



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

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

“REPORT, RECORD AND REMOVE”

Graffiti Advisory Committee

By Hal Edmonds

Sacramento's graffiti abatement program is one of the most aggressive in the state. Graffiti vandalism is an increasing plague in many urban areas, and Boulevard Park is no exception. Not only is “tagging” unsightly and damaging to property values, if not removed quickly and permanently it can attract more and more as vandals compete to outdo each other, and even encourage gang activity by proclaiming their presence with their unique “tags.”

There is a valuable contribution you can make to help mitigate, if not completely eliminate these eyesores. “*Report, Record and Remove*” is the mantra.

First, report immediately any graffiti you see, even it is on your own property and you intend to remove it yourself.

This can be done by calling “311,” or, better yet, by filling out a form on the city's web site at www.cityofsacramento.org/code/forms/graffiti/. On the web site you can also upload a digital photo of the graffiti, which is a great help to the city's law enforcement efforts. Documenting enough of the crimes of serial taggers enables the Police Department to upgrade the charges from misdemeanor to felony, with substantially enhanced potential for punishment. While these tags may look like indecipherable squiggles to us, police and code enforcement personnel have learned to recognize the unique tags of serial vandals, their “crews” and gangs. So, it is important to document and report every instance.

Once you have reported the graffiti, city code enforcement personnel will put your complaint in their queue, and will be out as soon as possible to abate the problem if it is on public property, or they will notify the property owner with a deadline by which it must be abated by them. Or, to speed things up, you can request appropriate abatement material, including solvents and/or color-matched paint, which they will deliver to your address at no charge. Perhaps BPNA can organize a “graffiti brigade” to help clean this blight up, similar to the fine work done by our Green Thumb Brigade in maintaining the landscaping in our traffic islands.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved or getting additional information, email Hal Edmonds at capnbal@gmail.com.

Hark, the Hawk That Heralds Spring!

Residents of Boulevard Park are accustomed to seeing and hearing Red-Tailed Hawks but the Swainson's Hawk is another local raptor who returns here each spring to nest in the trees near the banks of the American River. On Saturday, **April 10**, **Friends of the River Banks** and **Friends of the Swainson's Hawk** will be co-hosting a program about this distinguished visitor, with a walk through the area where it has nested in past years. If you are interested in participating, come and join the others at Sutter's Landing Park at the north end of 28th Street at 9:00 a.m. Please wear appropriate clothing, bring your binoculars and some bottled water, and (if you are a dog-owner) leave your canine companions at home. For additional information about these and other events sponsored by FORB, please contact Laurie Litman at llitman@pacbell.net. *For more information about Friends of the Swainson's Hawk, go to www.swainsonsbawk.org.*

You also may want to make a note on next month's calendar. An “Edible Plant Walk” is proposed for Saturday morning, May 8.

Friends of the River Banks are pleased to partner with Friends of Grant Park to encourage everyone, especially families and children, to enjoy and appreciate wildlife and 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 or by calling 876-5865.*

Welcome Spring to the Garden with Friends of Grant Park

Families with young children are invited to join **Friends of Grant Park** at the New Era Community Garden (208 26th Street) on **Sunday, April 18**, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. We will tour the garden, talking about spring planting and there will be activities for the kids. *To RSVP or to get more information about this event, please contact Tiffanie Simpson at 446-2077 or tlsimpson7@aol.com.*

Events sponsored by Friends of the River Banks and Friends of Grant Park are funded by First 5 Sacramento, which uses Prop 10 tobacco tax funds to support the healthy development of children ages zero to five. *Additional information about the First 5 Sacramento Commission is online at www.First5Sacramento.net or by calling 876-5865.*

Places to go, people to see

April 7 – BPNA Board Meeting – 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Catherine Turrill at 278-5786 for location and to add items to the agenda. *Open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors.*

April 10 – 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.*

April 10 – Free Backyard Composting Seminars – 8:00-10:00 a.m., Fremont Community Garden, 14th and Q Streets. *See details on page 4.*

April 10 – Friends of the River Banks and Friends of the Swainson's Hawk Host a Swainson's Hawk Tour – 9:00 a.m., meet at Sutter's Landing Park at the north end of 28th Street. *See details on page 1.*

April 15 – Copy and Ad Deadline for May issue of *Park Beat*. To submit articles and calendar entries, email Asha Jennings at ashajennings@gmail.com or call 803-7409. To place an ad, call Jim Younkin at 997-5081.

April 18 – Friends of Grant Park Garden Tour – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., New Era Community Garden, 208 26th Street. *See details on page 1.*

April 19 – 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 jmartindale@cityofsacramento.org for information.*

April 24 – 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 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 or call Brian Malone at 715-2808 or Bernard Scoville at 447-8288.*

See www.thebeehive.org and/or www.cityofsacramento.org for City Wide events; www.oldsacramento.com for Old Town events

BOULEVARD PARK LIC #452865A

Neighborhood Special!



HOMEOWNERS!

\$650 off Bathroom remodels!

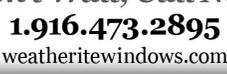
\$79 Instant Rebate per Window!

Wood Options Available!

Don't Wait, Call Now!

1.916.473.2895

weatheritewindows.com



Historic Homes of Boulevard Park 2130 H Street

This imposing “Four-Square” house, built in 1908, is typical of many erected along H Street just after the turn of the century. Houses from that era often were impressive in stature but built with an economy of design. The nicely-proportioned Ionic columns that frame the entry, the presence of front porches on first and second stories, and the hipped dormer centered over the façade all accentuate the grandeur and height of the home, which otherwise is very practical with its basic square footprint, ship-lap siding, and well-placed windows. In the first decades of its existence, the house would have overlooked the streetcar line that once ran the full length of H Street from downtown to McKinley Park.

Like other residences in the Boulevard Park neighborhood, 2130 H Street was built for a railway employee. Its first owner, Luther J. Lambert, was a train master for the Southern Pacific. A successive owner was a machinist. During the 1930s and 1940s, the house served as a boarding house, a common fate of many residences in midtown. It was returned to a single-family residence around 1950 and has been that way ever since. As participants in the 2009 SOCA Home Tour discovered, the house retains some striking original features – such as most of the original brass doorknobs and chandeliers – despite the several changes of ownership.

This article was adapted from the 2009 SOCA Home Tour Brochure.

Save the Dates!

Fundraiser for SPCA at Grateful Dog

The **Grateful Dog** is hosting a fundraiser for the Sacramento SPCA on **May 16** from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Grateful Dog employees will be washing dogs and accepting donations for payment, and all money made will be donated to the Sacramento SPCA.

Don't forget to bring treats, toys, or used towel drive to donate to the SSPCA. There will also be vendors, a raffle, food, and drinks at the event. The Grateful Dog is located at 430 17th Street, at the corner of 17th and E Streets.

BPNA Yard Sale Coming Soon!

The **BPNA Yard Sale**, to be held on **June 5**, is fast approaching! This event is BPNA's largest fundraiser, helping us pay the costs required to publish the monthly *Park Beat* newsletter, make grants to organizations such as Friends of Grant Park, and finance events such as the Annual Holiday Party and the Annual Spaghetti Dinner.

As with any yard sale, the more items we have means the more money we earn for these important activities! We will take virtually any saleable item. Please help us out and start setting aside your treasures for the yard sale. We will publish details about where to drop off items, or how to arrange for pick-up of larger items, in upcoming issues of *Park Beat*!

www.boulevardparkna.org

BPNA Board of Directors 2010

CHAIR	Catherine Turrill	278-5786	turrillc@csus.edu
SECRETARY	Greg Smith	442-4201	lafnlupn@pacbell.net
TREASURER	Hal Edmonds	599-5814	capnhal@gmail.com
	Margaret Buss	448-6246	mbuss@jps.net
	Asha Jennings	803-7409	ashajennings@gmail.com
	Tom Martens	714-4563	tnlsac@comcast.net
	Julianne Richards	443-6149	jrichards@cde.ca.gov

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

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

Reproduction: Tri-City Technologies, 503-5300

Block Captain Coordinator: Leo Pauly

Great ad rates! Call Jim at 997-5081 for details.

The deadline for ads and copy for the May issue of Park Beat is Apr. 15th by 5pm!

Homes for the Common Man—and the Not-So-Common

By William Burg

During the course of my investigation into the history of Boulevard Park, I discovered something that later seemed obvious. Many visitors associate the neighborhood with its more-dramatic southern end, where many of the architect-designed homes are located, and where the wealthier neighborhood residents lived. However, the northern end, with its smaller and more modest homes, is equally important to the telling of the whole story of the neighborhood.

In the early 20th century, social reformers and urban planners like John Nolen advocated for the creation of decent housing for all income levels, as a means to eliminate unhealthy slums and urban overcrowding. Many felt that constructing park-like neighborhoods would have a positive effect on working people, providing needed respite and relief that would help people avoid crime, gambling, liquor and other vices. Boulevard Park's northern edge was designed with these principles in mind. Its northern edge, less appealing to the wealthy due to its proximity to the Southern Pacific railroad, featured small, affordable lots, gradually increasing in price to the larger lots near the H Street streetcar line. Unlike outer streetcar suburbs like Oak Park or East Sacramento, Boulevard Park was an easy walk from downtown, the waterfront or the Southern Pacific shops. Best of all, the inexpensive northern lots faced a large public park.

Not all of these measures were purely philanthropic. The more expensive lots to the south had their own private pocket parks, and provided easier access to the H Street streetcar line, the preferred commuting method of Sacramento's middle class but too pricey for most working people. Although they lived in close proximity, there was still an economic division in Boulevard Park, but the designers' intent was to encourage working people to emulate the middle class, starting with comfortable and safe homes and apartments in their new neighborhood.

Attention to ownership records and city directories bear out this theory. While those on the southern end included bankers, state officials and local politicians, residents of the north end included plumbers, mechanics, blacksmiths, railroad crew, and retail workers. The lowest-paid laborers or agricultural field workers could not afford even the smallest lots in Boulevard Park, but many skilled workers found a way to move their families from more crowded conditions near the waterfront to their own bungalow or cottage. As Sacramento's industrial areas expanded into the Richards Boulevard area in the 1920s and 1930s, the demand for inexpensive housing on the north end of town grew. During this period, small apartment buildings and even smaller cottages appeared on the handful of vacant lots in Boulevard Park, providing another architectural chapter to the neighborhood's story.

As time went on, Sacramento's wealthier citizens began to prefer automobiles to streetcars, and sought homes farther from the expanding central city in newer suburbs farther to the south and east. While some long-term residents remained, many of the larger middle-class homes were subdivided into apartments or rooming houses. These houses were occupied by still more working-class people. This marked a significant change in the population of the neighborhood, and a critical part of the neighborhood's complete story.

Urban Farm Stand Staying in Alkali Flat

Readers of *Park Beat* may recall the February article about the Urban Farm Stand Project and its possible extension into Boulevard Park in the near future if there was sufficient interest from the residents and if a site could be identified. Since then, the Alkali Flats and Mansion Flats neighborhoods have decided to continue their sponsorship of the Urban Farm Stand in J. Neely Johnson Park (516 11th Street, between E and F Streets). For the time being, therefore, Boulevard Park residents are encouraged to continue supporting this stand. Only ten blocks away, it is still within fairly easy reach, and will be open on Tuesday evenings from May through October (4:00 to 7:00 p.m.). If you are interested in volunteering at the 11th Street Farm Stand, please contact Davida Douglas, Urban Farm Stand Coordinator at 204-8260 or davida@alchemistcdc.org.

As stated on the Urban Farm Stand website, www.urbanfarmstand.org, this project is funded, in part, by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF). Created in 1992 as an independent, private foundation, TCWF's mission is to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention.



CRESS PAINTING
"When it's worth doing right"

TOM CRESS
(916) 203-9674

residential, renovations
apartments, commercial
free estimates
Contractor's Lic. #539004

Free Backyard Composting Seminars

In March, the city of Sacramento launched a series of free seminars on how to do composting in your own backyard. Held at community gardens throughout the city and co-sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation as part of its Community Garden Program, the series will continue in April and May with Saturday morning seminars on **April 10** (*Fremont Community Garden, 14th and Q Streets*) and on **May 1** (*J. Neely Johnson Park, 516 11th Street*). Each seminar will last for two hours (from 8:00-10:00 a.m.).

As reported on the website of the city's Department of Utilities, all seminars are free. Also, they do not require advance registration. Compost bins will be available for sale. Among other things, participants in the seminar will learn:

- *How composting works*
- *What materials you should and should not compost*
- *Getting the right balance of food, air and moisture*
- *Maintaining your compost pile*
- *Vermicomposting (composting with worms)*

Not getting your *Park Beat* newsletter regularly or can't remember where you put it? You can be added to the email distribution of the newsletter, just send an email to Sally Flory-O'Neil at sallyfo@hotmail.com. You will still receive the paper copy, as usual.

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 Asha Jennings, *Park Beat* editor, at 803-7409 or ashajennings@gmail.com.

New and Renewing Members

2/16/2010 – 3/15/2010

Allpoint Properties
 Rachel Barbour &
 Rich Berson
 Corey & Marguerite Brown
 Ann Bailey & Boren Chertkov
 Bayliss Camp
 Diana Cassady & Phil Garcia
 Derek Cressman & Deniz
 Tuncer
 Nita Davidson
 Katherine Downey &
 Dorothy Thomson
 Thomas and Marjorie Duffy
 Roberta Franklin
 Henrik Jul Hansen &
 Donna Pozzi
 Deanna Hanson
 Russ Henly & Martha Turner
 Wendy Hoyt
 Fred Hull & Susan Allair

Gail Kara & Phillip Guddemi
 Joey Kleeman
 Candace & Louie Lewis
 Joe & Marsha McCormick
 William Mahan
 Elaine & Ken Moody
 Gerald & Marilyn Moore
 Francis & Darcy Pacheco
 Donna Paul & Lupe Sandoval
 Marc & Jenni Porter
 Helle Reipurth & Bill Helm
 Steve Rodgers
 Bernard Scoville
 Robert & Lyvonne Sewell
 Kate Styrsky
 Catherine Turrill &
 Alberto Lupi
 Brian Witherell

EDMONDS AND PHILIPP: *Your Way Home*



Whether buying or selling, call the team that lives & works in Boulevard Park.
 Recycling vintage homes in record time is our specialty!

Dave Philipp

REALTOR

916.212.1322

dave@davephilipp.com



Liz Edmonds

REALTOR

916.838.1208

liz@lizedmonds.com



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.**

Would you like to receive the newsletter by email, as well as home delivery?