

The Benton Park News

A Monthly Publication of the Benton Park Neighborhood Association

Volume 8, Number 6

June, 1991

House and Studio Tour Draws Record Attendance

Thanks to a team of dedicated people, this year's tour attracted a larger than ever attendance, in spite of a few rain sprinkles. The trams, tent, balloons, and beautiful posters added greatly in creating an atmosphere of festivity.

What follows will probably sound like an acceptance speech on Academy Awards night, but the need to give appropriate recognition supercedes time or space limits. So, on behalf of BPNA, here goes:

Special appreciation goes to Bob Friend who **coordinated** this entire event, and for his generous donation of the Victorian doll house as a door prize. This doll house, incidentally, was quite large and featured such details as hardwood floors and house keys. Thank you, Bob, for your important contributions!

Special appreciation **also** goes to those committee heads who donated their time and talents and to the members of their respective committees. Among them: Linda Comfort for pulling together a splendid brochure with the help of Patti Eischen, Nancy McRee, Marian **Amies**, and Linda Dahlheimer; Marty and Pam Keeven for their time in photographing all the properties; Kathleen Kelly on house selection with assistance from Carol Parmenter and Mark Sarich; Mark **Amiel** for behind-the-scene planning of finance and logistics with assistance from wife Roe and Paulette Deutman; Dan **Pierron** and Charlie Dahlheimer for their roles in sponsorship and advertising along with Ron Bentley, Dwayne Beougher and Wayne Huber; and Libby Reuter who was instrumental in getting the tour announcements into the newspapers and on the air.

We want to especially recognize Beth Gellman for her generous contribution in designing the posters, tickets and brochures that were proudly distributed by association members. Beth is obviously a very talented person and we are grateful for the beautiful artwork she created and donated for the house tour. Thank you, Beth!

In addition, special appreciation goes to the people who agreed to open their homes and studios, and who spent much preparation time and many hours visiting with tour-goers over the weekend. Thanks to the following: Jim Trout and **Martha Tobin**; Ron and Judy Lentz; Lou Christen and Nancy McRee; Elizabeth **Kizer** and Jill Davis;

Caroline **Hauser** and **Corinne** Peters; Jack and Janet **McLard**; Dan **Pierron**; Marty and Pam Keeven; Keith Rosemery and Eli Bust **Rosemery**; Paul **Faulkenberry**; Greg and Luba Underwood;

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House Tour Post Party

In spite of some rain, approximately fifty people gathered at the home of Paul and Beth Burka following the house tour on Sunday to celebrate the success of this year's tour and the end of many hours of hard work that were spent planning it. **Benton** Park resident and caterer Boo Boulton generously donated her catering talents and time by preparing a feast of hot dogs, bratwurst, potato salad, lettuce salad, pork & beans and brownies. Included in the group were members of various house tour committees, residents whose homes and studios were shown, and several potential future **Benton** Park residents.

The Winner Is . . .

The winner of the drawing for the Victorian doll house on the **Benton** Park House and Studio Tour is: Lisa Facciano; 12467 Oberlin Court; Chesterfield, Mo. Congratulations, Lisa!

Next Meeting Date

June 4, 1991 is the date for the next **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association Meeting. Captain Everett E. Page of the Third District will be our guest speaker. The winner of the slogan contest will also be announced.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Girls Club, 2216 Sidney. The public is invited to attend.

Benton Park Anniversary

June 1991 marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of **Benton Park**. To observe this event, the **Special Events** Committee is inviting all BPNA members to gather at the northeast corner of the Park (Arsenal and Illinois) on Sunday, June 23 at 4:30 PM. Activities will include an early potluck supper and games afterward. Bring a covered dish large enough to feed the number of people you bring. Also bring your own beverages, eating utensils, and perhaps a blanket to sit on. A birthday cake to commemorate the occasion and games will be provided. The anniversary provides a good opportunity for the group to meet socially, so mark your calendars.

Compton Heights Concert Band

Once again during the summer, this **fine** group of musicians will be performing at the **band pavillion** in Tower Grove Park on Monday evenings at **7:30 PM** from June 24 through August 12. They will also perform Sunday evenings at **7:30 PM** in **Francis Park**, June 23 through August 11.

Among the group of talented musicians is tenor saxophonist Nancy McRee, one of our own BPNA members.

Bring a blanket or chairs (some seating is available), family and friends and plan to attend "Sunday Serenades" at Francis Park or "Musical Mondays" at Tower Grove Park. The concerts are free, and refreshments may be purchased.

Summer Classes Offered

The following classes are being offered at Sigel Community School:

Art Appreciation, Ceramics, Creative Writing, Dog Obedience, Flower Arranging/Wreath Making, Jewelry Making, Millinery, Photography, Puppy Kindergarten, Stained Glass, Stenciling, Sweatshirt Decorating.

Breads, Candy Making, **Hors/Doeuvres**.

French I and II, Serbo-Croatian, Sign Language, Spanish.

Ballroom Dancing, Swing Ballroom Dance, **Country/Western** Dancing, Drama, Instrumental Music Lessons, Piano Lessons.

For additional information call 865-5050. Sigel Community School is located at 2039 Russell Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63104.

June Schedule of Events at Barr Branch Library

Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays at **11:00 AM** will feature author Hans Christen Anderson as "Author of the Month."

Midweek Movies are shown each Wednesday at 4:00 PM. This month's theme is "Let's Visit This Place." Following are the films to be shown:

June 5: Central America Series: Guatemala, Parts 1 and 2

June 12: Islands of Hawaii

June 19: South Carolina

June 26: Rhine

On display at the library during the month of June will be an exhibit entitled "let's Travel..."

Hungry for Books? Reading is the recipe for fun! Join the Summer Reading Club, beginning June 1, for preschool ages through ninth grade. Certificates and prizes will be awarded to **children reading** a predetermined number of books.

For additional information please contact Dave Simmons, 771-7040.

The people at Barr Branch Library and in **Benton Park** extend a warm welcome to **Woody Bassman, Barr's new Youth Services Provider** at the children's library.

Barr Branch Library
1701 S. Jefferson Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63104
314-771-7040

Mon. & Wed: 10:00AM - 7:00PM
Tues., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.: 9:00AM - 6:00PM

The Benton Park News

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PUBLICATION 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) .

1991 BPNA OFFICERS:
Paul LaFlam, President
Nancy McRee, Vice President
Libby Reuter, Secretary
Kevin Kelleher, Treasurer

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A Message from . . .

Phyllis Young
Alderwoman, 7th Ward

There have been many rumors circulating about the old Falstaff plant. One was that a major hardware store was going to be built there. Another was that K-Mart was moving into the site. So I thought it was time to set the record straight.

While some developers have expressed interest in the area, no **firm** proposals have been received. The problem with the Falstaff site is that there is little likelihood that a development is viable at this time for a variety of reasons.

Falstaff is asking an unrealistic price for the site. In addition there is an estimated \$1 million of environmental cleanup costs. It is estimated that \$3-4 million would be needed to acquire the site, clean and clear it. Add the construction costs to that figure, and it is **unlikely** that rents from any discount merchandiser would cover the mortgage.

The only incentive that the city has available to assist developments such as this is tax increment financing, commonly called TIF. The city **can** help finance the necessary public improvements by selling bonds and paying them off with money which would be derived from a calculated "net fiscal benefit" or simply new money that is brought to the city by the new business.

The problem with such a calculation in this case is that if the only interested parties are

Newsletter Input

Officers of BPNA and chairpersons representing the various committees are all **kindly** requested to call the editor by the 20th of each month. Reports from previous meetings, details of upcoming meetings, various stages of progress within the committees, news concerning neighborhood grants, information **regarding** special events, human interest stories, and news from area businesses are always welcome and essential additions in the newsletter. Your cooperation in this endeavor will be enormously appreciated. (Linda **Dahlheimer**, Editor, 664-8552, Fax 664-6310.)

discounters who already have businesses or competitors in the city, there is no new benefit. It's likely the current city shoppers would disburse to the closest geographical location, and the amount of money spent would remain the same - no new money or benefit would be derived from the new development. Consequently, the bond financing would not be possible.

Developing the Falstaff site is of interest **to both** the neighborhood and the city. In the near future it is **likely** that development rights will be awarded to a prospective developer so that a more realistic determination can be made of potential retailers and costs of construction. Meanwhile, the rumors keep surfacing. Have you heard the one about the micro-brewery complete with an outdoor garden?

Membership Application

Activities of The **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association are funded primarily by the dues and donations from neighborhood residents, and property and business owners within **Benton** Park.

Annual dues of \$5.00 include a year's subscription to The **Benton** Park News and a **10%** discount on all purchases from area merchants. The growing list of participating merchants includes: Allen's Garden Shop, **3201** Cherokee; Morands Hardware & Supply, **1801** Pestalozzi; TEASE Hair Salon, **1615** South Ninth; Edele & **Mertz** Hardware Co., **1822** S. Broadway; the **Benton** Park Gallery, **3016** Wisconsin; and Sidney Street Cafe, **2000** Sidney Street.

Count me in as a member for 1991:

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Annual Dues enclosed

Additional *gift* of \$ _____ enclosed to support neighborhood **programs/events**.

(Make checks payable to **Benton** Park Neighborhood Ass'n.)

Mail to: BPNA, P.O. Box 2066, St. Louis, MO 63158

House & Studio Tour

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Geoffrey Wheeler and Ellen **Gilden**; Randall and Linda Comfort; Jim and Lisa Bartlett; Mark Sarich and Phyllis Sarich; Ray Simon; Bob **Fishbone** and Sarah **Linguist**; Vernon Gross; Fr. Mayer of St. Agnes Church; and Rev. Mike Vosler of Epiphany Church.

We also want to thank **all** those people who volunteered to house sit and work the trams and the booth during the days of the tour. Without you, the show simply could not have gone on!

Also our thanks to any members of the association who assisted with the tour but whose names or specific contributions never reached the

We also want to give special recognition to our sponsors for their generous donations. They are **Martie** Aboussie, 9th Ward Alderman, Phyllis Young, 7th Ward Alderwoman, American Bank, Commerce Bank, Mercantile Bank and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Thank you!

Thanks also goes to the many area businesses who took out advertisements in the brochure and for those who offered reduced prices for tour customers.

Everything associated with printing materials for the tour (tickets, brochure covers, and posters) was donated with the exception of the inside pages of the brochure. Special appreciation goes to Adrian Typography, Color Associates, Kohler and Sons, and **Shaughnessy-Kniep-Hawe** Paper Company for their generosity.

World of Difference

The Community Services Committee will be sponsoring the first, of what may well become several, Interracial Bridging Programs, to be held on June 8 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at Epiphany Church, 2911 **McNair**. Led by a facilitator from the World of Difference organization, the program is designed to increase communication and understanding across the divides of difference -- particularly racial, but also cultural and economic class. The diversity that exists within the **Benton Park Community** suggests we could well benefit from this offering. This first program will bring together ten African-Americans from the neighborhood and ten Whites.

If you are interested in participating please call Rev. Michael Vosler (772-0263) or Libby Reuter (773-4274). Should this session be filled, you could be scheduled for a future event. But do call! They need to know you are interested. The cost of the event to you is very negotiable. Your commitment of time is important.

May Social Well Attended

Members and guests gathered at BPNA President Paul **LaFlam's** Old Convent Guest House for the May 7th meeting of the Association.

The evening included a tour of the Victorian house, which Paul and his wife Mary operate as a bed and breakfast, and a delightful party under the stars on the recently completed patio.

The Benton Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 2066

St. Louis, MO 63158