

The Benton Park News

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

Volume 9, Number 2

February, 1992

Aboussie to Address February BPNA Meeting

We are pleased to announce the featured speaker for our next meeting **will** be Alderman **Martie** Aboussie. Mr. Aboussie has been instrumental in the development of many reforms and programs designed to improve City neighborhoods. He is deeply committed to the betterment of his ward, and specifically to **Benton** Park. Just a few examples of his numerous "pet projects" include decreased truancy among school children and eliminating prostitution from South Side neighborhoods.

Martie will address such issues as redistricting, Section 8 Housing as it relates to South Side neighborhoods, and the latest developments with pollution problems at National By-Products, Inc..

Plan to attend this next meeting, February 4, **7:30PM** to show support for a man who has tirelessly committed himself to our neighborhood.

BPNA meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at Girls Inc., 2216 Sidney. The Public is invited to attend.

Building Review Committee Report

At the January BPNA meeting, the Building Review Committee presented the proposed Use, Construction and Restoration Guidelines and Procedural Information for Development Projects. These guidelines are to ensure consistency in the review process for developers **seeking** neighborhood support for their projects and **will** inform the developer of what is expected before investing a lot of time in the project.

Copies of the Guidelines and Procedural Information were given out at the January meeting. **All** comments will be discussed at February's meeting before adaptation. If you did not receive a copy, additional copies will be available at the February meeting. For additional information, call Marion Smith, 773-3941.

Update: Community Services Committee

We continue to seek names of people who provide you services whom you would recommend to your neighbors. The list is usually available for perusal and additions at our meetings!

We are **seeking** Block Watch Captains for every block in **Benton** Park. Would you serve your block? **Soulard** is offering to include us in their newsletter to assist the **networking** process. Call Michael Vosler, **772-0263**.

Journal-The-Problem books are available to assist you in dealing with more **difficult** problems for which the police or city officials need documentation. Call Vosler, **772-0263**.

Adopt-A-Part-Of-a-Park **will** be switched to the Beautification Committee. But your efforts are still needed! (*See related article inside.*)

We would like to encourage community activities for youth. Do you have ideas? Interest? Call Michael Vosler for information about the next committee meeting.

S.H.A.R.P.

The Supplemental Housing Assistance and Repair Program **will** soon be providing grants and no-interest loans for emergency home repair to lower income homeowners who need their homes repaired to meet city codes or remove safety hazards. Up to \$2,500 may be spent per home. **All** work **will** be done by licensed contractors.

Application forms for **S.H.A.R.P.** will be available after February 1 from Joint Neighborhood Ministry, 2911 **McNair**. Completed applications will be reviewed by a special committee of neighborhood residents. The committee will work with the homeowner to develop a work plan, select a contractor, and supervise the work.

This program is funded by **C.D.A.** which has awarded **\$40,000** for 1992. In addition, **Citicorp's** Urban Renaissance Program has awarded a grant of **\$5,000**, and additional money is anticipated from the Presbytery of **Giddings-Lovejoy**.

Neighborhood Pride, Inc. and Joint Neighborhood Ministry will operate **S.H.A.R.P.** For more information contact J.N.M. at 771-3987 or Neighborhood Pride at 664-6117.

Profile:
BPNA Vice President:
Ron Bentley

Ron resides at 1906 Sidney Street with his wife JoAnne and their nine-year-old daughter Tiffany. They have lived in Benton Park since 1989. A native of Buffalo, New York and a Vietnam Veteran formerly with the 2nd Marine Division, Ron's educational background includes business management, medical technology and microbiology. He has worked in various sales management positions during the past ten years for DSI Process Systems, Inc. of St. Louis. In addition to BPNA, Ron is Vice President and Co-Founder of Community Marketing Resources, serves as Beautification Committee Chairman of the Senate Square Block Unit, and is actively involved in various roles with St. Agnes Catholic Church.

Adopt-A-Park Program
Alive and Well

The adopt-a-park program has been moved to the Beautification Committee. Bob Friend is the chairperson for Pontiac Park and Laurie Ogborn has agreed to do the same for Benton Park. We need volunteers to organize for Lemp Park. Please call Beth Kizer at 664-9825 if you have an interest in one of these parks and want to help keep them clean and attractive. You can volunteer to clean up a certain portion at regular intervals. Or, as an example of other efforts, Libby Reuter and Nancy McRee planted tulips, narcisses and daffodil bulbs this fall in Fremont Park. Come this spring, we will all be appreciating Libby's and Nancy's contribution!

FOR LEASE: SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE IN BENTON PARK AREA

2-1/2 story immaculate, sunny, 8-room single-family energy-efficient brick home on nicely landscaped double lot, located one block away from the park. Lovely staircase, large rooms, full basement, 3 + + bedrooms, 1-1/2+ baths, modern kitchen, dishwasher, garbage disposal, continual-cleaning stove, built-in microwave. Detached 2-car garage, fenced yard. ADT Security Alarm System. \$675.00 per month. Lease-Option possible. For appointment call Charlie or Linda Dahlheimer, 664-8552.

Operation Brightside
Spring Blitz

On May 9, we again have the opportunity to get rid of our BOAT (Batteries, Oil, Appliances and Tires!). These materials have all been banned from landfills for some time. This is also the time to put out other items (furniture, bikes, mattresses, etc.) and they will be hauled away for proper disposal.

We of the BPNA neighborhood like to use this Spring Cleanup Blitz to spruce up our yards and alleys by cleaning up the trash which has accumulated over the winter months.

Last, but not least, seedling flower plants and mulch are available FREE OF COST to you! These are to be planted in places where they are visible from the street to beautify the neighborhood.

Welcome:
Mary King & Associates

Benton Park residents, Mary and Bill King, have decided to relocate their business to the Benton Park Neighborhood.

The real estate firm, formerly located in Souard, has leased the second and third floors of the Sidney Street Cafe for its new home.

They will be speaking at the March BPNA meeting on "Selling Benton Park."

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).

1992 BPNA OFFICERS:

- Nancy McRee, President
- Ron Bentley, Vice President
- Beth Kizer, Secretary
- Kevin Kelleher, Treasurer

Publication of The Benton Park News is underwritten in part by a Southwestern Bell/City of St. Louis Neighborhood Growth Grant.

Brightside Team Organization

As a function of the Beautification Committee, chaired by Beth **Kizer**, we are happy to announce that George Rutter has agreed to be the new Area Commander for the Spring Blitz, replacing Jane Banes, who has done a great job for several years. Thanks, George and Jane!!

George, Kathleen Kelly, Nancy **McRee** and Ray Simon are working to see that each block in **Benton** Park, including the newly acquired Cherokee Street, is represented by a Block Captain. A Block Captain organizes the alley cleanup and takes orders for free plants, given away by Operation Brightside. George will collect orders for plants from Block Captains. Operation Brightside will deliver the plants and mulch to a central location, and the Block Captains will come to pick up the plants and distribute them to indi-

viduals on their blocks. Anyone wanting mulch is invited to pick up the desired amount from the central designated place.

Talk with your neighbors about common areas to be planted. As an example of what can be accomplished by **communicating with** your neighbors, a group from **1900** Arsenal, headed by Jan and Ken Ortman, transformed an ugly, city-owned, vacant lot into a lovely pocket park last year. All that was necessary was permission from the city, plants and equipment from Operation Brightside, dedication and hard work on their part. They entered the Anheuser-Busch Special Project Awards Contest and won a cash prize, which they plan to spend on supplies for their park this year. We are all limited only by our own imagination on this sort of project.

February Schedule of Events at Barr Branch Library

For Children:

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM - Preschool Story Time

For All Ages:

Join the Society of Young Magicians. No fee. Open to ages 9 to adult. **Meetings Alternate** Wednesdays, February 12 and 26 at 4:30PM.

Saturdays, 2:30 PM - Family Movies: Real and Fictional Afro-Americans

Feb. 1 *Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*

Feb. 8 *J.T.*

Feb. 15 *Almos' A Man* and *My Past is my Own*

Feb. 22 *Gracie's Rap* and *Rich*

Feb. 29 *Frederick Douglas*

Exhibit: A Celebration of Afro-American History

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

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 and **Art** of the Ages, 2205 Cherokee.

Count me in as a member for 1992:

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

Eva's Environmental Tips

This year Eva has made a New Year's resolution to do something new, however small, for the environment each month. In January she took steps to stop the junk mail that comes to her home every day. We think of it as a nuisance but it is also an environmental hazard. If you saved up **all** the unwanted paper you will receive in the mail this year, you could have the equivalent of **one-and-a-half** trees!

To reduce your junk mail by as much as seventy-five percent, write to Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, 6 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017.

This service lets **firms** know you want your name removed from their mailing lists. You can also write to the organizations and non-profit groups that send you a lot of mail, asking them not to exchange your name with other organizations.

To make it easy for you, Eva has composed a form letter to Mail Preference Service that **will** be available at the February meeting. **ALL** you need to do is sign your name, address and mail it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Eva" is a BPNA member who is obviously concerned with environmental problems and who will be sharing her ideas to help improve our world environmentally in this and future issues of the newsletter in hopes that you will join her.

Compton Heights Concert Band

If you are looking for a way to cure the mid-winter blues, this is the concert series for you. The **acclaimed** Compton Heights Concert Band brings their old fashioned pops concert style indoors to the sanctuary of the beautiful Third Baptist Church at Grand Center. Three different concerts - **3:00** PM on February 2, March 1 and April 5 - have been scheduled. February's concert is entitled "Stars, Strips and **Sousa**"; March's concert **will** feature "A Choral Afternoon"; and April brings "A Salute to St. **Louis** Sports!"

May we remind you that our own Prez Nancy **McRee** is a tenor saxophonist in the Compton Heights Band!

For more detailed information about the concerts and to order a subscription or individual tickets, **call** the Grand Center Box Office at **533-8019**. There are special single ticket prices for children and seniors.

Correction

In last month's newsletter, under the heading "Programs" in the article entitled "Reorganization of Committees," Chairman Scott **Farquhar's** phone number should have been listed as **776-7376**. Anyone who would like to be a part of this committee which arranges the programs for our BPNA meetings should **call** Scott.

The Benton Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 2066
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