

# The Benton Park News

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

Volume 9, Number 6

June, 1992

## Benton Park Continues to Bloom!

Glen Koenen and Bill Stephenson, members of Neighborhood Ministry and Neighborhood Pride respectively, applied for and received a generous beautification grant from Citicorp. Koenen and Stephenson have requested that this grant money be used to improve the appearance of Arsenal Street, specifically the stretch between I-55 and Jefferson, which is a major thoroughfare into **Benton** Park.

BPNA members Ken and Pat Ortmann, who have been overseeing this project, initially contacted all property owners along that stretch of Arsenal by letter and/or by phone to explain the project and "take orders," and have subsequently been dispatching flowers, shrubs, planter boxes, landscaping ties and, in some cases, house paint. Future plans call for the installation of trash cans.

**Benton** Park residents appreciate the generosity of Citicorp, the vision of Glen Koenen and Bill Stephenson, the dedication of the Ortmanns, and the cooperation of Arsenal Street residents. Thank you all!

## Fundraiser Postponed

The progressive dinner party, originally planned for June 20, has been postponed until later **this** year. In spite of the interest in the project, the committee feels that with the house tour so recently behind us, we all need a breather before we once again stoke the furnace to fire up enough enthusiasm and time commitments needed for another ambitious project.

Meanwhile, the committee will recontact the people who have volunteered to participate when a revised date is known. For additional information please call **JoAnne Bentley** - 664-6335 or **Nancy McRee** - 776-2972.

## A Benton Park Welcome!

Congratulations to proud parents Mark Silver and Erica Uppstrom on the arrival of their new baby daughter who was born in April. Much happiness to all of you!

## Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery

Our thoughts are with Beth Kizer, our BPNA Secretary, who recently underwent surgery. Get well soon, Beth, so that you can enjoy the summer months.

## House Tour Draws 700

The general consensus at the end of this year's tour as some sixty volunteers congregated in the backyard at the home of Charlie and Linda Dahlheimer was that this had been a really great tour. Enthusiasm was up, even as energy was waning. The final tally indicated almost **700** people had purchased tickets to tour the properties, compete for the attendance prizes of an overnight stay at the Lemp Mansion Bed & Breakfast or a chicken dinner for two at the Lemp Mansion Restaurant, take in the pristine appearance of the park, ride the trams, participate in the Antique Row Street Fair, enjoy the Victorian reenactment at the **DeMenil** House, listen to the Dixieland jazz trio, buy refreshments at food booths set up along the way, pop in at the Realtor open houses, visit the local restaurants, observe the mounted police officers and, best of all, renew old acquaintances and make new friends amid spectacular weather conditions all weekend.

## Mobile Patrol Unit Topic at Next BPNA Meeting

Dutchtown South resident **JoAnne Hoppe** will give a presentation on how to set up and run a mobile patrol unit at the June 2nd meeting of the **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association. According to Hoppe, who coordinates the patrol units of Dutchtown South and **Benton** Park West, her neighborhood has seen positive results since its inception in 1988.

Plan to attend this meeting and learn more about this program.

**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.

353-3359

## Step Up! St. Louis

This fine organization generously donated their time at our **Benton Park House Tour** house-sitting at many of the properties. Donned in their special T-shirts, they conveyed a spirit of enthusiasm and dedication as one by one they arrived at the tour booth on Saturday and Sunday to determine which house had been assigned to them. At the helm of this coordinating effort was BPNA and *Step Up! St. Louis* member Barb Marshall who, along with her aew, successfully sailed through the weekend in her usual organized fashion.

The objective of *Step Up! St. Louis*, a project of the St. Louis Ambassadors, is to establish partnerships with local businesses, civic and community groups to improve the quality of life in St. Louis. About 250 volunteers strong, they step in to help with fundraisers and community betterment projects, working side by side with neighborhood volunteers. Their role in these projects varies, based upon the needs of the neighborhood. They have helped neighborhood groups get organized, assisted in the planning of events and, most often, supplemented the "people power" needed to have a successful event.

Besides the **Benton Park House Tour**, a few other recent projects they have assisted with are St. Louis Association for the Education of Young Children Seminar, the Neighborhood Housing Association "Block Aid" Project, Southside Youth Service Coalition Youth Fair, **Benton Park West Neighborhood Cleanup**, and the **LaSalle Park Arts Council Arts Program**.

Anyone interested in learning more about *Step Up! St. Louis* is invited to attend their monthly meetings held the last Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM at the First Federal Frank & Crust on 9th and Olive, downtown, or call 454-1488.

## Show Your Colors

Attractive brass house plaques, featuring the **Benton Park** logo, are now in stock and available for immediate delivery. The plaques cost \$50.00 each and can be obtained by calling Kevin Kelleher, at 664-0776.

**Benton Park Neighborhood Association** polo shirts, blue, with white logo, are also available at \$13.25 each. by calling Nancy McRee, 776-2972.

Shirts and house plaques may also be purchased at the **Association's** meetings on the first Tuesday of each month.

## The House Tour - 1992

*Editor's Note: We in Benton Park are pleased to have among us a resident poet whose literary works will from time to time appear within the pages of this newsletter. The writings will most likely depict life and events occurring in Benton Park as seen through the eyes (and pen) of one keen individual.*

It was a "picture perfect" weekend in May  
And folks **came** from all 'round about,  
**Benton Park** neighborhood put on display  
Our homes gazed at - inside and out.

The streets and sidewalks all had been broomed,  
Trash was not generally seen.  
Flowers complied with our motto "in bloom"  
Even the alleys were clean!

The Tour Committee, chaired by Charlie D.,  
Planned the work and then worked the plan.  
The results of that effort were **all** there to see  
Let us salute each helping hand!

Thank you to Marty, and also A.B.  
We are grateful for all that you do.  
Let us clip from our garden a rose or peony  
And tell you: "This Bud is for you!"

So now there's another seven hundred or so  
Who one day may come here to stay.  
The house tour did not **make** history I know,  
But how well it was put on display!

--*The Bard of Benton Park*

### The Benton Park News

The Benton Park News is published monthly for the Benton Park Neighborhood Association by Community Marketing Resources, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation providing marketing and communications resources for community organizations and neighborhood associations. P.O. Box 2096, St. Louis, MO 63158. Linda Dahlheimer, Editor. Copyright 1992: Community Marketing Resources, Inc. Annual Subscription rate \$5.00.

#### 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

*A message from*

**Rev. Michael Vosler, Chairman, Community Services Committee**

**BLOCK CAPTAINS!** We need Block Captains! The single best deterrent we have for lowering crime rates are Block Watch Groups. They help us to get to know our neighbors, and to watch out for, and be watched out for. Degree of activity can vary from quarterly meetings to monthly meetings to evening watch assignments. Add some Block Parties and block purchasing and a few block whatever's, and the sky's the limit!

A key ingredient is the Block Captain. If you want to know how to get started, call Ron Bentley (664-6335) or Cheri Adelstein (664-9058).

**MOBILE PATROL VOLUNTEERS.** We are cooperating with adjacent neighborhoods to provide mobile patrols. You will need to be trained. Some folks are out there for you. A few hours a month can make a big difference when it's added to a few hours others give, and you can set the schedule! Call Mike Vosler (772-0263) or Cheri Adelstein (664-9058).

**INTER-RACIAL BRIDGING.** One of the assets of the **Benton Park Neighborhood** is our diversity - architectural, racial, and cultural. Differences demand communication. We will offer a second Bridging Workshop on August 15, 1992 from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. A sign-up sheet will be available at the next **Benton Park Neighborhood Association Meeting**, or call Michael Vosler (772-0263).

*"The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said."*

--Peter F. Drucker

**Eva's Environmental Tips**

Eva has found that the kitchen is a good place to start integrating an **environmental consciousness** into her everyday life. By using environmentally sound kitchen products and practices, she can help conserve resources. For example:

Use reusable containers to store food instead of aluminum foil or plastic wrap which can contain potentially harmful chemicals.

Use unbleached coffee filters, or even better, reusable cotton coffee filters. The process of bleaching paper can create dioxin, a deadly toxic.

Use reusable cloths to wipe up spills in lieu of paper towels, and cloth napkins instead of paper.

For sandwich and freezer bags - try **biodegradable, non-toxic** bags made of 100% cellulose. Write to Earth Care Paper Co., Box 14140, Madison, WI 53714. (608) 277-2920.

Take canvas shopping bags to the supermarket to carry your groceries. If just 25% of American homes used ten fewer plastic bags a month, we'd save over 2.5 billion bags a year.

**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 participating area merchants. The growing list 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.**)

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

***A Message from  
Charlie Dahlheimer, Chairman,  
1992 House & Studio Tour***

Thanks to the superb cooperation of a great many people, the 1992 House Tour was just about as successful as any of us could have hoped for! Serving as chairman under such conditions was certainly a pleasure.

We wish to thank **Anheuser** Busch for providing the funding for this tour. Their participation is a wonderful example of the business and residential communities pulling together to guarantee the continued vitality and attractiveness of city living.

Special thanks to ...our wonderful House Selection Committee, Kathleen Kelly, Ron and **JoAnne** Bentley, Timmi Strader and Jerry Chytla; ...the dynamic Publicity Committee, Libby **Reuter**, Lisa Bartlett, Ken and Pat Ortmann and Beverly **Swanson**; ...and, again, Timmi Strader, for single-handedly organizing all the logistics of the tour.

Thanks also to...Marian Amies for the wonderful poster and tour brochure; ...Mary King and Jim Trout for coordinating with Realtors and developers; ...Barb Marshall, for coordinating the the house-sitting chores;...**Donna Musik**, our liaison with the Antique Row merchants; ...**Dan Pierron**, our liaison with the **Benton Park** art community.

A tip of the **Benton Park** hat to Marty & Pam Keevan, for the publicity photos, and to my son, Michael, for creating the line drawings for the tour brochure.

Special thanks to my wife, Linda (who really did all my work!), to **Martie** Aboussie, who helped focus city services on our neighborhood in preparation for the tour, and to **all** who toiled behind the scenes, distributing posters, running errands and providing support before, during and after the tour.

Thank you, all, for making my dream of a "meetingless" house tour come true!



**The Benton Park Neighborhood Association**  
**P.O. Box 2066**  
**St. Louis, MO 63158**