



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

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

The Handwriting on the Wall

Neighborhood Response Team dissolved

By Jan Seaman, Boulevard Park NRT Representative (retired)

It was inevitable. We should have seen it coming. It had to happen...but that doesn't make the demise of the **Neighborhood Response Team** function any more palatable! At the face-to-face, bi-monthly meeting in September, we were informed by **Derrick Lim**, Manager in the Neighborhood Services Department, City of Sacramento, that the NRT function would be dropped from the City's services. Two years ago the once monthly face-to-face meetings with city personnel were reduced to every-other month.

An unique combination of police, housing and dangerous buildings and code enforcement personnel were brought together to meet with representatives of each of the neighborhood associations in "Service Area 1" (*Boulevard Park, New Era Park, Alkali Flat, Mansion Flats, Marshall, Midtown, Winn, Capital Ave., Poverty Ridge, Newton Booth, East Sacramento, Albambra Triangle, River Park, Campus Commons, Sierra Oaks, Downtown, Southside Park, Richmond Grove, Old Sacramento, whew!*) and other service areas around the City. This seemed to be a very effective way not only to address some of the most serious issues facing our neighborhoods in terms of code violations and illegal activity, but also a great way to hold city personnel accountable to the citizens – they had to look us in the eye!

In the interim, the City's 311 triage service was implemented and citizens were encouraged to take matters into their own hands and call the City themselves when they noticed illegal dumping, abandoned vehicles, suspicious-looking people congregating and houses or lawns left to deteriorate. At first the response and "remedy" occurred within about 48 hours! About a year ago, HDB and Code more or less "merged" so instead of two staff, we met with one and there has not been a police officer at the meeting for the last 3-4 meetings. Responses to 311 calls now take 2-3 weeks. Too few people, stretched too thin!

Now we have to take back our neighborhoods – not just on "National Night Out," but every night and every day. Report crime promptly – by reporting someone tagging a building, petty vandalism or something more serious, the police have a better chance of apprehending the perpetrators. If the crime is left unreported, their odds go from slim to none. Call 911 or go to cityofsacramento.org to "On-line Crime Reports" from the main page if it's criminal activity.

Non-criminal problems should be reported promptly as well. People leaving a mattress at the curb, dumping garbage on a vacant lot, or leaving autos abandoned on the street should be reported. Call 3-1-1 or from: cityofsacramento.org click on the link provided in the upper left hand corner of the main page where it says: "Call 311 or click." This takes you to the "New Service Schedule" with a link in the middle of the page that says email. This opens up a form to be completed with all the information needed to correct the problem.

After you have finished filing the report, call all your neighbors who share your concerns and have them file reports. If it's a code violation, then call Code Enforcement at 808-5948. If it's a Housing and Dangerous Buildings issue, call 808-5404. If it's criminal activity, call 9-1-1 in progress or the police non-emergency number: 264-5471, if it's after-the-fact (like graffiti).

When you find yourself thinking, "someone ought to do something," do something!

Friends of the River Banks Salmon Festival

The leaves are falling to the ground and the salmon are swimming up the stream – it must be autumn!

Please join the **Friends of the River Banks** at Sutter's Landing Park on **Saturday, November 13**, when they gather to welcome the salmon. The importance of this annual event has increased these past two years due to the cancellation of the American River Salmon Festival at Nimbus Hatchery.

Rick Adams, a Nisenan Cultural Specialist for the Maidu Museum and Historic Site in Roseville and the President of the Hutu Anape Cultural Foundation, will be present to explain the traditions behind this celebration of the salmon and to host several riverside activities for adults and children. For additional information, or to be added to the FORB e-mailing list, please contact Laurie Litman at llitman@pacbell.net.

The event 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.

Places to Go, People to See

November 3 – 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.*

November 13 – 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.

November 13 – Friends of the River Banks Salmon Festival – meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sutter's Landing Park at the north end of 28th Street (next to the skateboard park). *See details on page 1.*

November 15 – Copy and Ad Deadline for December 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 or email jayounkin@gmail.com.

November 15 – 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.

November 27 – 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.*

Applications Being Accepted for the City Management Academy

Are you interested in learning more about how the city operates and how residents can work effectively with city staff, local businesses, and neighborhood groups? Are you already involved in community groups or organizations? Do you want to help improve the community of Sacramento? If any of this applies to you, consider applying for admission to the Neighborhood Services Department's City Management Academy. Last offered two years ago, the next program will be from January 26-April 12, 2011 and is being conducted with the collaboration of Academy Alumni. The only fee charged, \$25, covers the cost of the course's materials and supplies.

As stated on the city website, the mission of the City Management Academy is to "educate and encourage partnerships between City of Sacramento residents and business owners to help maintain, revitalize, and promote healthy communities." Recruitment for the program began on May 21, 2010 and ends in December (the deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. on December 3). The City Management Academy seeks applicants who are:

- *City residents or business owners (people who work in Sacramento or who conduct work benefiting the Sacramento community are also eligible to apply but a higher consideration will be given to city residents and business owners)*
- *At least 16 years of age*
- *Interested in maintaining or improving the City of Sacramento community*

For more information about the program and the selection process, or to download an application, visit <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/city-management-academy>.

What's Wrong With My Elm Tree?

By Margaret Buss & Nita Davidson

Most of Midtown's towering elms have reached one hundred years of age or more. Every year City arborists remove some of these trees as they detect Dutch elm disease (DED), a fungal disease spread by the feeding of bark beetles. The disease kills the trees by plugging their water-conducting system. The beetles can spread the fungus as they move from tree to tree. Symptoms of DED include flagging branches with wilted, curled brown or yellow leaves, premature leaf drop, and discolored bark, looking a bit like squirrel damage.

What if your tree doesn't have these symptoms, but has leaves that look lacy and brown? The culprit is the elm leaf beetle (ELB), small beetles that can defoliate trees but do not spread Dutch elm disease. In Sacramento, we have 2 to 3 generations per year of ELB. As soon as elms leaf out in spring, female beetles lay eggs on the trees. The larvae that hatch begin feeding on the tender leaves. During wet springs, fungal diseases may kill the majority of larvae (this is not the DED fungus, though). When the larvae have fed for a few weeks they crawl down the trunk to the soil below, where they develop into pupae. Sometimes when the tree supports a huge population, the larvae will rain down on top of horrified passersby.

During the 1990s, elm leaf beetle was an annual scourge. Some trees had so many feasting beetles – both larvae and adults – that they lost their leaves in summer and the raining larvae went on for days. With such large trees, spraying is difficult, so the City injected organophosphate systemic insecticides.

Rather than monitor trees to figure out which ones had large infestations, the City injected every tree in the central city. In 1998, former city arborist Dan Pskowski worked with UC Berkeley researchers to develop a monitoring program for Sacramento's elm trees, which saved the City thousands of dollars.

In the years when spring weather conditions were optimal for beetle larvae, the City would sample elms to estimate the beetle population. Trees that showed increasing beetle numbers were injected with a new, less-toxic systemic. Recently, City budget cuts eliminated the sampling program, but you still call during spring and ask them to inject your tree.

If you're concerned about DED, the Sacramento Tree Foundation has a slide show on their web site, www.sactree.com, that illustrates DED symptoms. (Click on Programs & Services at the top, then scroll down to Save the Elms.) The Tree Foundation's Save The Elms Program (STEP) trains volunteers to monitor the City's elms for signs of the disease. The Tree Foundation also plants beetle- and disease-resistant elms.

Since DED can spread quickly to adjacent trees, if you think your elm has the disease, contact the Urban Forestry Department as soon as possible by calling 311 or sending e-mail, using the form at www.cityofsacramento.org/generalservices/311/email.

For more information about pests of elm trees, see UC IPM's Pest Note on elms, www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7403.html.

As our elm trees start to shed their leaves in October, be sure to sweep the leaves off sidewalks. The dried leaves contain a mucilaginous substance that when mixed with water from rain or irrigation, makes concrete treacherous for pedestrians.

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.

A Time to Plant and Replenish

By Talini's Garden Center & Nursery – 5601 Folsom Blvd.

November is an exciting time in the Sacramento garden. Temperatures are no longer blazing, the summer harvest is winding down, and it's the ideal time to replenish tired soil and get a jump on Spring by planting cool-season flowers and vegetables, landscape trees, wildflowers, California native plants and bulbs. Ah...pansies are back.

What to Plant

Annuals: For lasting color in sunnier parts of the garden, plant pansies, Iceland poppies, stock, ornamental kale, snapdragons and more. Shadier parts call for primroses and cyclamen. From seed or seedlings, plant flowering sweet peas now.

Bulbs: Plant tulips (pre-chill in the refrigerator for six weeks), daffodils, paperwhites, Dutch iris, crocus, freesia, scilla, watsonia, ranunculus, anemones, and more. Save time by planting with a bulb auger. It's a nifty drill attachment that makes quick work of bulb planting.

Natives: Fall is the ideal time to plant natives. Seasonal rainfall is about to begin, so planting now will get your natives off to a great start. They'll develop healthy root systems during the cooler months and be ready to take off in Spring. Once established, many California native plants require little to no supplemental water. Some of our favorites include California fuchsia, deergrass, ceanothus and manzanita.

Wildflowers: Sprinkle wildflower seeds now so they will germinate when fall rains begin. California poppies are an eternal favorite, but also look for wildflower blends.

Vegetables and herbs: Look for lettuce, kale, broccoli, parsley, garlic, peas, onions, Swiss chard, radishes, carrots and more.

Trees: Now is a great time to plant shade trees. *Visit the Sacramento Tree Foundation website to learn about the best trees for our area.* <http://www.sactree.com/>

What to Do

November is a great time to renew the health of your garden soil by adding compost. When you look for compost at the nursery, it's often labeled as "Planting Mix". Planting mix added as a mulch, or worked into the soil, adds an earthy smelling richness that attracts beneficial microorganisms, garden companions like earthworms, and improves soil structure. Why so much emphasis on soil? Because healthy soil makes happy roots and happy roots make gorgeous flowers and delicious edibles!

Anything bugging you in the garden? Literally? Stop by our new UC IPM Kiosk to learn earth-friendly ways of controlling garden pests.

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 Dec. issue of Park Beat is Nov. 15th by 5pm!

10.10.10 and Our Neighborhood

Numerous Boulevard Park residents helped with activities linked to the 10.10.10 Global Work Party Initiative. On Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11, Ed Cox and other members of SABA (Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates) oversaw a secure "corral" for the use of cyclists who attended the festivities at the Crocker Art Museum.

In partnership with the California Native Plant Society and with the support of the California Community Forests Foundation, in addition to several city and county agencies and organizations (listed below), the Friends of the River Banks (FORB) held a "restoration party" at Sutter's Landing Park on Saturday, October 9. Lead writer Laurie Litman reported that the event was a great success, thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of the hard-working volunteers. They cleared out many invasive plants and debris from the area, then planted 800 grass plugs along the riverbank and scattered native grass and forb seed (the perfect plant choice for this group, given its acronym!) in the uplands area. The Friends of the River Banks will continue to monitor the new growth during their monthly gatherings at Sutter's Landing Park. Their hope is that the native plants will thrive and provide a healthy habitat for other creatures at the river.

The October 9 "restoration party" was a highly collaborative effort and was only possible because so many individuals and organizations stepped up to help. In addition to the many volunteers, FORB would like to thank the following groups and individuals for their generous support: Debra Bishop, restoration biologist, and her colleagues from AECOM (Vance Howard, Jim Meek, Ellen Pimentel); Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society; California Community Forests Foundation; American River Parkway Foundation; Sacramento County; City of Sacramento; the Friends of Grant Park, FORB's partner in the monthly gatherings along the river; Friends of ECOS (Environmental Council of Sacramento); and, last but not least, the "hospitality team" (Stella Levy, Nita Davidson, and Maren Skarstad).

Nominating Committee Deadline Nears

The nominating committee for the 2011 BPNA Board of Directors will be completing its work soon. The committee is considering several excellent new and returning candidates. Anyone interested in serving or in submitting a nomination should contact one of the committee members before November 15. The committee members are Hal Edmonds (capnhal@gmail.com), Sally Flory-O'Neill (sallyfo@hotmail.com) and Rob Sperling (robsperling@sbcglobal.net). The committee will submit its nominations to the board at its December meeting, and elections will be held at the January 2011 BPNA general meeting. The date of the January BPNA general meeting will be announced in next month's *Park Beat*.

Save the Date: BPNA Holiday Party

Mark your calendar for the BPNA Holiday Party on the evening of **Saturday, December 11th**. Look for more details in next month's *Park Beat*.

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.

BPNA is on Facebook!

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association now has a Facebook page. Add us as a friend and get event reminders and word of late-breaking news. It's also a great way to connect with others in the neighborhood!

The 2010 SOCA Home Tours

Although not quite as well attended as last year's home tour in Boulevard Park (*which drew record numbers*), this year's annual home tour, the 35th organized by the Sacramento Old City Association, was still a great success, thanks in large part to the volunteer service provided by many residents of Boulevard Park. Four of the six house captains and a substantial number of docents (*too many to list here!*) live in our neighborhood. We would like to thank those individuals for all of their hard work and look forward to seeing them again at next year's home tour, wherever it may be (it generally happens the third weekend of September). If you have not yet participated in this annual event and would like to have your name added to a list of potential volunteers, please send an e-mail to Catherine Turrill at turrillc@csus.edu.

Every year, SOCA's home tour committee solicits help with a variety of tasks, ranging from the two-hour docent shifts, to service at the ticket table at the street fair, to oversight of one of the homes on tours (house captains coordinate the docents' schedules and work with the home owners), to doing research on the homes selected for inclusion in the tour. It is all a lot of fun, and volunteers enjoy some great benefits, including discounted tour tickets and an invitation to the "post-tour" party for volunteers, home-owners, and members of SOCA.

New and Renewing Members

9/16/2010 - 10/15/2010

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Liz Edmonds

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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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