

BENTON PARK NEWS

The Monthly Publication of the **Benton Park Neighborhood Association**

Volume 8, Number 2

February, 1991

February Meeting Set

The next meeting of the **Benton Park Neighborhood Association** will be held on February 5, at the Girls Club, 2216 Sidney, at 7:30 PM. The agenda will include discussion of goals for 1991 and the newly-revised by-laws for the association. We encourage you to attend.

1991 BPNA OFFICERS

President - **Paul LaFlam**
Vice President - **Nancy McRee**
Secretary - **Libby Reuter**
Treasurer - **Keven Kelleher**

Leadership Meeting Held

On January 24, at the invitation of newly-elected **Benton Park Neighborhood Association** president, **Paul LaFlam**, community leaders gathered at **Bommarito's** Deli to discuss opportunities for ongoing interaction among all the various organizations and institutions active in the **Benton Park** area.

In attendance were both **Benton Park** Alderman **Martie** Aboussie and Alderwoman **Phyllis Young**, representatives of the Cherokee Antique Row Merchants Association, **Benton Pride**, **Benton Park Housing Corporation**, Operation **Conserv**, Community Marketing Resources, Inc., Epiphany United Church of **Christ**, **Sigel** Community School and **Notre Dame** School.

The meeting was a **first** of its kind for the neighborhood, and will likely be repeated in the near future with an expanded list of participants and a more **specific** agenda. According to **LaFlam**, discovery and utilization of the **many** human and physical **resources within** the **Benton Park neighborhood** will be a major goal during his term of office this year.

Development Alive in Neighborhood

While real estate development **has been** at a virtual standstill throughout the **city, activity in Benton Park** is on the upswing. This is due, in part, to the strong cooperation from Aldermen **Aboussie** and **Young**, and to the ongoing efforts of the **Benton Park Housing Corporation**.

The corporation is a **function** of the City's **Operation Conserv**, and is empowered both to address problem properties and to initiate positive action to encourage development within the area.

Within the past month, the corporation has reviewed proposals **from** four developers for a "package" of adjacent properties in the 2900 block of **Lemp**. The winning proposal, submitted by **Meier-Stiver, Inc.**, includes **redevelopment** of three existing buildings into two detached, two-story, two-bedroom 1.5 bath single-family residences, each with a side yard, and two three-story, three-bedroom, 2.5 bath fee simple townhouses.

The developers are planning a major marketing event for mid-March, in cooperation with BPNA, to attract **interested buyers** for these and other "**shells**" available in **Benton Park**.

Community Services Committee

The Rev. **Michael Vosler** and Alderman **Martie** Aboussie **have** recently discussed the coordination of Community Service's efforts with aldermanic efforts. They are looking at a "Journal The Problem" project to **assist** residents in gathering data to deal **with** persistent problems that include suspected **drug** activity, prostitution and disappointing **response time** by City **agencies**. Conversations with the "A World of Difference Program" anticipate an early Spring event to encourage interracial bridging.

House Tour Committee Update

A meeting was held on January 26 regarding the upcoming Benton Park House and Studio Tour which will be held Mother's Day Weekend, May 11-12. Items of business included the decision to have several trams available this year.

Chairman Bob Friend says this committee would welcome several more people to help plan this event. They also would appreciate additional people volunteering their properties to be on the house and studio tour.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 16, 3:00 PM, at the home of Nancy McRee, 2211 Sidney Street. Additional volunteers are welcome and invited to attend. For further information, contact Bob Friend at 771-0208.

Citicorp Renaissance Grant Update

"The Road Show" committee met on January 10 to get the Benton Park video under way. This project has been funded in part by the Citicorp Renaissance Grant program. Jean Ponzi and Patti Eischen, both Benton Park residents with professional expertise in producing and directing videos, will be writing the script and developing a shooting schedule. Shooting will include architectural and historic landmarks, cultural highlights, and on-the-street interviews with residents.

A questionnaire will be available at the next

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association meeting to be filled out by Benton Park members and residents. Your information will help provide the committee with script and filming locations and will also help set the tone of the video. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to fill out a questionnaire, call Chairperson Paulette Deutman at 776-7074.

Additional funding is needed to properly complete this project, so any money-making ideas will be appreciated as well as professional people willing to donate filming expertise and/or loan out video equipment. Also on the committee's "wish list" are historic photographs, historic fads about Benton Park, and a photographer for home interior shots.

If you would like to be a part of this important project, please call Paulette.

Courses, Programs Available

Benton Park residents should be aware of the many courses provided for people of all ages by Sigel Community School.

Among the offerings: classes on art, crafts and hobbies; cooking and candy making classes; language classes including French, Spanish, Croatian and Serbian; dance and music; general education courses; home and family courses; personal development courses; career education in bookkeeping and in becoming a certified medication technician; health, fitness and recreation classes including aerobics, fencing and Yoga, CPR classes with certification at end of course; home improvement courses such as upholstery, plastering, plumbing, electrical wiring basics, wallpaper and tuckpointing classes.

A variety of programs for children are also available such as the "After School Club" on Fridays from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Activities include arts, crafts, recreation and educational projects.

Classes are held on Monday through Thursday evenings, with each class lasting approximately two hours. The cost of these courses is very reasonable and ranges in price from \$5.00 to \$110.00, depending on length and type of course.

This **community-service-minded** organization is sponsored by the **Community Development Agency** and **welcomes anyone** to attend. Funding is received from the Board of Education.

Sigel Community School is located at 2039 Russell Blvd.

For **further information**, please contact **Spencer Hardaway, Coordinator**, at 865-5050.

Yoga Classes

One of our **Benton Park** residents, **Gretchen Karros**, a **body/mind** therapist, has announced her **plans to teach Yoga** at **2101 Arsenal**. **Classes will** begin **February 5** from **7:00 to 9:00 PM** and continue on **Tuesday evenings** for **six weeks through March 12**. The fee is **\$5.00 per class**. **Comfortable clothing** should be worn, and **mats** are not necessary.

Gretchen's impressive twenty-five-year background includes **studying Yoga in India** and training with **Joel Cramer** in California. **Additional** credentials include currently working on becoming a licensed psychologist with a **Masters Degree in Counseling in Psychology**.

Beginning March 5, **Gretchen will teach Yoga** at **Forest Park Community College**.

For additional information and to register for class, **call Gretchen** at **772-8848**.

Newsletter Deadline

The 20th of each month is the cutoff date for material to reach the **Benton Park** newsletter editor.

We welcome input from all of our readers regarding **people** and events that involve **Benton Park** and its residents.

Submit information by phone (**664-8552**), **FAX** (**664-6310**), or **mail** (**3108 Illinois 63118**) to **Charlie** or **Linda Dahlheimer**.

Membership Dues

Dues are now payable. The amount is **\$5.00 annually**. The Association is currently compiling a **Membership Directory** for **distribution**, and in order to be **included in the directory**, your **1991 dues** must be paid by the **February 5th** meeting.

When you pay your membership dues you will receive a membership card **good** for discounts on **purchases** at the following places of **business**: **Allen's Garden Shop**, 3201 Cherokee Street **Morands Hardware & Supply**, 1801 Pestalozzi **TEASE Hair Salon**, 1615 South Ninth **Edele & Mertz Hardware**, 1822 S. Broadway **Benton Park Gallery**, 3016 Wisconsin Avenue

If you **own** a business and **would like** to be added to this list or know someone who would like to be added, please contact **Nancy McRee**, 776-2972.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

1991 annual dues (\$5.00) for membership in the **Benton Park Neighborhood Association** are **now** payable. Your dues and other contributions help support the **Association's efforts** to stimulate the economic growth of the **neighborhood** and to continually foster the civic, **social** and cultural interests of the **community**.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AMOUNT INCLOSED: \$ _____ Renewal New Membership

MAIL TO:

BENTON PARK MARKETING CORPORATION • PO BOX 2066 • ST. LOUIS, MO • 63158

Free Trees

The **Benton Park** Neighborhood Association is organizing a free tree **planning** program for the neighborhood in **cooperation with** the City of **St. Louis, Department of Forestry**. **Trees will be planted** in front of your house **between** the sidewalk and **street** curb. There is no charge for the tree or the labor to plant it. We **need you to fill in** the following form for permission to proceed,

Request for tree to be planted at:

(address)

I am the owner of the above property.

This is a free **program offered** by the City of **St. Louis Forestry Division**.

(Property Owner)

(date)

If possible, tree **variety requested is:**

The deadline for submitting **your** request has been extended to February **15, 1991**. Return this form to: **Linda Comfort, 3118 Illinois, St. Louis, MO 63118**.

FOR LEASE -- A lovely, newly rehabbed home has **become available** in **Benton Park** for lease. The two-story property, located at 2833 S. 18th Street, features 3+ **bedrooms**, 2-1/2 baths, two-car **garage**, finished basement, deck and wrought iron fence. **Additional amenities include central air**, whole house vacuum, dishwasher, **microwave**, stove, refrigerator, and security alarm system.

The lease price is \$750.00 per **month**. Applications are being accepted. **For information**, contact Jerry **Durrwachter** at 772-8911 or 233-4542.