



## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association • Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 • January 2010

### General Membership Meeting on Twelfth Night

Come one, come all to ring in the new year and the new decade at BPNA's first general membership meeting on Wednesday evening, **January 6!** We will be gathering in the Cypress Room of the E. M. Hart Senior Center at 915 27th Street from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Attendance at general meetings is essential for sustaining your status as a BPNA member in "good standing," and the January meeting is particularly important because this is when active members can participate in the selection of the seven members of the Executive Board. In alphabetical order, this year's candidates are Margaret Buss, Hal Edmonds, Asha Jennings, Tom Martens, Julianne Richards, Greg Smith, and Catherine Turrill (their profiles appeared in the December 2009 issue of *Park Beat*). Members in good standing must have paid their dues within thirty days of the January meeting (December 6, 2009), and must have attended at least three meetings or events of the BPNA in the previous twelve months (these events include the annual yard sale, spaghetti dinner, and holiday party).

In addition to the election, the general meeting will include other items of interest to everyone in the neighborhood. The agenda still is being discussed, but we know that Councilman Steve Cohn will be present to say a few words and that a representative the New Era Community Garden (the topic of an article in the August 2009 issue of *Park Beat*) will be making a presentation about their project.

#### 2009 Holiday Party A Success

The 2009 BPNA Holiday Party was on December 12 at Marc and Angela de la Vergne's lovely home on 22nd Street. Nearly 100 neighbors attended, enjoying a wonderful selection of treats and a presentation of Christmas music by the Capitol Brass Quartet. Some attendees progressed on to the Second Saturday Art Walk, although the rainy weather kept many indoors at the party. Thanks to everyone who brought food and drink to share, and to those who helped to organize the event. A very happy holiday season to everyone who was not able to attend, and be sure to mark your calendar for next year. Don't miss it!

#### NEWS FROM

### *Friends of the River Banks*

By Catherine Turrill

Thanks to the owls, human residents of Boulevard Park have enjoyed a quite a nocturnal chorus in the winter months. Robert Sewell reported hearing "some awesome duets" by Great Horned Owls, and Barn Owls also have made their presence known. Other neighbors have noticed a variety of hoots – long, short, and in between, sometimes with a real syncopated beat. If you are curious about the habits of these long-time feathered residents of our neighborhood, check the website at [www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/owlp/ghowl/document\\_view](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/owlp/ghowl/document_view). You might be interested to know that Great Horned Owls are known to snack on skunks, and that they are likely to begin nesting in January or February.

The annual "New Years Day Flash Mob," when the Friends of the River Banks celebrated the arrival of 2010, will already have happened by the time you read the January issue of *Park Beat*, but there could be another FORB event later this month. The excursion to Folsom to seek wild mushrooms, mentioned as a possible December activity in the last issue of *Park Beat*, may be happening in January instead. If you are interested in knowing more about this event or when it will happen, please contact Laurie Litman at [llitman@pacbell.net](mailto:llitman@pacbell.net). Unless otherwise announced, all FORB events start at 9:00 a.m. at Sutter's Landing Park, the north end of 28th Street by the skateboard park. All ages are welcome. To make the event more enjoyable for everyone, please be on time, leave your dog at home, and bring a change of clothes, water and a little snack for children.

#### FORB to partner with Friends of Grant Park

Friends of the River Banks is pleased to be partnering with Friends of Grant Park to encourage people, especially families and children, to enjoy and appreciate wildlife and to spend time with nature. These events are funded by First 5 Sacramento, which uses Prop 10 tobacco tax funds to support the healthy development of children ages 0 to 5. Additional information about the First 5 Sacramento Commission is online at [www.First5Sacramento.net](http://www.First5Sacramento.net) or by calling 876-5865.

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## Places to go, people to see

**January 4 – Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) –** 7:00 p.m., home of Jan Seaman, 1822 G Street. Are you aware of illegal dumping, parking problems, or other city code violations in your area? Come see what can be done about them. *For more information or to report a code violation, contact Jan Seaman at [janseaman42@comcast.net](mailto:janseaman42@comcast.net).*

**January 6 – BPNA General Membership Meeting –** 7:00-8:30 p.m., Cypress Room of the E. M. Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street. *See details on page 1.*

**January 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](http://www.sacramento-second-saturday.org).*

**January 14 – BPNA Board Meeting –** 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Rob Sperling at 444-8147 for location and to add items to the agenda. *Open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors.*

**January 15 – Copy and Ad Deadline for February issue of Park Beat.** To submit articles and calendar entries, email Asha Jennings at [ashajennings@gmail.com](mailto:ashajennings@gmail.com) or call her at 803-7409. To place an ad, call Rob Sperling at 444-8147.

**January 18 – Area 1 Neighborhood Advisory Group (NAG) Meeting –** 6:15 to 8:30 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 27th & I Streets. *Contact Janine Martindale at 808-8193 or at [fmartindale@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:fmartindale@cityofsacramento.org) for information.*

**January 23 – Green Thumb Brigade –** 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., meet at 711 22nd Street. Come help keep our traffic circles in tiptop shape! We also need volunteers to water the traffic calming devices. *Please contact Sally Flory-O'Neil at 446-3390 or [sallyfo@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyfo@hotmail.com) if you would like information on traffic calming devices in need of watering – some of them may be near your home!*

**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](http://www.sacramentoskating.com) or call Brian Malone at 715-2808 or Bernard Scoville at 447-8288.*

See [www.thebeehive.org](http://www.thebeehive.org) and/or [www.cityofsacramento.org](http://www.cityofsacramento.org) for City Wide events; [www.oldsacramento.com](http://www.oldsacramento.com) for Old Town events



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## Happy New Year!

### Stand Up and Be Counted in the 2010 Census

Since 1790, the US government has counted the people of the United States every ten years, as required by the Constitution. Since that first census, though, the need for useful information about the United States’ population and economy became more and more evident, and by the turn of the century, demographic, agricultural, and economic segments of the census collected information on hundreds of topics.

Census forms arrive in mailboxes in March 2010, in order to count people where they live and sleep most of the year. The form has 10 questions and takes just 10 minutes to complete. It is confidential and safe. If you don’t mail your form back, or if you don’t have a mailbox, a Census counter will stop by your home to ask you for your census information. Individual answers and information are not shared with any other government agency.

Your response to the census form or to a census taker is required by law (the stick), but it also will benefit our community (the carrot). Census information is used to determine the number of seats in the U.S. Congress and other legislative bodies. But the information is also extremely important to local governments and community services, since census information is used to distribute federal and state dollars to programs that help their citizen. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments estimates that every person not counted may mean \$1,000 or more in services lost to a community or group.

**But be aware:** The Census Bureau does NOT conduct the 2010 Census via email or the Internet. If you receive an email request for personal information purporting to be from the Census Bureau, it is most likely fraudulent.

- Do not reply or click on any links within the email.
- Do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain code that could infect your computer.
- Forward the email or web site URL to the Census Bureau at [itso.fraud.reporting@census.gov](mailto:itso.fraud.reporting@census.gov).
- After you forward the email to the Census Bureau, delete the message.

You will not receive a confirmation email after forwarding the information to the Census Bureau. However, the Census Bureau will investigate the information and notify you of its findings. The Census Bureau can use the information, URLs and links you forward to trace the hosting web site and alert authorities to help shut down the fraudulent site.

The Census Bureau does conduct surveys of special groups, and you may get an email about such a survey. If you have questions regarding the legitimacy of a survey questionnaire received in the mail, a phone call or visit by a Census Bureau employee, or other concerns of a non-cyber nature, please visit the “Are You In a Survey?” page.

For more information about the 2010 Census, visit [www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov). For more information about census outreach in the Sacramento region, visit [www.sacog.org/census2010](http://www.sacog.org/census2010).

### DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2000, the U.S. population is estimated to have grown by 27 million. When compared to 1910, the U.S. population has grown approximately 216 million in the past century!

## BPNA Board of Directors 2009

CHAIR	<b>Rob Sperling</b>	444-8147	robsperling@sbcglobal.net
SECRETARY	<b>Catherine Turrill</b>	278-5786	turrillc@csus.edu
TREASURER	<b>Hal Edmonds</b>	599-5814	capnhal@gmail.com
<b>Margaret Buss</b>		448-6246	mbuss@jps.net
<b>Marc de la Vergne</b>		448-6909	marcangela@comcast.net
<b>Sally Flory-O'Neil</b>		446-3390	sallyfo@hotmail.com
<b>Dave Philipp</b>		212-1322	dave@davephilipp.com

*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.*

## Committees

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

**Preservation:** Margaret Buss, 444-0406

### Park Beat Production Team

**Editor:** Asha Jennings, 803-7409, ashajennings@gmail.com

**Advertising Manager:** TBA

**Graphic Designer:** Katworks, 707-865-2899, katworks@comcast.net

**Reproduction:** Tri-City Technologies, 503-5300

**Block Captain Coordinator:** Leo Pauly

**Great ad rates! Call 444-8147 for details.**

**The deadline for ads and copy for the Feb. issue of Park Beat is Jan. 15th by 5pm!**

## City Cut-backs – New Phase

By Janet A. Seaman, Neighborhood Captain

Since the inception of alternate month face-to-face meetings in July of 2008, the effectiveness of your NRT has seriously deteriorated. Not only are we restricted to having 5 infractions on our "list" at any one time, we are now down to meeting with only one enforcement officer for both hazardous buildings and code violations in addition to one POP Officer. We can only report new cases, if there is room on the list, at a face-to-face meeting rather than faxing them in between meetings to the Neighborhood Services Department as we've done previously. If the enforcement officer is not present at the meeting, it is two months before we can get an oral report on the status of a case.

While I have been encouraging you use the 311 call-in number to report violations, it is even more important that the phone and on-line reporting be used. The more service calls, the more likely the city is to move resources to these important areas. When I receive complaints between meetings, these are the routes I take to get them in the pipeline sooner than waiting until the next meeting.

**To facilitate reporting code violations and graffiti:** Go to [www.cityofsacramento.org/code/forms/complaint](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/code/forms/complaint) or just go to the city's web site [www.cityofsacramento.com](http://www.cityofsacramento.com) and then click on Forms Center in the left hand margin, then select Code Violation Complaint Form from the menu in the middle and fill out the on-line form. If you are not sure what constitutes a code violation you can read up on it at [www.qcode.us/codes/sacramento](http://www.qcode.us/codes/sacramento).

If, after 2 months the issue isn't resolved, contact your Boulevard Park Zone Captain, Jan Seaman at [janseaman42@comcast.net](mailto:janseaman42@comcast.net) or 446-6845, or attend one of the Area 1, Zone B (that's us) meetings at Jan's house at 1822 G Street. We are going to go to every-other-month meetings as well – the next one will be the first Monday of January.

### ✓ Save the Date: BPNA Mardi Gras Party

Tuesday, February 16 is the official date of Mardi Gras in 2010 but please mark **Saturday, February 20** on your entertainment calendars, as that is when Jim and Gayle Betzing will be hosting our neighborhood celebration. **Watch the February issue of Park Beat for further details!**

**NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS: 11/16/2009 - 12/15/2009**

**Jon Marshack and Rik Rasmussen  
Norv and Melinda Wellsfry**



## Historic Homes of Boulevard Park 711 22nd Street – James Brown-Ebenezer Harlan House

Records indicate that this house was built as a duplex in 1906 for James H. Brown who occupied the left side of the duplex until 1909. Brown was the department manager of C.P. Nathan & Co., a general outfitter for men, women and children located at 602 to 608 J Street. The owner of the land and occupant of the other side was Ebenezer Harlan, who with his brothers Isaac and William ran the Harlan Brothers Saloon (previously known at the Palisades at 221 K Street in what is now Old Sacramento).

The cube form Colonial Revival style house has with a small vestigial balcony under a horizontal band of windows on the 2nd floor. This duplex has the spacious units built side-by-side, unlike the more common arrangement of top and bottom rental flats.

The current owners have reconstructed the expansive front stairs and are carefully restoring the Arts and Crafts interiors.

*[Adapted from "Boulevard Park: A Walking Tour" by the Historic Boulevard Park Committee.]*

## Wild Life and Off-Leash Dogs Don't Mix

By Catherine Turrill

Any Boulevard Park resident who has walked along the south bank of the American River on a regular basis, has joined the FORB on one of its monthly hikes, or has simply been an "armchair hiker" by looking at Robert Sewell's wonderful photographs knows that this area is truly a nature preserve with a wide range of wildlife. Otters, beavers, and even sea lions are regular visitors, if not year-round residents, of this stretch of the river. We also have many different kinds of waterfowl. All of them enjoy a fairly safe haven here and are a joy to watch as a result. Unfortunately, some dog-owners may be unaware that the area shelters so many wild creatures, or that their dogs, left unleashed, might endanger them (as well as frighten children or adults).

If you are a dog-owner, please let your pet loose only in the dog park; if you see unleashed dogs along the American River, please remind their owners of the need to treat the area like a nature preserve.

## Preserving Wood-Frame Windows

By Terry Meany

John Greenleaf Whittier, a 19th century Quaker poet you never heard of, wrote, "All the windows of my heart, I open to the day." One would hope Mr. Whittier's cardiac fenestration was in better working order than some of the original wood windows found in Sacramento's older residences. Age and weather take their toll on windows, but like miracle as-seen-on-TV skin creams, this deterioration can be reversed, albeit with a few carpenter's tools, epoxy, and paint.

Wood windows fall into three main categories: casements, which open and close like doors; double hung, whose upper and lower sashes (the framed glass component of a window) slide up and down; and fixed windows, which do not open. Paint, either a lack of or excessively applied, is a main contributor to poorly functioning and deteriorating windows. Too much paint and an unwillingness to move windows a few inches every couple of hours during the paint drying cycle guarantee these windows will be painted shut. Infrequent painting puts wooden windows at risk of damage and weathering. Exterior wood will last for centuries if it's kept sealed, whether with paint, stain, or varnish. The degree of exposure, the thoroughness of the paint jobs, and the chosen sealer will determine how often you need to recoat.

What about function? Hard-to-operate wood windows can be trimmed, adjusted, weather-stripped, and morphed into smooth operators in a matter of hours at a reasonable cost. Unlike new vinyl windows, original wood types are almost always repairable. Wood rot or damage can be cleaned out and filled with commonly available wood epoxy,

broken sash cords replaced, and hardware cleaned and lubricated. Therefore, before you replace your windows, consider repairing. It's economical, it's green, and it keeps a period home looking as its designer intended.

For some more information about the preservation and renovation of windows in older homes, go to "Neighborhood Preservation and History" in the Advocacy section of the website of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association at [www.sierra2.org/Default.aspx](http://www.sierra2.org/Default.aspx).

## New Water Conservation Rules Now In Effect

It may be raining outside, but California in general and the Sacramento Region in particular are still officially in its third year of drought. Changes to the Sacramento Water Conservation Ordinance went into effect December 9, with these notable provisions:

In wintertime (after Daylight Savings Time ends), watering landscapes and car washing is permitted only one day a week, either Saturday or Sunday (you choose which day), unless you have a drip irrigation system. Customers using drip irrigation may use it any time of the day, any day of the week.

Violators will be fined, unless they take a "Water Conservation Workshop" – but they may only take the course to get the fine waived once every 24 months.

*For more information on the ordinance and for water-saving tips, visit the city's very informative website at [www.cityofsacramento.org/utilities/water/water-conservation.cfm](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/utilities/water/water-conservation.cfm).*

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## Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Send form with your \$5.00 to \$15.00 check (less than 4 cents a day per household!) for the remainder of the calendar year to:  
P.O. Box 163179, Sacramento, CA 95816-9179

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**New Member**       **Renewing Member**       **Yes! I want to help. Call me.**

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