

The Benton Park News

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

Volume 9, Number 5

May, 1992

House Tour to Highlight Mother's Day Weekend

The **Benton** Park House and Studio Tour occurs on Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10 and promises to be a delightful weekend. The tour originates at the booth located at the northeast corner of the park (Arsenal and **Illinois**). Tour hours are Noon to 5:00 PM both days.

Among the planned activities: Twelve homes to tour, each displaying lovely custom floral arrangements; several art studios (at least one will feature a special exhibit); a Victorian Re-enactment at the **DeMenil** Mansion on Saturday; Antique Row's Spring Festival featuring sidewalk displays and food booths on Saturday; a Dixieland Jazz Trio performing on Sunday; a Realtor's Open House on Sunday which is in addition to the homes on the tour; and a drawing for an overnight stay at the **Lemp** Mansion Bed and Breakfast.

All activities will be easily accessed by the use of trams whose drivers will also be pointing out items of historic interest along the way. Tickets are \$5.00 and include all activities occurring both days. Children 12 and under are free.

A list of the restaurants in **Benton** Park and their hours of operation will be available at the tour booth.

Local Artist Designs This Year's Poster

This year's house tour poster, a lovely, delicate portrayal of the Victorian era, was designed by one of our own resident artists, Marian Amies. Hundreds of posters have been on display throughout the city and county, thanks to the efforts of a number of BPNA members.

Marian, originally from Bath, England, is the proprietor of Amies Graphic Design, 1%0 Arsenal Street. Her place of business is in itself a neighborhood landmark, and has been previously on tour. The Circa late 1800s Mansard storefront **served** as the Machatshek Bakery. A century later, the original bakehouse has become Marian's graphic design studio, and the original store area has been **converted** into her residence. Marian enjoys the convenient location and the eclectic neighborhood that **Benton** Park offers.

Reminder to House Tour Participants

Individuals whose homes will be open on this year's tour are reminded to pick up their floral arrangements on Friday, May 8 between the hours of 4-8 PM at **Windsor** Florist Shop, 2220-2222 Cherokee. You may contact Robert **Windsor** at 773-3135.

Anheuser-Busch Major Sponsor of Tour

House and Studio Tour Chairman Charlie **Dahlheimer** has announced that through a very generous contribution by Anheuser-Busch, the opportunity to make this year's tour especially successful has been greatly enhanced. The Benton Park Neighborhood Association greatly appreciates the spirit of generosity displayed by Anheuser-Busch and the interest they have shown in our event.

Next BPNA Meeting Set for May 5

The featured speaker for our upcoming meeting is Ms. Marge Polcyn, Assistant Director of the Public Affairs Division for the St. **Louis** Public Schools. Ms. Polcyn will discuss the proposed waiver of a property tax rollback that the St. Louis School System is **asking** city voters to consider for the ninth time.

According to Superintendent David J. **Mahan**, the proposition to forego a 38-cent rollback, if approved by simple majority vote on Tuesday, June 2, would not increase property taxes but would maintain the current authorized level of \$3.75 for each \$100 assessed valuation, which would ultimately generate about \$10 million in revenues.

Everyone is invited to attend and encouraged to participate in discussing this issue.

Benton Park Neighborhood Association 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.

Brightside Blitz: May 9th

Saturday, May 9 is our official date to beautify our neighborhood. With the **Benton Park House Tour** beginning the same day, let's show the rest of St Louis how much we care about our neighborhood. Trash bags, tools, mulch and flowers **will** be provided by the City on that date. If you have not already been contacted by your block captain, call 781-4556 for details.

Message From Alderman Phyllis Young

Spring has arrived and with it comes the annual street improvements for each of the city's 28 wards, some of which have already begun.

Additional funds are available for the 50/50 sidewalk program. Under this program the homeowner and the city share the cost of the installation of new sidewalks in front of residential dwellings. If you are interested in participating in this program just give me a call (664-5159).

If you signed up last year you haven't yet received a new sidewalk! That's because the lowest bidder never submitted all the documents necessary to fulfill the terms of the contract. **Therefore, those sidewalks will be completed this spring** in addition to the new applications.

There are also street trees available for those of you who are interested and haven't received one. Our city has lost many of the grand old trees I remember from my childhood along our streets. Only by planting now, will we have street trees to shade us when we want to take a walk on the shady side of the street! Let me know if you'd like to have a tree in front of your home. For those of you who have street trees, help us out by trimming and watering them so that we will have large trees in the future.

House Numbers Front and Back--It's the Law!

To facilitate locating houses by emergency units, city residents are required to have street addresses permanently attached to both the front and back entrances to their homes. On the front entrance, numbers must be at least three inches high; at least two inches at the rear.

Enforcement of the law will begin in August.

The City's Building Division (622-3313) **will** answer questions from 8AM to 4:45PM regarding compliance with the street address law.

House Tour Participants

The following **Benton Park** residents have graciously agreed to open their homes for this year's tour:

Vince **Aquaviva** - 2101 Sidney **Jerry Chytle** - 2027 Sidney; Lee and Pat **Bania** - 2920 **McNair**; Kathy Valavanis - 2152 Victor; Bert and Debbie Jones - 2205 Sidney; Ron and **JoAnne Bentley** - 1906 Sidney; **Dimitri** and Elaine **Michaelides** - 3010 Lemp; Mike and Jennifer **Higginbotham** - 2132 Victor; John Williams and Phillip Taylor - 2002 Victor; Tom Carroll and **Debbi Devine** - 1929 Wyoming; Donna **Marin** (the DeMenil Mansion) - 3552 DeMenil Place; and the Pointer Family (Lemp Mansion) - 3322 DeMenil Place.

Studios to be open that weekend will be announced the weekend of the tour.

Spring Studio Show

Icarian Studios (formerly The **Benton Park Gallery**) has announced a Spring Show which **will** feature collaborations in clay by Rodney **Winfield**, Geoffrey Wheeler, and Ellen **Gilden**. The opening reception, which coincides with the **Benton Park House and Studio Tour**, is Sunday, May 10 from 2-5 PM. The show **will run through June 6**, and exhibition hours will be from 2-6 PM Wednesdays and Saturdays, and by appointment.

The Studio is located at 3016 Wisconsin Avenue.

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.

BPNA Fundraiser Progressive Dinner Update

A progressive **dinner** party is planned for Saturday evening, June 20. Tickets include appetizers, main course, and dessert. Wine will also be provided. Diners will conclude the evening by gathering at one home for the dessert course to encourage sociability.

The event is being planned both as a summer social and as a fundraiser for the **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association. Members are encouraged to invite their friends and relatives. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and are \$25.00 per person.

We need BPNA members willing to donate their cooking skills and/or their dining rooms. As you **can** see from the choices below, donations **can** range from making a salad or dessert to providing a dining room as well as making an entree.

Please check the **category(s)** below that appeal to you, and mail your response to **JoAnne** Bentley, **1906** Sidney, St. Louis, MO **63104**, or call JoAnne at **664-6335** or Nancy **McRee** at **776-2972**.

I am interested in participating in the progressive dinner party.

I will buy ___ tickets at \$25 ea. (enclose check payable to **Benton** Park Neighborhood Assn.)

I will make my home available (for **8** people) for the following course:
 ___ **Appetizers/Cocktails** ___ **Salad and Entree**

I will **make** my home available for the **entire** group (40-50 people) for dessert and coffee course.

I will provide the following course (to serve eight people).
 ___ **Appetizers/Cocktails** ___ **Salad**
 ___ **Entree** ___ **Dessert**

I will provide wine for a course (to serve eight people).

I am a musician and will provide soft music for the cocktail or dinner hour.

Name: _____ **Phone** _____

Address: _____

MAIL TO: JoAnne Bentley, 1906 Sidney, St. Louis, MO **63104**

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 **Icarian** Studios, **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

In April Eva put low-flow aerators on all her faucets at home. Although the flow of water is reduced by as much as fifty percent, it seems just as strong because air is mixed into the water as it leaves the tap. Installing low-flow aerators on kitchen and bathroom sink faucets can cut water use by as much as 280 gallons per month for a typical family of four, over 3,300 gallons a year for one family. These are available at most hardware stores. (Don't confuse them with standard screen aerators, which do not reduce faucet flow rate.) The ends of most modern faucets are threaded, so the aerator is easily screwed on. However, you should not use one on a faucet to which you attach a portable dishwasher.

Water conservation reduces the amount of chemicals and energy used in water treatment and sewage treatment. It reduces the energy needed to pump water to your home or heat the water once it's there. Water heating is the second largest energy user in the home so you'll save on utility bills as you reduce your water consumption.

DeMenil Mansion

Since its restoration in 1965, the 19th century **Chatillon-DeMenil** Mansion has been a premier St. Louis landmark. This elegant Greek Revival house stands today as an important link to our city's cultural and architectural past. Through membership contributions, they are able to preserve and maintain this historic site as they continue to serve the community through cultural and educational programs.

Members enjoy special privileges which include free admission to the Mansion; a complimentary lunch at the restaurant; 10% discount on **all** purchases made at the Museum Shop; invitations to "members only" parties and events; and quarterly editions of the DeMenil Mansion Newsletter. The annual tax-deductible dues are \$35 for individual membership and \$50 for family membership.

If you are interested in becoming a member, make your check payable to **Chatillon-DeMenil** House Foundation, and mail to 3352 DeMenil Place, St. Louis, MO 63118.

BPNA Polo Shirts Available

A new supply of **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association polo shirts is available for purchase by calling Nancy **McRee**, 776-2972, or will be available at the May BPNA meeting. These attractive shirts, with a collar and button front, are blue with white logo printing. Adult sizes S-M-L-XL are available for \$13.25. A few miscellaneous childrens sizes are available for \$7.00.

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P.O. Box 2066

St. Louis, MO 63158