: <https://www.sacantiquefaire.com/>

**July 11-15:** California Time Traveler Camp, for ages 6-11. California Museum., 1020 O St. For more information, go to: <https://www.californiamuseum.org/event/california-time-travel-camp>

**July 12-17:** *Kiss Me, Kate*, Music Circus. See article on **page 4**.

**Thu., July 14:** 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of Sutter's Landing Park (see the article on **page 6**).

**July 15-31:** California State Fair & Food Festival, 1600 Exposition Blvd.. Website: <https://calexpostatefair.com/event/ca-state-fair/>

**July 16 & 17:** Iris Society Rhizome Sale, Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Boulevard (9-4 each day).

**July 17:** 117<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sale of the first 35 lots in Boulevard Park (July 17, 1905). See the article on **page 5**.

**July 26-31:** *Something Rotten!* Music Circus. See the article on **p. 4**.

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

**Tues., Aug. 2:** National Night Out. See the article on **page 1**. The photo below was taken at BPNA's NNO event in 2021.



**Thurs., Aug. 4:** BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents (completion of COVID vaccinations and boosters required). Contact Dave Herbert for information or to suggest agenda items.

## Farm to Fork to Bucket: Organic Waste Recycling in the City



As announced in last October's issue of *Park Beat*, the City's new organic waste recycling program for residential customers is being launched this month. Starting **July 1<sup>st</sup>**, all household food-scrap and food-soiled paper must be separated from other waste material and placed in the yard waste container (now called an "organic waste container"), rather than the garbage can. Collection of all organic waste (including yard waste) will occur weekly in the City, on the same day as garbage service.

Residents may prefer to collect the food scraps in a bucket before dumping its contents into the large green waste container. Every household in Sacramento is eligible to receive one two-gallon pail from the City. Distribution of these free buckets at selected community centers began on June 13 and will continue until September 16. There also will be a bucket "giveaway" event at Sutter's Landing Park on **Saturday, July 9**. For more information about the kitchen pails, go to the City website (<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/RSW/Collection-Services/Sac-Organics>) or to *Sacramento City Express* (<https://sacramentocityexpress.com/2022/06/03/register-for-a-free-kitchen-countertop-pail-ahead-of-changes-to-organic-waste-recycling/>). Residents also may put their kitchen waste into BPI-certified compostable bags or paper bags.

The City's new organic waste recycling policy was developed in response to the passage of a new statewide mandate, **SB 1383**. The policy is intended to divert methane-producing organic waste away from the dumps and landfills. Organic waste includes not only food waste, such as vegetable and fruit scraps, eggshells, meat, baked goods, and dairy, but also paper products that have been in close contact with food, such as pizza boxes, coffee filters, paper plates, and paper napkins (see the City website mentioned above). All the organic waste collected from residents and businesses will be taken to recycling facilities and converted into nutrient-dense compost.

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## Sacramento's Music Circus



In June 1951, Music Circus, a new form of staging popular operettas under canvas ("Tune Tents"), finally traveled west of the Mississippi. Founded in New Jersey three years before, Broadway at Music Circus quickly gained the support of musical writers and producers, and became a national company. It also became a national success. Sacramento's "Big Top" was installed on 15<sup>th</sup> and H Streets and had a half-century run. By 2002, our city's tent was the last of its kind in the country. In 2003, a permanent theater, the Wells Fargo Pavilion, was opened at the same location, 1419 H Street. As stated on its website, "Broadway Sacramento is Northern California's premiere producer and presenter of musical theatre, and the largest nonprofit musical theatre in California." This month's productions include: *Carousel*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; and *Something Rotten!* For more information, go to the Broadway Sacramento website: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/>

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# Why a Trotter Became a Topper in Boulevard Park



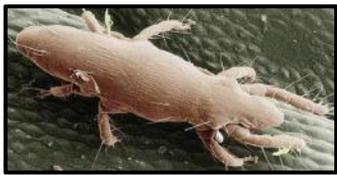
*James Tennant Driving Occident in July 1877*

Visitors and new residents in Boulevard Park may have wondered about the illustration on the “**sign toppers**” in this historic neighborhood (photo on the lower left). It shows a speeding sulky with a mustachioed driver and is a nod to the horse races that once took place on the large oval track in Agricultural Park (also called Union Park), the predecessor to this residential neighborhood. In fact, races of several different types were staged here—pacers, trotters, dogs, runners, cyclists, and even automobiles all made their way around the course during the years the park was in operation (1860-1904). A trotter was selected for the Boulevard Park sign topper because of the historic connection between Agricultural Park and Eadward Muybridge’s important experiments in photographing figures in motion.

In April 1873, Governor Leland Stanford commissioned Muybridge to take a series of action photographs of Occident, a famous trotter in his stable. The images resulting from this first effort were not very clear. Four years later, in July 1877, Muybridge used a more elaborate set-up at the track and had better results. One of the photos, retouched slightly, became part of a series of commercially-sold cards called “**The Horse in Motion**” (1878). The card shows Occident being driven at full speed by Governor Stanford’s favorite jockey, James Tennant. Tennant also was a horse trainer, managing the Sacramento stable where Occident was kept, so the 1877 experiment was held on the track at Agricultural Park. According to an article in the *San Francisco Bulletin*, the result was a “triumph of the photographic art.”



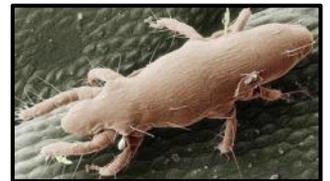
In later years, these and other stop-action photographs by Muybridge came to be regarded as a precursor to modern cinematography. Muybridge died in his native England in 1904, one year before Agricultural Park was sold and its acreage subdivided into residential lots. Property sales began on July 17, 1905; the first houses started going up in August. Now the only visual reminders of the racetrack and the historic experiment are the sign toppers that were installed around the neighborhood by BPNA members about 25 years ago. The late George Bramson oversaw the project and helped raise the funds for it. Afterwards, he said he thought the new signage had “added to a spirit of understanding of history in the neighborhood.”



## Oak Mites: A Microscopic Menace

*By Kate Styrsky*

“Oww!” you exclaim one morning. “Something bit me during the night! There’s a cluster of tiny red dots on my arm! Some of them



are starting to ooze and they don’t just itch: they really HURT! What would do such a thing to me?” If this happens in late summer or autumn, you may have had an **oak mite** encounter.

You were completely unaware that you had been attacked because the tiny mites are almost invisible. It also takes about twelve hours for your body to react to the venom. After that, the wounds will be painful for a week or even two. You can reduce the pain by applying ice, anti-itch cream, or Calamine lotion to the bites. Medical care isn’t called for unless the bites become infected.

Oak mites come from oak trees and are also called “oak leaf itch mites” or “oak leaf gall mites.” Impregnated females enter the round lumps (galls) attached to the oak leaves, then feed on the insect larvae inside the galls until a new generation of mites is born. Once the mites have consumed all the larvae in the gall, they begin to search for other food sources—and that’s where you come in. 250,000 to 300,000 mites can fall from a single tree in a day, and any person who happens to be strolling under, near, or downwind from that tree is potentially on the oak mite menu (the tiny mites can travel on breezes).

Insect repellents don’t work against oak mites, so if you must spend time under oak trees, defend yourself with long sleeves and a broad-brimmed hat. Add a pair of gloves if you are gardening. Upon returning indoors, toss the garments into the washing machine, take a hot shower from head to toe, and change into fresh clothing. Here’s some good news: Oak mite sufferers don’t need to call the pest control experts. Oak mites don’t damage trees and they don’t spread any diseases. If they do get inside your home, they won’t cause an infestation because they cannot live long indoors. So, beware of the oak mites, but do not fear them.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: Sutter's Landing Park



Many folks observe Bastille Day on July 14, but in Sacramento this also is the day when a new city park at Sutter's Landing was dedicated, an event celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year. More than a thousand people were expected to attend the grand opening ceremony back in 2002. And what did they find after making the trek to the far north end of 28<sup>th</sup> Street? For those early visitors, the area's recent history as the city's primary landfill site was all too evident, and the only trees in sight (apart from those growing along the banks of the American River) were the crepe myrtle saplings planted in concrete pipes on either side of the park entrance. Long plastic pipes serving the methane gas extraction system snaked along the ground; a flare station with two tall metal cylinders stood (and still stands today) beside the park entrance. As one journalist observed, there was "no grass to frolic upon, only asphalt" (*Sacramento Bee*, July 13, 2002). However, there were ambitious plans for the future, including basketball and bocce ball courts on the open land, and a skateboard park in the ramshackle metal building where crews had once processed garbage, all of which were implemented and are in use now. There also is a dog park. But for many people the true heart of the park lies beyond these urban amenities. They find it instead in the rich riparian habitat along the banks of the American River, a natural treasure in the heart of Sacramento. The historic gateway to the 31.5 mile American River Parkway, Sutter's Landing Park provides residents and visitors with exceptional opportunities to enjoy and learn from nature. In particular, the sandy beaches and the nature trails along the south bank of the river have many fans and even more users, too many for the level of support provided by the City and County. For several years, the **Friends of Sutter's Landing Park** have sought to fill the gap by working on habitat restoration, beautification projects, and general cleanup. Additional volunteers always are welcome. If you would like to help, come down to the Landing between 9 and 11 on Saturday mornings (see the calendar entry on **page 3**). For more information, go to: <http://www.sutterslandingpark.org/>.

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