

The Benton Park News

A Monthly Publication of the Benton Park Neighborhood Association

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December, 1993

Happy holidays!

December Meeting Is Party Time!

Tuesday, December 7 is the date for BPNA's Benton Park Holiday Party. As last year, the event will be held at the Venice Cafe, 1901 Pestalozzi. Attendees are asked to bring hors d'oeuvres. Drinks will be available for purchase. Plan to drop by, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and help enhance our annual social event.

Seventh Annual Cookie Spree

Antique Row is once again holding its Cookie Spree on December 4 and 5, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days. Come visit participating shops, eat a cookie or two, and share in all the festivities. It's a great opportunity to pick up a few very special and unique Christmas presents!

The event is sponsored by KLOU Radio 103 FM and the 7-Up Company. What better way to get in the spirit of the Holiday Season!

Yard Waste Collection Halted

The City Refuse Division has announced that yard waste will not be collected during the winter months from December 17 through March 18. Weekly collection will resume March 21, 1994. For more information, call the Refuse Division at 353-8877.

Thank You, Martie!

The Benton Park lagoon is once again full of water and splashing in all its glory. Although the City Parks Department has been attending to the problems of the lagoon, we suspect that our Alderman Martie Aboussie has been attending to City Hall. As always, we appreciate your magic touch.

Senate Square Subject of Meeting

By Linda Dahlheimer

The St. Louis Development Corporation recently conducted a meeting attended by several Benton Park residents and several managers/owners of the Senate Square apartment complex.

Senate Square, which includes approximately 170 rental units in a sporadic pattern along several streets, has been under criticism for some time by Benton Park residents who feel some Senate Square tenants have been responsible for increased vandalism, theft, debris and noise. At the meeting we learned that Senate Square is owned and/or managed primarily by three separate principals: Kohner Properties, Inc. (100 units) and Rodemeyer-Christel, Inc. (29 units), both of which were represented at the meeting; and Dick Mueller (approx. 43 units) who was, disappointingly, absent. Kohner and Rodemeyer-Christel, both relative newcomers at the complex, have just taken over management in the last several months. It was not known how long Mr. Mueller has owned and managed his units.

After some discussion we were encouraged that both Kohner and Rodemeyer-Christel seem to have their head and heart in the right place. Both companies have hired resident employees, maintenance crews and maintain on-site offices. Both companies are currently renovating their properties, and are printing a newsletter for their residents. They have implemented a program whereby potential residents are carefully screened and existing residents are required to abide by set housekeeping rules. Both companies seem genuinely interested in getting to know the people of Benton Park better and encourage residents to stop by their offices. They also expressed interest in sharing information in our respective newsletters and in attending future BPNA meetings.

Another meeting is being planned.

A "Fireside Chat"

A Message From BPNA President

Ron Bentley:

Looking back isn't a preoccupation for me. In fact, it is probably something I generally prefer not to do. This has not always been the case. I remember my first "real" job when I was sixteen years old, working as a house painter for a wonderful man who drilled many of life's lessons into my skull full of mush. "Ronald," he would say in his Scandanavian accent, "You are developing a bad habit. I notice each time you finish a section of the house you spend too much time admiring your work. Always remember to look at the work left to do, not what you have done." Like all of his points made to me in his fatherly tone, he spoke not only of the specific case but always as a lesson to apply to life in general.

We should, however, glance in the rear-view mirror to reflect and to learn. So it is with this rapidly ending year and my term as BPNA President. It has been a year which has left me with a bittersweet mixture of emotions. A feeling of limited accomplishments coupled with unlimited confidence in our ability to accomplish. Feelings of disappointing a few close friends coupled with a satisfying feeling of having acted in what I considered to be in the best interests of our neighborhood. One thing I knew going in is that we are a neighborhood of talented, energetic people who care deeply about our city and the Benton Park neighborhood. Going out, I can also see we must focus this talent and energy in a more united commitment to specific projects.

We should never accept a "status-quo" approach to any part of our neighborhood. For there is in truth no such thing. Once we become happy with things as they are, they will surely worsen. We either improve or we regress.

My deepest thanks to all who worked and contributed to BPNA this year. Now, let us work together on all that is left to be done!

Dues Due!

Start the New Year off right with payment of your 1994 BPNA membership dues! Annual dues are just \$5.00, but additional donations gladly accepted! See BPNA Treasurer, Kevin Kelleher.

Bridge Across St. Louis

On Saturday, December 4, St. Louisans from all parts of the city will join together for a very special event called "Bridge Across St. Louis." This family oriented event will take place on the Kingshighway Bridge at 11:00 AM.

Participants who identify themselves with South St. Louis are to assemble at the south end of the new bridge (McRee and Kingshighway) for the ceremony.

The purpose of this event, according to Mayor Freeman R. Bosley, Jr., is to commemorate the reopening of the bridge that will take place in mid-December. "The closed Kingshighway Bridge," says Bosley, "is symbolic of the racial and geographic divisions that split St. Louis. With your help, Bridge Across St. Louis can be a crucial first step towards healing these divisions."

Art Show:

Vernon Desmond Gross - Recent Works

Now through **December 11**
 Saint Louis Design Center, 917 Locust
 Saint Louis, Missouri (314-621-6446)
 Inquiries: Studio 417-261-2848

Vernon Gross is a resident in Benton Park and part owner of the Lemp Brewery Complex. Benton Park residents are invited to call for specific times to visit the studio.

Featured artwork is a piece entitled "Icon Crozier No. 3," a 6'-7" structure created from stainless steel, copper alloys, wood, and 24 Kt. Yellow Gold Plating.

Congratulations, Vernon!

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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 (664-5118), or by FAX (664-6310), or mail (2036 Victor, 63104).

New Life for BPNA News

by Editor Linda Dahlheimer

Several months ago, realizing that time constraints were making it increasingly more challenging to "single-handedly" produce a monthly newsletter, I sent out an SOS signal along with the question, "Is there a future for *The Benton Park News*?" The answer to that question has happily proven to be a loud, resounding "Yes!" Several people called with offers to help out and, in fact, BPNA member George Rutter has volunteered to *at least* co-edit the newsletter.

George is currently in the process of getting his computer equipment in place and up and running, in addition to writing and gathering articles. In the interim, Charlie and I continue to edit and typeset. The recent submission of articles by George, Sarah Linquist and others has helped my time commitment tremendously and, better still, has created a sense of "group effort" that this editor feels can be spotted quite readily throughout the newsletter.

The best news is that enthusiasm and interest in our neighborhood appears to be running quite high with the newsletter project, as well as several other projects currently in the works -- crime prevention, fundraising events, building review, and the newly acquired Benton Park master plan.

Obviously, synchronization of ideas,

Journeys Through Benton Park

by the *Intrepid Traveler*

Christmas Time is when the potential for Magic Moments is...well...*way* more than usual. Consider shopping. Bing! Some black & white '40s movies come to mind, with someone bustling into the room with a stack of beautifully wrapped packages. My reality meets nostalgia. Big lists/*little* time. Malls in America...a dizzying *barage* of suspiciously similar stuff. But before I head out there I reserve a half a day - alone - to traverse Cherokee Antique Row. With an attitude adjustment appropriate to the merriment of the Season, I let myself be surprised by the oddities I find: an antique fountain pen for auntie; an unexpected cup & saucer for sister; a toy truck for brother's executive desk; a rubber chicken for the office pool. Beats salad shooters!

levels of interest, and opposing viewpoints occur in varying degrees as projects are introduced and developed. When conflicts occur, worth remembering is the inevitable common bond shared by all BPNA members involved: sincere interest for the betterment of the neighborhood. That, coupled with countless hours of volunteered time from caring people, is our most precious commodity.

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 1993:

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: RPNA, P.O. Rox 2066, St. Louis, MO 63158

News Bytes

by George Rutter

NEW ARRIVAL -- The Kellehers tell us a new arrival has joined her parents and three siblings. She is Bridget Kathleen who weighed in at 8.5 pounds on October 15. Congrats on bringing in a new BPNA member. We'll take 'em any way we can get 'em. Incidentally, Papa Kevin is the BPNA Treasurer.

ATTENTION ATHLETES - EX-ATHLETES - ATHLETIC SUPPORTERS - WANNA-BE'S - EX-WANNA-BE'S - WEIGHT WATCHERS --

The Cherokee Recreation Center (open from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM - phone 664-0582) presents FREE open recreation times AND lockers.

We're talking hoops, boxing, wrestling, swimming and aerobics as follows:

- 9:00-10:45 AM Mon-Wed-Fri:** Senior Aerobics
- 9:00-10:45 AM Tue-Thu:** Open Swimming Laps
- 4:30-6:15 PM Mon-Fri:** Open Swimming Laps
- 4:00-7:00 PM Sat:** Open Swimming Laps
- 7:00-8:00 PM Mon & Thu:** Adult Aerobics

GUTS AND GLORY -- Aspiring office holders for the BPNA please announce your intention to Nominating Committee Members Mike Vosler (772-0263), Jane Huber (664-7244), Mary King (776-6279) or Bill Zuppann (771-0874). The committee convenes shortly to present a slate to the membership for election.

Park Master Plan Meeting

The Parks Committee has scheduled a meeting regarding the new "Master Plan" for Benton Park. Interested persons should meet in Mary King's office, above the Sidney Street Cafe, on December 11 at 3:00 PM.

For further information, contact Jane Huber, 664-7244.

BARR LIBRARY EVENTS -- The Barr Library Preschool story time meets at 11 AM on Mondays. On Tuesday, December 7 grades K-6 will construct holiday decorations at 3 PM, hopefully with the BPNA Xmas Party in mind. On December 14 at 3 PM the little ones meet' again, this time to study the Cahokia Indian Mounds. Will we receive the same attention someday?

THE YEAR'S SOCIAL EVENT: OUR BPNA CHRISTMAS PARTY -- Once again at the decorous Venice Cafe, 6-9 PM, Tuesday, December 7. Yes, bring your "Read My Lips - There Will Be No War" buttons from the Washington Naval Conference. Formal, of course.

The Benton Park Neighborhood Association

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