

The Benton Park News

A Monthly Publication of the Benton Park Neighborhood Association

Volume 9, Number 10

October, 1992

New Site for Monthly BPNA Meetings

After meeting at the Girl's Club on Sidney Street for a number of years, a decision was recently made, effective with the October 6 meeting, to hold future meetings in the first-floor parish hall at Epiphany United Church of Christ on 2911 McNair. We've appreciated the use of the Girl's Club over the years, and are equally grateful for Rev. Mike Vosler's willingness to make his facilities available to the Association.

Crime Prevention Program Focus of October Meeting

The main thrust of the October 6 meeting will be to discuss details of plans to set up a Crime Prevention Program in Benton Park similar to that of Soulard. In order to be a success, the program needs involvement and support of many residents of Benton Park. Aspects of the program to be discussed are the mobile patrol, block captain program, a reward system and our own security patrol. These programs require both a time and financial commitment from all of us. Come to the meeting and contribute your positive ideas. Remember that we stand together or fail individually. Barbara Potts from Operation Safestreet plans to attend along with Aldermen Phyllis Young and Martie Aboussie. Bring all your interested neighbors, whether they are members of the association or not!

Several candidates for the November election have called requesting time on the agenda. President Nancy Christen has set a limit of three minutes for each candidate wishing to speak.

Victory '92 City Voter Registration Drive

If you are not a registered voter and wish to be for the upcoming November elections, please call 968-8911 and ask for Joann or Lavern. Transportation to the nearest registration location is available from 9 AM to 8 PM, Monday through Friday and Noon to 4 PM on Saturdays.

Benton Park Included on Stuttgart Youth Choir's U.S. Concert Tour

The Stuttgart (Germany) Youth Choir has included Benton Park on its U.S. concert tour, thanks to an invitation by the German American Heritage Society.

In August, George L. Stemmler, Jr., Founding Director of the German American Heritage Society, St. Louis, announced that funds had been raised to proceed with the restoration of the Friedrich Hecker Monument--the granite obelisk on the hill overlooking the pond in Benton Park. Over the years, the monument has suffered from occasional vandalism and the ravages of time.

A ceremony is planned at the monument on Saturday morning, October 3, to commemorate German American Day and to unveil the restored monument. Restoration work includes the replacement of a black granite relief plaque engraved with Friederich Hecker's profile and the restoration of the lettering on the monument. Members of the Hecker family, representatives of the various German organizations and civic dignitaries will be present. The Stuttgart Youth Choir, currently on a U.S. tour, will perform at the ceremony.

Friedrich Hecker was a German revolutionary politician who led radical forces demanding that the 1848 revolution establish a republican form of government in Germany. When the assembly majority decided rather to try to win Germany's princes over to their new constitution, Hecker and the radicals walked out. Hecker was later forced to flee to Switzerland and eventually settled in the United States where he served as a colonel in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Although Hecker admired the new united German empire founded in 1871, he could never reconcile himself to its Prussian leadership.

He died in St. Louis on March 24, 1881.

Benton Park Neighborhood Association meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM, at Epiphany Parish Hall, 2911 McNair. The public is invited to attend.

The Benton Park Arts Connection

Why does the **Benton** Park neighborhood have more visual artists, designers, musicians, and theater professionals than most city neighborhoods? The trend began in the late 1970s when painter Marie Louise Roulfe saw the possibilities for spacious, beautiful and inexpensive places to live and work in **Benton** Park. She bought a house on the park and began spreading the word to other artists who visited the neighborhood and fell in love with the architecture or the Park. These artists stayed to rehab homes and establish studios or businesses.

What is it that artists are looking for in an area and how could that information be used to invite more artists to consider living and working in **Benton** Park? In an attempt to answer the first part of that question, the St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (SLVAA) is commissioning a poll by the University of Missouri to determine what artists are looking for in a home and/or studio. The survey is a result of a series of meetings organized by Sun Greenberg, executive director of SLVAA. Representatives from the St. Louis City Development Agency met with various artists' groups including the musicians' union, Art St. Louis, American Institute of Architects (represented by **Benton** Park resident **Marion Smith**), the American Institute of Graphic Designers, and Washington University School of Fine Arts (represented by **Benton** Park Resident Libby Reuter). The group discussed the housing and studio needs of their members and agreed to make their combined membership lists (approximately 10,000) available for the survey.

At the September meeting the **Benton** Park Neighborhood Association voted to contribute \$150 to the cost of the survey. In addition, Charlie Dahlheimer and Ron Bentley, officers of Community Marketing Resources, offered a contribution of \$100. The survey will give us information about the aspects of our neighborhood which are attractive to artists. Then it will be our challenge to use this information to invite developers to prepare homes and studios and to market the neighborhood to artists in St. Louis and in other cities.

"Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time."

--E.B. White

Police Appreciation Picnic Held

In spite of a rainy day on September 20, the annual police appreciation picnic persevered and a good time was had by quite a number of people. **Benton** Park was represented by residents as well as gift certificates generously donated by **Benton** Park businesses, namely, the Sidney Street Cafe, Venice Cafe and Lemp Mansion Restaurant. In addition, BPNA contributed six cases of soda. Special thanks go to the Ken Ortmann family who tirelessly and efficiently manned the barbecue.

Cherokee Street Fair Has Great Day on Saturday

BPNA was well represented during the Cherokee Street Fair on Saturday, September 19. Lisa Bartlett and JoAnne Bentley would like to recognize the following members for donating their time to greet shoppers, distribute literature, and promote our community and association: Jim Bartlett, Ron Bentley, Charlie and Linda Dahlheimer, Barbara Marshall, George Rutter, Steve Duffe, Libby Reuter, Jane Huber, Brian Susskind, and Nancy Christen.

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate on Sunday and the booth set-up was cancelled. Nevertheless, Lisa and JoAnne would like to thank the many generous neighbors who had volunteered to help before inclement weather intervened.

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

Eva's Environmental Tips

Eva has discovered that proper maintenance of her major appliances can have a significant impact on the environment. Here are a few examples of simple ways to save with appliances:

Stove/Oven Tips: Every time you open your oven door during cooking, you lose 25-50 degrees or more.

If you're buying a gas stove, an electronic ignition system will use about 40% less gas than a pilot light.

Pilot light and burners should be burning with a blue cone-shaped flame. If it's yellow, burners and ports are clogged or need adjustment. **Pipe-**cleaners work well for unclogging the gas ports.

Microwave ovens save money when you cook, but not when you defrost.

Air Conditioning Tips: Raising the settings of all air conditioners by 6 degrees would save the energy equivalent of 190,000 barrels of oil every day. Don't switch your air conditioner to a colder setting. It won't cool any faster and will waste energy.

Clean or **replace** filters once a month. **Other-**wise, the fan works harder and consumes more electricity.

Refrigerator Tips: The temperature of **your** refrigerator should be between 38 and 42 degrees; the freezer, 0 to 5.

For efficient operation, clean the condenser coils on the back or bottom of your refrigerator at least once a year. There's a special brush you can buy, or you can just vacuum it.

Washer & Dryer Tips: **Washing** machines use about 14% of water consumed at home.

You'll save a lot of money if you wait till you've got a full load of wash. Washers use 32 to 59 gallons of water for each cycle.

Up to 90% of the energy used for washing clothes goes to heating the water. A warm water wash and a cold rinse will work just as well as a hot water wash and a warm rinse on nearly all clothes.

Clean your dryer's lint trap after each load to keep the air circulating efficiently.

The American Council for Energy-Efficient Economy estimates that if each of us increases the energy efficiency in our major appliances by 10 to 30%, we'll reduce the demand for electricity by the equivalent of 25 large power plants!

New Addition

BPNA Treasurer Kevin Kelleher and his wife, Bev, are the proud parents of a daughter born September 21, 1992. Erin Rose weighed in at 8 lbs., 10 oz. and was warmly welcomed home by her parents and two siblings. Congratulations to the Kelleher family!

Wedding Bells

Our congratulations to BPNA residents **Debby Devine** and **Tom Carroll** who were married this summer. The new Mrs. Carroll looked lovely at a reception held on the grounds of the **Lemp Mansion Restaurant**, where friends and relatives of the couple gathered to wish them well and to dance the night away.

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

Daffodil Days Are Here!

It's not too early to plan a colorful and even glorious Spring. October marks our annual sale of bulbs which promise a vibrant welcome to Spring of 1993. Our traditional daffodil and tulip bulbs are available along with this year's new addition of crocus bulbs.

Bulbs can be ordered by calling 781-4556 or by sending check or money order to Operation Brightside, 2375 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, MO 63139.

When ordering, indicate your selection of one or more of the following:

Dutch Master Daffodil Bulbs (50 bulbs per lot) - \$10.00 per lot

Tulip Bulbs, assorted colors (50 bulbs per lot) - \$12.00 per lot

Crocus Bulbs (50 bulbs per lot) - \$6.00 per lot

Bulbs can be picked up at the Greenhouse in Forest Park on Wednesday through Friday, October 21-23, 12:00 Noon to 7:00 PM. Saturday, October 24, 9:00AM to 1:00 PM.

As always, Operation Brightside will also have bulbs available in limited quantities for neighborhoods to plant on public property.

Please get the word out to your neighbors that buying bulbs helps support Operation Brightside, a not-for-profit organization, and helps spread the renewal and bright beginning of Spring in our neighborhood.

BPNA Residents in News

Two BPNA families appeared in the lead story on the Channel 5 10:00 news this past Sunday. Phil Miller and Monica Paulus and Ron and JoAnne Bentley and their children took it upon themselves to spruce up the property surrounding St. Francis DeSales Church Sunday afternoon in preparation for President George Bush's visit on Monday. The group was interviewed by the Channel 5 News Team and the story ran that evening and again the following morning. Great job, guys!

Improvements in Pontiac Park

The Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry has responded to Alderman Martie Aboussie's request for improved conditions in Pontiac Park. In a recent letter, Aboussie was informed that the playground equipment is being overhauled, a new drinking fountain has been installed, and additional trash containers have been placed in the park. Plans are underway to remove the asphalt underneath the playground equipment and to install a pea gravel surface. In addition, bushes are being trimmed and any trees that have died will be replaced.

Thank you, Martie, for staying on top of this project!

The Benton Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 2066

st. Louis, MO 63158