

The Benton Park News

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

Volume 8, Number 8

August, 1991

"Community Services" Alive and Well in Benton Park

The Community Services Committee of the **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association has been very active lately. Among the projects on its agenda are the following:

Interracial Bridging--Fifteen people, African-American and White, gathered on June 8 for the first Interracial Bridging Workshop run by World of Difference, St. Louis. Participants shared experiences, perspectives, hopes and dreams and watched a video dramatizing the artificiality and arbitrariness of social consensus and "rules" that set up the acting-out of prejudice.

"We remembered the times when we were encouraged to participate in inherited patterns of prejudice, when we witnessed the reality of prejudice, and when we felt ourselves to be victims of prejudice" comments committee Chairman, Mike Vosler. "We got the opportunity to commit ourselves again to the elimination of prejudice, particularly in our own setting."

Participants included: Sue Bates, Ron Bentley, Kim Broyles, Judy Boyer, Mark Carlson, Walter **Drummond**, Bernice Holderle, Marie Huff, Kathleen Kelly, Kathy Poeschel, Libby Reuter, Rhonda Romine, Edith Starks, Carolyn Vence and Michael Vosler. The leader was Mary Webber of the World of Difference Program. Special thanks to Libby Reuter for a great lunch!!

The Crime Board--Greg Underwood has map-plotted reported **Benton** Park crime data from Third District Police (through the efforts of Officer Terry Shoemaker). See it at our next meeting. Thanks, Greg!

Journal the Problem--Documentation books are available for our working together on particularly difficult problem situations. Call Michael Vosler, 772-0263.

"Trusted Services" Resource List--This ongoing project under the auspices of Sarah Linquist includes names of people for hire (such as carpenters, plumbers, roofers, babysitters, tutors, etc.) who have been personally recommended by
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Benton Park Community Housing Corporation

In its ongoing efforts to deal with problem properties in the neighborhood, the board has taken the following actions:

- 2906-10 Lemp, 2912 Lemp, 2914-16 Lemp -- These adjacent properties have been purchased and are under development.
- 2855 **McNair**, 2862 **McNair** -- These properties have been purchased and are being marketed for sale.
- 1906 Wyoming -- The Housing Corporation acquired and held the note on this building through construction. It is currently occupied by its new owners.
- **Fremont** School -- The Corporation holds an option on this property. Senior citizen apartments are being planned for this property. An application for a HUD grant is underway and final approval is anticipated by winter, 1991.

The Housing Corporation continues to look at ways to improve property conditions in **Benton** Park. An example is a grant that is currently being considered by Mercantile Bank that would be used to improve the appearance of boarded up properties in **Benton** Park.

Members of the Corporation meet at least every four weeks and receive no compensation for their time. The following **Benton** Park residents comprise the Housing Corporation: Joe Cox, Charlie **Dahlheimer**, **Keven** Kelleher, Jack **Kroeck**, Barbara **Loeb**, Nancy **McRee**, Libby Reuter, Mark Silver, and Marion Smith.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Summer Social and Meeting, Tuesday, August 6, 1991. This month's meeting will be held under the Gazebo at the Lemp Mansion Restaurant, 3322 **DeMenil** Place at 7:30 PM. Food and drinks will be available for purchase during the evening. Live music by one or more of our BPNA members will be featured. Included on the agenda will be a discussion on the feasibility of a neighborhood co-op. Plan to attend!

Profile: Brian Rohlfig

BPNA member and resident Brian Rohlfig recently joined **Ringling** Brothers-Barnum and Bailey Circus juggler Michael Bruneau in a juggling act that required the juggling of **15** balls between them! Their's was one of many acts performed at the International Jugglers Association's Juggling Festival at the Washington University Field House. They were in the company of hundreds of jugglers from all over the world such as **Trixie LaRue**, one of the world's foremost women jugglers of all time, and Moscow Circus star Sergei **Mikhailovich** Ignatov.

Brian, who has been juggling for ten years, **has been** known to juggle pins, horseshoes, sledgehammers, monkey wrenches and machetes. He not only participated in the Association's 44th annual festival but he helped coordinate it. Brian has a host of other interests including **unicycling**, musical entertainment, comedy, wood sculpting, furniture building, hang gliding, real estate development and conducting self-help seminars. He formed the **Rohlfig** Project Development Company and has rehabbed more than **15** homes in the area, including his own. Brian and wife **Maryjo** have lived in **Benton** Park for five years.

BPNA Shirts Available

BPNA has a new supply of polo **shirts** available, stamped with the logo of BPNA - the perfect thing to wear to meetings, picnics, house tours, etc. They are bright blue, stamped in white. The shirts are cotton and have a collar and a pocket. They come in sizes M-L-XL and the cost is **\$13.25**. **T-shirts** in children's sizes are now available, S-M-L for just **\$7.00**. They were made for us right here in the neighborhood by Lou **Tipton** of **Artwear**. If you are interested in buying a shirt, please call Nancy McRee at **776-2972**.

Services (from page one)

Benton Park residents. If you know such a person you would like to recommend, call Sarah at **773-1939**.

Neighborhood Problem Solving--Comments to Jerry & Beth Burka on the **July** gathering they hosted to work on neighborhood problems.

Caring for our Park--The Park needs help. City resources are limited. Are you ready to work to help keep it maintained and safe? Next meeting, let Michael Vosler know!

Donate Your Cans

When you bring items to the Operation Brightside Recycling Center on Kingshighway, please ask that your money from aluminum cans be donated to **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association, and they will send a monthly check to us for the total amount. The **27¢** you get may not seem very much, but if a lot of people donate their small proceeds, it could mean a nice donation to BPNA! Just tell the man at the window, and he will take **care** of the rest!

Schedule for Pickup of Bulk Items

Our area is scheduled for pick-up of furniture, bundled branches, etc. on the second week of each month. Put these items out on Sunday night, as the pickup is Monday through Friday, starting at **6** o'clock in the morning. As many as three large items will be removed from each dumpster area. Place the items three to four feet from the dumpster to allow room for the truck to operate. Items which require special environmental **disposal** (batteries, oil, appliances and tires) will be picked up on a different truck, during the second week of each month. If you have questions, call Operation Brightside at **781-4556** for information.

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 Standing Invitation

The **Benton Park** Neighborhood Association is made up of officers, committees and members. We welcome new ideas and faces, and invite interested members to consider **joining** any of the following committees:

Program Planning for Monthly Meetings
(*Chairperson Scott Farquhar- 776-7376*)

This committee gathers interesting and informative subjects for monthly meeting agendas, and selects and invites guest speakers.

Community Services
(*Chairperson Rev. Mike Vosler - 772-4358*)

People serving on this committee help others in dealing with such issues as crime, race relations, **parent/child** relationships, organized community cleanups, youth tutoring, etc.

Membership Committee
(*Acting Chairperson Carolyn Twibell- 772-0614*)

This committee organizes membership drives, maintains membership roster, and plans to eventually develop a program that will **officially** welcome new residents moving into the neighborhood.

Special Events
(*Chairperson Beth Burka - 771-4371*)

Members of this committee plan activities to raise money for the association as well as plan purely social get-togethers over the course of the year.

Building Review Committee
(*Chairperson Marion Smith - 773-3941*)

This committee establishes guidelines for external renovations and restorations, landscaping and fencing to assure that re-development of properties will be in good taste and in keeping with the characteristics of the neighborhood.

House Tour Committee
(*Acting Chairperson Bob Friend - 771-0208*)

This committee has only recently begun as a year-round committee to hopefully eliminate jamming tour preparation into the last few months of planning. Persons interested in house selection, graphics, public relations, advertisement, etc. or in chairing any aspect of this committee for next year's tour should call.

Beautification Committee
(*Chairperson Linda Comfort - 664-5797*)

Members of this committee get involved in projects such as tree planting and other beautification projects that improve the appearance of the neighborhood.

Newsletter Committee
(*Chairperson Linda Dahlheimer - 664-8552*)

This committee gathers together information, **interviews** residents for human interest stories, profiles neighborhood businesses, etc., writes, and distributes the monthly newsletter.

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 _____

____ 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

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AUGUST SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT BARR BRANCH LIBRARY

Summer Story Time is each Wednesday at 11:00 AM -- **All** ages are welcome!

Summer Fun Movies are shown each Wednesday at 4:00 PM. This month's theme is "Animals! Animals!" Following are the films to be shown:

August 7 - Black Beauty

August 14 - Wind in the Willows

August 21 - Red Pony

August 28 - Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

Incredible Journey

Additional activities for the month of August:

August 1 at 3:00 PM: *Recipe For Fright* - Stories & Poems, Karen Moore of the Machecek Branch Library (*Recommended for those age 8 and older*)

August 8 at 2:00 PM: *Br'er Rabbit Tales*- Kimberlee **Brewton**, a friend of the Barr Branch Library

August 15 at 2:00 PM: Table Games - Bring yours to share or play ours.

A Reminder: Children who have received Summer Reading Club Certificates, don't forget the end of summer party on Saturday, September 7, 2:30 - 4:30 PM!

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

Barr Branch Library

1701 S. Jefferson Bhd., St. Louis, MO 63104

Mon. & Wed. - 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Tues., Thurs., Fri. & Sat: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

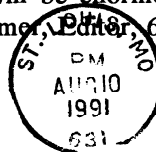
Purdy, Stewart Slated for September Meeting

Our guest speakers at the September meeting will be Bill Purdy and Robbin Stewart, two of the city's school board members. After their presentation, they will hold a question and answer session. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Watch September BPNA News for additional meeting information.

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)



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P.O. Box 2066

St. Louis, MO 63158