

# The Benton Park News

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

Volume 9, Number 9

September, 1992

## Our Parks In Benton Park

The Parks Committee is busy suggesting repair, cleanup, and new developments for the four parks in our community. Chairman Charles Hooker reports that the City of St. Louis has been quick to respond to such requests as arbor work and replanting.

Future goals for our parks include fountain repair, refuse container upgrading, bench additions, new plantings, and more community usage.

Pontiac Park improvements are well underway, thanks to the efforts of Alderman **Aboussie** and the Parks Committee members.

BPNA members are invited to join the committee at 5:00 PM on September 6 at Pontiac Park to see the progress made and to help tidy up. (Further details are elsewhere in this newsletter.)

**Benton** Park is **taking** on a more cared-for look because of the shared efforts of the City Maintenance Department, the **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association and many area residents.

Special recognition goes to Richard **McAfee** who has picked up approximately nine cubic yards of litter in the park since June! Richard, your efforts are appreciated by a lot of people...thank you!

## Cherokee Antique Row Street Market

Cherokee **Antique** Row is holding its Second Annual Fall Street Market on Saturday and Sunday, **September 19-20, 1992 from 8 AM to 4 PM** both days. Plan to attend and show support to this valuable anchor on the southern edge of **Benton** Park. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

As a special feature, 55 K-USA's Yard Sale will be broadcast live with Paul Warner. Anyone interested in receiving information on available vendor space should contact Frank Mills, 773-4907.

The **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association will be represented at a booth both days. If you enjoy talking to people and are interested in working at the booth, which entails giving out brochures and information about our neighborhood, contact Lisa Bartlett (776-3466) or **JoAnne Bentley** (664-6335). We need to communicate to outsiders the positive strengths we share in our neighborhood - fine architecture, affordability, close proximity to many places and events, community spirit, small-town feeling in a big city, close relationships, diversity, history, etc., etc.

**Keeping Benton Park in the Spotlight..**  
See "**Benton Park Properties**," on page 3

**Want to plant a tree? . . .**  
See "**Tree Planting Program**," on page 3

## Soulard Guest Speakers on September Agenda

We are pleased to have Dave Lewis and Clark **Rowley** of the **Soulard** Neighborhood **Association speaking with** us at the September BPNA meeting, scheduled for Tuesday evening, September 1, at **7:30PM**.

They have been very successful in organizing **Soulard** into a very positive crime prevention program and have been invited to speak on various aspects of this program, and give us a "how to do it" mini-course. If you or anyone in your neighborhood is interested in crime prevention, please attend this very important meeting.

It is our hope that enough people will show an interest and willingness to work that a separate committee can be formed to take the **responsibility** for organizing our neighborhood toward crime prevention in **Benton** Park.

Remember that the police can't prevent crime without the help and cooperation of everyone in the neighborhood. We must work together, and not wait for the other guy to do it.

**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.

## Freemont School

An application has been made by the Cardinal Ritter Institute for funding to convert the Freemont School in the center of the neighborhood adjacent to Pontiac Central Park into elderly housing. This project was submitted last year and was not selected for funding.

To make sure our elected officials and other appropriate officials know that this project is important to us, we have started a letter campaign. The application was resubmitted in late June, and letters must reach these officials by early September in order to be effective.

A form letter will be available at the September meeting for your convenience. If possible, you are requested to write your own letter immediately, to the following people:

The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John C. Danforth  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mr. Jack Kemp, Secretary  
Dept. of HUD, Room 10000  
451 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Mr. Jack Lally, Director  
Cardinal Ritter Institute  
c/o Jerry Burka  
Community Program Development Corp.  
133 S. Eleventh, Suite 440  
St. Louis, MO 63102

## BPNA Membership Card Update

If you have paid your membership dues this year and have not yet received your membership card, which will give you discounts with local merchants, please see Barbara Marshall at the meeting on September 1, and she will make one for you. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Barb Marshall, 2859 Lemp, St. Louis, MO 63118, with your request and the month you paid your membership dues, and she will mail a card back to you.

## Eva's Environmental Tips

Eva has discovered that shopping can be an effective tool for promoting a healthy environment. As The Green Consumer Letter says, "In this society, we vote with our dollars. Every time you open your wallet, you vote for or against the Planet." By selecting "green" products whenever possible, you get a safer product and send a message to retailers and manufacturers. When they see that it's good business, they'll go for the "green," too.

According to The Green Consumer, "You may be surprised at how easy it is to make your voice heard in the marketplace...It takes only a fairly small portion of shoppers - as few as one person in ten - to change buying habits for companies to notice."

There are no uniform national guidelines for environmental marketing claims yet. So when manufacturers say their products are "recycled," "compostable," or "degradable," you can't be sure what they mean...unless you ask.

The terms "Environmentally Friendly" and "Environmentally Safe" are well-meaning but meaningless. They're the **eco-equivalent** of "Have a nice day."

For information about "green" products, here are a couple of sources:

- The Green Consumer Letter, Tilden Press, Inc., Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; 800-955-GREEN. Subscriptions: \$27 per year.
- *Shopping For a Better World*, Council on Economic Priorities, 30 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003; 800-822-6435. A handy guide, \$5.95.

### 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

# Benton Park Properties Spotlighted

Hopefully many of you had the opportunity to see the front page feature in last Sunday's St. Louis Post-Dispatch Real Estate section under the impressively large heading, "Benton Park Victorian."

The article and photos of Linda and Randall Comfort's "House of the Month" feature along with information about a cooperative Realtor tour of the Benton Park neighborhood brought over 300 people into our neighborhood that day.

We have Mary King and Associates, BPNA's "resident real estate company," along with the Post-Dispatch, to thank for this burst of publicity.

Mary King and Associates will also have a booth at Cherokee Antique Row Street Market (see related story, page 1) where they will distribute information on For-Sale Properties in Benton Park. We appreciate the tremendous positive attention and awareness they are creating with the media for Benton Park!

**NOTICE: copies of the Use, Construction and Restoration Guidelines adopted by the Association in April will be available at the next few meetings. Although these guidelines have been formulated to aid developers who require neighborhood support for tax abatement, block grant funds, demolition permits, zoning variances or conditional use permits, residents may be interested in referring to them as they make modifications to the exteriors of their own homes.**

# Tree Planting Program Alive and Well

The Benton Park Tree Planting Program is coming out of its dormant stage and springing back to life. Beth Kizer has agreed to take the responsibility of organizing this very positive program. If you would like a free tree planted in the space between the sidewalk and the curb on your property, please clip (or copy) and fill out the coupon below and mail it to Beth. She will see that the information gets to the proper authorities and that you get a tree planted.

Request for tree to be planted at:

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(address)

I am the owner of the above property.

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(property owner) (date)

If possible, variety of tree requested is:

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**Mail to:** Beth Kizer  
2034 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 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.)

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

## Recycling Center Update

Operation **Brightside's** Recycling Center is located at 1660 S. Kingshighway and is open Tuesday through Friday 10 AM to 4 PM, and on Saturdays from 9 AM to 3 PM. The center is closed on Sunday and Monday.

Please help keep this center clean by dropping off only acceptable items.

Acceptable items include:

- aluminum cans; aluminum scrap;
- plastic milk jugs & soda bottles;
- newspaper;
- glass bottles & jars (without lids);
- bi-metal cans.

The following are NOT acceptable:

- steel cans;
- all other plastic bottles, bags, wrappings or containers;
- cardboard: corrugated or non-corrugated;
- office paper, computer paper, magazines;
- light bulbs window glass, mirrors or windshields;
- ceramic cups or plates, clay flower pots,

Please remember that you may request that your recycling rebate be donated to the **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association.

Did you know that . . .

Nearly 50% of all paper in the U.S. is used solely for packaging. About 75% of America's glass is used for packaging.

## August "Meeting-in-the-Park" a Success

### Repeat Performance Slated for Pontiac Central

Nearly forty neighbors participated in the August BPNA meeting which was held in the park on the evening of August 4. After clipping, pruning, trimming, picking up, skimming the pond, etc., we all had a picnic and got better acquainted with each other. The park has not looked so good for a long time! Many thanks for the cooperation from everyone.

The event was so successful that a similar clean-up party in Pontiac Central Park is planned for Sunday afternoon, September 6 at **5:00 PM**. Bring clippers, brooms, garden tools, etc. and help with the cleanup. Also bring your lawn chairs and picnic (and kids), and we will eat and visit after we finish our lawnwork. You may find some surprises in progress at Pontiac Central!

## Welcoming New Neighbors

If you have new neighbors in your block, we want to **know**. We now have a welcoming packet of materials to give to these new residents, and want to invite them to join our organization. Please call Barbara Marshall with their names, addresses and telephone numbers. If you would like to assist her in welcoming these newcomers, please let her know. She can be reached at 776-7829.

### The Benton Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 2066  
St. Louis, MO 63158