



The Porch Review



Benton Park West

Vol 8, No. 12

December 2008

Celebrating our Heros and Sheros - Be a HERO Today!

BPWNA Notes

- Dec 11 - South Cluster W&S Meeting** 7p - 2832 Arsenal. 3rd District PA meetings follow immediately at 7:30p.
- Dec 18 - BPWNA Membership Meeting - Annual Holiday Potluck** 7p - 2832 Arsenal, Five Star Center.
- Dec 29 - Book Club** - See Page 11
- Jan 6 - BPWNA Board Mtg** 7p, 2832 Arsenal
- Jan 8 - South Cluster W&S Meeting** 7p - 2832 Arsenal. 3rd District PA meetings follows at 7:30p.
- Jan 15 - BPWNA Membership Meeting** 7p - 2832 Arsenal, Five Star Center.
- Find out how you can be a part of BPWNA in 2009.** See Bill Byrd or

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Questions, Comments, Concerns?

Contact Neighborhood Office:

Phone: (314)-771-0803
E-mail: bpwna@yahoo.com

Make your voice heard NOW! Benton Park West in 2009!

What's Been Happening in Benton Park West this Past Year!

What would YOU like to see happen next year?

- Do you think you'd like to see less trash?
- cleaner alleys?
- More parties?
- Less teens hanging on corners and streets?
- More events in the park
- More gardens
- Classes on what to plant in a garden, how to can the garden items, simple sewing, simple rehab and household repair tricks, etc?

Think about all the great things we already have and how we can improve upon them.

- Community Gardens at Ohio & Cirttendon and Wyoming & California. Watch for a third garden in 2009 in the 3300 block of Iowa.
- The Dog Park is coming right along. Check-out on page 7 of this issue for more information.
- Beautification has placed planters on corners throughout the neighborhood. Watch for more planters being put out in 2009.
- Easter Eggstravaganza & the Trunk or Treat were big hits, watch for these events again.
- Many other events to bring people into Benton Park West and show that WE are a great place.

Now is the time to start thinking about what YOU would like for next year. Tell any newly elected Board member your thoughts and ideas. Or just call the neighborhood office at 314.771.0803.

Don't wait until next year... Share what YOU would like to see in Benton Park West...Today!

You can make Benton Park West the place to live in 2009

It's been an exciting year in 2008 for the Benton Park West Neighborhood Association. As with each year the elections for the new board were held in November. YOU have six elected Board Members. Four are Officers and two are Members-at-Large. Along with Committee Chairs this group is YOUR voice with the City and Local governments. This group also works to improve YOUR neighborhood so that you and your neighbors feel safe and comfortable.

The Elected Board for 2008 is:

- President - Bill Byrd
- Vice-President - Carrie Sleep
- Secretary - Erica Nuyen
- Treasurer - Jennifer Shoemaker

The elected Members-at-Large are:

- Jackie Weatherly
- Aaron Weil

(Continued on page 7)

Looking for Free and Fun Things to Do Around Us?

Check out the following locations where Saint Louis offers free or low cost events and shopping!

- Science Center
- Arch
- Art Museum
- History Museum
- Playground at Benton Park
- Playground at Gravois Park
- Shopping on Gravois, Cherokee Street and Jefferson Avenue

The Presidents Corner... "Word of the Byrd"



Bill Byrd

Make your Holidays... Merry and Bright!

The Holidays mean so much to so many. The meaning behind the celebration during these festive months may differ for each of us. There have been phrases in the recent 20-30 years such as "Reason for the Season". This phrase stemmed from one "reason", but this same phrase can spread and cover many reasons for the season.

Giving and being thankful are two excellent reasons to celebrate during this time. Giving without expectation of receiving anything back is a great way of giving from the heart. Giving from the head means expectation, while giving from the heart expects nothing in return.

There is another phrase coined in the past few years or has been at least widely publicized. The concept behind this phrase is nothing new. The idea and reason can be seen through generations spanning family history to politics to good and bad times. This phrase is "paying it forward". This means that in the world we live in, which isn't really that different from when our parents and grandparents were our age; the more you give the more you receive. If everyone gives beyond their means (not just financially, but also with time and energy) then there will always be an abundance; an abundance that is needed in the hard times.

We are in the hard times now, if you've

not noticed. I don't mean to be a downer for this glorious December, but things are tough. We have neighbors who are scraping by, friends who are on the verge of losing their home and businesses and other amenities who have tightened their belts...to the point of closing.

At this time, let's remember to "pay forward" by making sure our neighbors have the necessities they need. Frequent your local businesses with your dollars rather than driving three miles away. Walk to the local market and available shopping on Cherokee street. Smile more and telling EVERYONE you meet what a great day it is to be alive. And if you wish, even give a holiday greeting. No matter your religious belief or even if you don't profess a religion, choose to simply say "Happy Holidays", "Happy Kwanza", "Happy Hanukah", or even "Merry Christmas".

I encourage each of you to take a deep breath and know that things get better in time. Having faith in ourselves and faith in a higher power will get us through these times. The first thing you can do is smile...smile knowing that someone may smile back at you. Say hello and greet everyone with the joy of the season.

May your days be "Merry and Bright". Merry Christmas from my house to yours!

Bill Byrd,
President

2008 Board

Bill Byrd - President
776-4447 hm/ 602-0392 cell
bpwnabill@yahoo.com

Carrie Sleep - Vice-President
865-1002 hm cesleep@yahoo.com

Rhonda Shaw - Treasurer
772-5361 hm rhondabee@yahoo.com

Anne Childers - Secretary
276-9882 cell lilanne@gmail.com

Pamela Welsh - Member at Large
pwelsh@epssettlements.com

Melba Arnold - Member at Large
taz3manian@sbcglobal.net

Brad Roell - Beautification
bjroell@sbcglobal.net

Blake Roell - Beautification
blakeroell@sbcglobal.net

Chad Johnson - Block Link
776-4447 hm
bpwnablocklink@yahoo.com

Derek Cadzow - Dog Park
dereklc@mac.com

Jon Meinz - Garden
jmeinz@sbcglobal.net

Chad Johnson - Membership
776-4447 hm
bpwnamembership@yahoo.com

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Design/Editor: Bill Byrd

Proofreader: Kenneth Pruitt

Contributing Writers: Bill Byrd, Anne Childers, Jeanette Mott-Oxford, Greg Frankhouser, Kim Bollinger

Contributing Photographers: Derek Cadzow, Bill Byrd

**Benton Park West
Neighborhood Association**

P.O. Box 18671
St. Louis, MO 63118
Phone: 314-771-0803

E-mail: BPWNA@yahoo.com

On the Web at: www.bentonparkwest.org

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Want to see more events like Blues in Benton Park,
Trivia Night, Annual Yard Sale,
National Night Out Parties?

Call the neighborhood office at 314-771-0803 to help.
You don't have to do it all...just offer to help and YOU
will make the events even better.

Creating A Climate In Which Prejudice Is Unacceptable

It was so exciting to see the long lines of people waiting to vote on Nov. 4! A healthy democracy depends on informed and active citizens, so I hope we have similar turnouts, or even higher, in all future elections.

I celebrate the progress that is signaled by finally seeing the election of a person of color as president of the United States. After centuries of legal inequality and the struggle to overturn it, this is an encouraging and joyful achievement, but certainly not the finish line on the way to full equality.

But another outcome of the Nov. 4 election offers reason for deep concern. Mis-

sourians overwhelmingly voted (86.3% yes) to amend the Missouri Constitution to require that all "official proceedings" (like school board or city council meetings) be conducted in English. Obviously this made sense at a surface level, but when I debated the sponsor of this legislation, Rep. Nieves, he admitted that no such meetings in our state had yet been conducted in anything but English. When I asked "how will this constitutional amendment change life in Missouri?" Rep. Nieves replied that "Nothing will be different tomorrow."

So if there is no problem to solve and amending the constitutional will mean no



Jeanette Mott Oxford, 59th District

314-771-8882 (home)
573-751-4567 (office)
jeanette.oxford@house.mo.gov

change, why do it? My fear is that this amendment enjoyed widespread support because of the belief that those who speak Spanish are not learning English, a belief that is a myth according to our good friends at the International Institute on S. Grand.

I thought of Amendment 1 when I read an article called "The Logical Conclusion to the Illogic of Bigotry" by Rev. Dr. Richard Groves in *The Inspiriter* newsletter of the Affirming and Welcoming American Baptists organization recently. Groves writes: "...we must be continually aware of what is happening in our culture - in the media, in the political sphere, in our community life. Not because any single act or expression is of great significance, but because each act or expression contributes to a climate, an atmosphere, which, if it becomes pervasive, can make acceptable attitudes and behavior that violate the rights and dig-

nity of individuals and are harmful to society as a whole. If we allow a climate of incivility, hatred and hostility toward people who are different - whether gays and lesbians, illegal immigrants, Muslims, or whoever - to grow, we will have no right to complain when that climate makes acceptable behavior that we do not and cannot accept."

"...bigotry destroys beauty, holiness, dignity, truth, and ultimately itself....By exonerating hatred and limiting love, by elevating all that is base and destroying all that is decent and honorable, bigotry destroys the humanity of the bigot. Self-destruction is the local conclusion of the illogic of bigotry."

Groves concludes (and so do I!): "It is up to each of us to see that a climate is created in our families or in our circles of influence such that when a seed of bigotry falls it dies because it finds no soil in which to grow."



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Help your neighbors by taking a leadership role or working on a committee. Contact any board member.
Board meetings - 1st Tues, 7p - 2832 Arsenal
Membership meetings - 3rd Thurs, 7p - 2832 Arsenal

Common Symbols of Christmas in America

While every culture has some sort of "Celebration" during the months of November through January, Christmas is the most widely celebrated festival world over and also the most popular festival globally. There are different icons that we associate with Christmas. In fact, these things have become so common with the celebration of Christmas, that when we see the Santa riding on a reindeer sledge with the stocking full of gifts and candies, or the familiar coniferous green trees being decorated with tinsels and stars, and gingerbread and fruits, or houses being decorated with holly twigs and mistletoes - we know "Christmas" has come. Let's take a look at some of the traditional symbols of the season.

Origins of the Christmas Tree:

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition in the 16th century. The Christmas tree custom became popular in other parts of Europe. In England Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria made Christmas trees fashionable by decorating the first English Christmas tree at Windsor castle in 1841.

The first record of one being on display was in the 1830s by the German settlers of Pennsylvania. By the 1890s Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany and Christmas tree popularity was on the rise around the U.S. It was noted that Europeans used small trees about four feet in height, while Americans liked their Christmas to reach from floor to ceiling.

Electricity helped introduce Christmas lights made Christmas trees glow for days on end. Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across the country.

Origins of the Poinsettia:

With its beautiful, red, star-shape poinsettia is a favorite flower in the United States. In Central America it is called the "Flame Leaf" or "Flower of the Holy Night". Now very popular in the US, the American settlers were not quite familiar with this one only a couple of centuries back. A native of Mexico, it was brought here over a hundred years ago by Dr. Joel Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico. Most of the poinsettias used these days come from California.

Origins of Gift Giving:

Christmas is a unique festival of merry making and gift-giving. The tradition of giving gifts in this season owes its origin to the Magi who came from the east of Jerusalem to greet the Babe in the manger with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Magi were wise men and their gifts were emblematic of tribute, worship and death - of Christ considered as King, God and the sacrificial Victim.

In America gift giving has come to be associated with the Christmas not long ago. It came in with the introduction of St. Nicholas in America by the early Dutch settlers. But, giving gifts at New Year was a common practice, espe-

cially among the English and the French settlers. But the combined German and Dutch influences in time caused all gift-giving to be carried out at Christmas.

Origins of Santa Clause:

Many legends and miracles are attributed to Saint Nicholas. Nicholas took pity on a poverty-stricken family with 3 daughters who faced the threat of being forced into prostitution because they had no wedding dowries. For two daughters he crept-up to their house at night and threw bags of gold through a bedroom window. For the last daughter, he threw a bag of gold down the chimney -- which landed in a stocking she had set by the fireplace for drying. The traditional association of chimneys & stockings with Santa Claus comes from this story.

The transformation of Saint Nicholas to Santa Claus happened largely in America -- with inspiration from the Dutch. In the early days of Dutch New York, "Sinterklass" became known among the English-speaking as "Santa Claus" (or "Saint Nick").

Santa Claus is the sum total of several trends, customs and beliefs that only got unified about a century and a half ago. His story is told through an ex-amination of the 3 names given to him in America: St. Nicholas, Kriss Kringle and Santa Clause.



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continued from page 1

The goal or vision of our neighborhood: The Benton Park West Neighborhood Association's # 1 goal is to ensure that residents feel safe and comfortable. The second goal is to grow the neighborhood's diversity and economy, while strengthening the its social, artistic and historical characteristics.

Each of us strives to fulfill the mission statement of Benton Park West through the Vision.:

"Enhance and strengthen the neighborhood and its residents by promoting beautification, commerce, communication, diversity, and safety. The neighborhood association makes efforts to support, renew, and sustain Benton Park West's unique human and physical resources, serving as a voice for the neighborhood, and helping to ensure quality living."

This mission is being fulfilled each day as residents become more in-

involved in their community.

That involvement is YOU!

Think about what you'd like to do or have done to make Benton Park West a better/nicer place to live. Talk to a Board member.

If you've lived in the neighborhood for 30 years to 3 months, your opinion and insight is valued. Whether you **own your home or rent, your voice is as important as anyone else's.**

If you live in the neighborhood, YOU are a resident. Benton Park West can only grow with you!

At the Annual Membership Appreciation Dinner, President Bill Byrd paraphrased a portion of a famous speech of President John F. Kennedy - **"Ask not what your neighborhood can do for you, but ask what you can do for Benton Park West"**.

It takes more than the elected board

to make Benton Park West a place YOU want to live.

You can work with the committees to make a HUGE difference in what happens in Benton Park West. From leading a committee to stuffing envelopes the committees can always use members (extra hands) to get the work done.

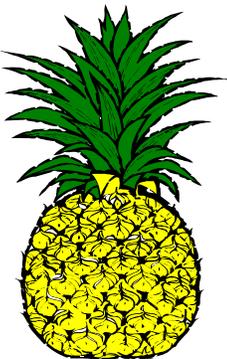
The current committees in the neighborhood are:

- Beautification
- Block Link
- Community Garden
- Dog Park
- Facilities
- Finance/Fundraising
- Membership
- PR/Marketing
- Publications
- Safety and Quality of Life
- Youth Outreach

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Dog Park — Information to Collect

If you've not, take a drive by Utah and Nebraska to see how the dog park is progressing. We are just a very short time away from having a functioning dog park.

There are several pieces of information that you will need to make sure your dog is eligible to be a member of the dog park. The information needed to have your furry friend(s) enjoy the Benton Park West Dog Park is as follows:

- Current tags
- Shots must be current
- Paperwork showing that rabies shots are current.

Watch for the application in the January edition of *The Porch Review*. Applications will also be available at various locations in the neighborhood.

Contact the neighborhood office at 314-771-0803 once you have the information together and the applica-

tion filled out. Please leave your name, contact information and e-mail (if you have an e-mail address). Don't forget to leave the name of your dog(s). If you'd rather, send an e-mail to bpwna@yahoo.com and send the information.

Once we have a confirmed opening date, you will be contacted with the "Rules and Requirements" for the dog park.



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Holiday Carols as seen by people in the Mental Health Field

In our world today, sometimes we have to laugh at ourselves. Whether you recognize the mental health words below, think about the carols that are associated and laugh.

- 1) Schizophrenia---- Do You Hear What I Hear, the Voices, the Voices?
- 2) Amnesia-- I Don't Remember If I'll be Home for Christmas
- 3) Narcissistic-- Hark the Herald Angels Sing About Me
- 4) Manic-- Deck The Halls And Walls And House And Lawn And Streets And Stores And Office And Town And Cars And Buses And Trucks And Trees And Fire Hydrants And.....
- 5) Multiple Personality Disorder----We Three Queens Disoriented Are
- 6) Paranoid---Santa Claus Is Coming To Get Us
- 7) Borderline Personality Disorder--- You Better Watch Out, You Better not Shout, I'm Gonna Cry, and I'll not Tell You Why
- 8) Full Personality Disorder--- Thoughts of Roasting You On an Open Fire
- 9) Obsessive Compulsive Disorder---Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells
- 10) Agoraphobia---I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day But Wouldn't Leave My House
- 11) Senile Dementia---Walking In a Winter Wonderland Miles from My House in My Slippers and Robe
- 12) Oppositional Defiant Disorder---I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus So I Burned Down the House
- 13) Social Anxiety Disorder---Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas While I Sit Here and Hyperventilate
- 14) Attention Deficit Disorder--We Wish You.....Hey Look!! It's Snowing!!!

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- Attic insulation could be your best investment. It lowers the cost of both heating and cooling.
- Be sure to keep your fireplace damper closed when not in use.
- Service the central heating system before the heating season begins to ensure that the flues are not blocked and the burners are working.

Regular checkups will keep your furnace safe and efficient.

- Start the heating season with a clean furnace filter and each month replace it as necessary. This helps to keep you warmer and being efficient to use less gas

- Install storm doors and windows to help prevent heat loss. Weather stripping & caulking block cold air.

- Seal off unused rooms by closing the registers and keeping the doors shut tightly. Do not, however, seal off more than one-fifth, or 20%, of your house because your furnace may not operate properly.

- Keep your thermostat low. Each extra degree adds about 4% to 5% to your heating bill. When you leave for the day or over the weekend,

lower the setting about 5°. For longer absences, lower the thermostat to 55° (but don't set it lower because your pipes may freeze).

- A programmable thermostat

helps keep the temperature lower automatically while you are sleeping or gone for the day.

- Don't place furniture in front of heating registers.
- If radiators are near cold walls, place aluminum or aluminum foil between walls and radiators to reflect heat back into the room.

- Open draperies on sunny days to allow sunlight to help heat your home. Close them at night to help keep out the cold.

- Encourage children not to run into and out of the house unnecessarily.

Hot Tips on Cooking

- Preheat the oven only when necessary (when you bake cakes and quick breads). The broiler needs preheating only for rare steaks.

- Plan to bake several dishes at the same temperature when possible.

- Do not block oven air passages with aluminum foil or oven liners. Poor air flow can cause uneven baking.

- Thawed foods cook faster.

- On top burners use the smallest flame possible. Fit the burner to the size of the pan. The flame should never exceed the pan's width.

- Water boils faster in covered pans.

- Cook vegetables in small amounts of water.

- Clean ovens and cooktops operate more efficiently.

- If the burner flame is yellowish instead of blue, clean the burner with soap and water. A blue flame is healthy, a yellow flame is not.

Hot Tips on Hot Water

- A water heater setting of "Normal" or "Low" is usually sufficient.

- Take showers; they use less hot water than baths.

- Wash full loads in dishwashers and washing machines.

- Don't let the hot water run when doing dishes by hand.

- Repair leaky faucets; constant dripping adds up to gallons of wasted hot water.

- Use the right-size water heater; an oversized tank of water wastes gas.

Hot Tips on Drying Clothes

- Dry a full load each time but avoid overloading.

- Clean your lint trap before each load improves efficiency.

- Dry multiple loads one after the other. The dryer is warm already, don't waste the heat.

- Consider line-drying clothing inside during the wintertime. Adding humidity can make you more comfortable.



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What is Membership? Membership is the act of being part of a group. In sociology, a **group** is usually defined as a collection of humans who share certain characteristics, interact with one another, accept expectations and obligations as members of the group. Characteristics the group may share include interests, values, ethnic background, and kinship ties.



Membership Needs YOU!

To be a member or help out, call Chad Johnson at 776.4447.

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- Blue Brick Renovation & Construction
- Cherokee Place
- Cherokee Station Business Association
- Clowder House Foundation
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- Five Star Senior Center
- Grand Furniture Mart
- Home Guard Pest Elimination
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- Indigo Massage - Anne Childers
- JBF Therapy & Coaching - Justin Froelker
- Joanie's To-Go
- Millennium restoration & Development
- Luvy Duvy's
- Mississippi Mud
- Nader & Sons
- Near Southside Employment Coalition
- One Nite Stand
- Park Avenue Coffee

- Park West Grille
- SSDN
- St. Frances Cabrini Academy
- St. Louis Building Corporation
- The Salvation Army

General

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- Scott Bollinger
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- John Coleman
- Roma Coleman
- Mary Jones
- Anna Pierce
- Jerry Pierce

Supporter

- Benton Park NA
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- Shirley Carroll
- Anne Childers
- Joe Frank
- Kelly Frank

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- Phil Jarvis
- Laura Lesse
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City, State and Federal officials, Friends of BPWNA

- Jennifer Florida - Alderwoman, 15th Ward
- Dena Hibbard - NSO
- Ken Ortman - Alderman, 9th Ward

- Craig Schmid - Alderman, 20th Ward
- Jeanette Mott-Oxford - Missouri Rep., 59th Dist
- Barb Potts - NSO

Neighborhood Book Club Schedule for 2008 - 2009

**Neighborhood Book Club meets at 7:00p.m. each month at different people's homes. E-mail Rebecca Durst at rebeccadurst@gmail.com to be placed on the invite list and to receive a reminder of the date, time and location of the monthly book club. Those who attend select the books to be read.

- Monday, December 29th: *Stardust*, Neil Gaiman
- Monday, January 26th: *Chalked Up* Jennifer Sey
- Monday, February 23rd: *The Girl with No Shadow*, Joanne Harris

**NOTE: this is a resident group and not officially sponsored by BPWNA

DECEMBER MEETING NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- December 18th will find Benton Park West having a Holiday Potluck!
- The neighborhood association will provide fried chicken, drinks and paper goods.
- Bring your favorite holiday side dish, salad or dessert on Dec 18th, 7p – 2832 Arsenal (Five Star Senior Center).



TEACHING the WORLD in South St. Louis

At St. Frances Cabrini Academy, education is more than just reading, writing, and arithmetic.

It is a curriculum tailored to meet the needs of each child.

It is a compassionate and dedicated faculty of certified professionals.

It is a partnership between students, parents, and teachers.

It is a truly diverse community that respects and learns from other cultures.

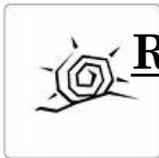
At St. Frances Cabrini Academy, education is about our children, our families and our community.

We hope you can join us.

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The Best Gift this Holiday Season....Relaxation!

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History of Massage Therapy

From the website of the Allied Health Schools <http://www.alliedhealthschools.com>

Part 2

Considering the long history of massage, its incorporation into Western medicine is only in its infancy. The potential for growth and research of the healing properties of therapeutic massage and body work has gained great momentum over the last fifty years and the public demand for massage therapy is at an all-time high.

As a preventative practice, therapeutic massage is used in spas, gyms, and work places all over the country. Using therapeutic massage to promote balance and maintain

internal and external health is something that is now a standard part of the North American lifestyle.

In the health care industry, massage is commonly used in hospitals, nursing homes and birthing centers. It is also used in physical therapy and in chiropractic clinics to treat pain, increase circulation and expedite the healing of injured muscles.

Massage as Preventative Treatment

While the benefits of massage as a restorative treatment have earned

respect in modern medicine, its benefits as preventative treatment have only recently been considered. Can a body-mind-spirit synergy actually prevent certain forms of disease? This question is now being seriously pondered by medical professionals.

We have merely begun exploring the myriad healing properties of massage therapy. It is the hope and goal of many professional massage therapists to see their techniques more fully integrated into our professional healthcare system and personal lifestyles.

MISSISSIPPI MUD COFFEE

Photo Exhibit by Brian M. Ballok Currently displayed through May 31st

Mississippi Mud House

Mississippi Mud House offers some of the best fresh roasted coffee in Saint Louis. Our sandwiches, soups, and local pastries offer our customers tantalizing selections in our unique environment. Located near the mighty Mississippi River, in Historic Cherokee Street Antique Row, we are located just minutes south of downtown Saint Louis, within the Cherokee-Lemp Historic District. Tour Antique, Collectible and Specialty Shops just outside our doors!

Free Wi-Fi

Mississippi Mud House

2101 Cherokee Street

Saint Louis Missouri 63118

314-776-6599

Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sat. 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sun. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Contact Numbers
Crime Prevention/Police:**

Emergency/Drug Activity 911
 Non-Emergency 231-1212
 Drug/Gang Hotline 241-COPS
 3rd Dist PA Officer 444-0169
 Prob Prty Officer 622-3600
 3rd Dist Problem
 Properties 444-1085
 Citizen Ser Bureau 622-4800

Alderpersons:

Ken Ortmann 622-3287 (w)
 776-0161 (h)
 Craig Schmid 589-6816 (w)
 Jennifer Florida 776-2890(w)

**Neighborhood Stabilization
Officers:**

Barb Potts, 314-613-3083 (w)
 314-397-1091 (cell)
 pottsb@stlouiscity.com
 Dena Hibbard, 314-613-3109 (w)
 hibbardd@stlouiscity.com

MISC:

Pothole Department 768-2805
 Refuse Department 353-8877
 Five Star Center 664-1008
 Illegal Dumping 911
 Then call CSB 664-4800

Lights:

Alley Lights (AmUE) 342-1000
 Street Lights (CSB) 622-4800

Additional Numbers

Operation Brightside

772-4646

Operation Safestreet

622-3444

Child Abuse Hotline

(Division of Family Services)
 1-800-392-3738

St. Louis Crisis Nursery

Hotline 768-3201

Parental Stress Help line

1-800-367-3543

**United Way Information &
Referral**

421-4636

**Parents Anonymous (Info.
On Mutual Support Groups)**

647-HELP or 866-492-0843

Foster Parenting Inquiry

Line (314) 340-7536

Animal Abuse Hotline

(314) 647-4400

YOU can be a Member - 2009

Dear Resident, Friend and Supporter: Fill out your application TODAY!

**Membership Application
Benton Park West - 2008**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: **BPWNA Membership
PO Box 18671
Saint Louis MO 63118**

Level of Membership:

___ General - \$ 10 per person
 ___ Senior - \$ 6 per person
 ___ Supporter - \$ 25 per person
 ___ Patron - \$ 50 per person
 ___ Sponsor - \$ 100 per person
 ___ Friend - \$ 20 per person
 ___ General Membership -
 Scholarship

I would like to be involved with:

___ Beautification ___ Dog Park ___ Youth ___ Garden
 ___ Facilities ___ Publications ___ Quality of Life/Safety
 ___ Board ___ PR/Marketing ___ Block Link ___ Membership



CHEROKEE STATION

www.cherokeestation.com



The Cherokee Station Business Association includes over 50 independently owned and operated businesses over seven blocks on Cherokee Street. Surrounded by a dense and active residential community, these businesses serve those within walking distance as well as attracting customers from all over the St. Louis area looking for a unique shopping experience.

PLANNING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE?



- New to St. Louis? • 401k at your former employer?
- Never hear from your broker? • Need to rebalance existing assets?
- Or just need to get serious about investing?

Mary Cox, Financial Advisor
 2731 S. Jefferson
 St. Louis, MO 63118
 Bus. 314-577-0167
 mary.cox@edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
 www.edwardjones.com SPIC

Cherokee ComeUnity Hub

Open-Space Infrastructure

“What attracts people most, it would appear, is other people”
william h. white

We propose building a cutting-edge plaza with creative programming designed by community collaboration.

Implemented at a strategically-located intersection on a vacant LRA (Land Reutilization Authority) lot, this built environment will include a shade structure, comfortable seating, and green space.

Regular on-site programming will encourage community interaction through music, dance, art, and play — such as weekly themed walking tours, mosaic chess boards, salsa lessons, or live drum circle jams.

A commissioned artistic element will provide a ‘visual invitation’ to broadcast a universal welcome.

COMMON SPACE: catalyzing new opportunities to meet and connect with neighbors and visitors to Cherokee

& COMMON PACE:

changing the speed we live life - slowing down to explore more in ways that are better for our bodies and the environment

By developing a vibrant, energetic gathering place open to all, the ComeUnity Hub will facilitate pedestrian traffic to local businesses and positive conversations with neighbors in a safe, open locale. By activating a visible location, word-on-the-street will engage neighbors who might not make it to meetings or websites for ‘the news.’ Mutual respect will grow and facilitate a deepening of relationships.



We propose creating a series of community gardens on vacant LRA (Land Reutilization Authority) lots throughout the Benton Park West Neighborhood.

The initial phase of the project entails developing a large hub garden. The hub will include greenhouses, a composting site, test and demonstration beds, an apiary, tool shed, and a public space.

By developing an education and community outreach program, we hope to cultivate interest in neighbors developing other LRA lots (or spokes) into viable vegetable gardens, with the advantage of utilizing the primary garden for guidance and resources.

Community gardens stabilize neighborhoods, stimulate social interaction, reduce crime, improve health, and give people an active stake in their neighborhood.

Future plans include donating a portion of the harvest to charity and establishing a neighborhood farmers’ market.

The greatest benefit of community gardens is their impact on fostering relationships between neighbors who under other circumstances would have little incentive to share common experiences.

Let’s dig!

For more info, please visit:

<http://www.westcornercommunity.blogspot.com/>

WasabiNet: Putting Cherokee on the Grid



Do you want \$9.99/month wireless Internet without needing a telephone line, cable TV, or satellite? Do you want free e-mail? Do you want to own your community’s Internet network with your neighbors? Are you a local business owner looking to advertise and provide your customers convenient Internet access?

Then vote for WasabiNet!

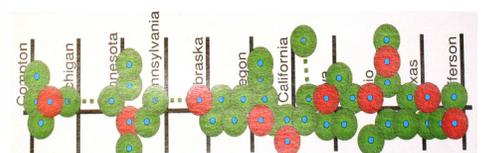
We will use Mesh Node technology to bring WiFi to Cherokee Street using inexpensive routers that you just hang on a wall; no wires! Plus, the network will have a multi-lingual information portal with events, community updates, and ads from local businesses (including yours!), along with a public touch screen kiosk.

The network will be as fast as DSL, but since you will help own it, you can have a say in upgrading it in the future.

Help us put Cherokee on the Grid!

For more info, please visit our site:

<http://sites.google.com/site/wasabinetwifi/>



How can we have the greatest impact on the Benton Park West and surrounding area?

Who would benefit?

How would the neighborhood be strengthened?

The Incarnate Word Foundation has agreed to invest \$25,000 to seed what those who care about the neighborhood decide would be most effective in answering these questions.

November 15 found a group of individuals coming together to brainstorm ideas that might be candidates for an Incarnate Word grant. Many ideas were suggested and discussed. All of the ideas were presented in the final phase of the day, with voting by those in attendance to determine the top three ideas. These ideas are the three projects that you are voting on.

PAPER BALLOT for the THREE

FOR AN ELECTRONIC BALLOT, please go to www.cherokeestreetnews.org and click on the link in the upper right hand corner that says "VOTE for the 3 neighborhood proposals."

PAPER BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS:

Please place a ✓ in front of the ONE proposal of your choice. The proposal receiving the most votes will be awarded \$25,000 seed money from the Incarnate Word Foundation to move the proposal from dream to reality. *

_____ Cherokee ComeUnity Hub

_____ Seeds of Change

_____ WasabiNet:

All ballots MUST have the following information:

name (printed), signature, address, phone number, and e-mail (if applicable)

Name (printed) _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return completed ballots by Dec. 31, 2008 to: Jean Durel, Incarnate Word Foundation, 5257 Shaw Ave., Ste. 309, St. Louis, MO 63110.

Questions? Contact Jean Durel at 314-629-4086 or jeandurel@hotmail.com

* Note: the two proposals which do not receive the seed money may well move forward using other resources.

Thanks to our sponsors
 who support
 Benton Park West
 all year long.



BPWNA
Board
2009

We welcome the newly elected Board of Directors for 2009 in Benton Park West.

While these individuals won't officially take office until January 1, 2009, there will be a time of transition from the 2008 Board to the new Board members for 2009.

Your 2009 Benton Park West Board

- President - Bill Byrd
- Vice-President - Carrie Sleep
- Secretary - Erica Nuyen
- Treasurer - Jennifer Shoemaker
- Member-at-Large - Jackie Weatherly
- Member-at-Large - Aaron Weil

Available Now
Historic Photos of St. Louis
by Adele Heagney and Jean Gosebrink

Join us on December 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Crestwood Barnes & Noble.

www.turnerpublishing.com

Pick up your copy from local retailers or directly from the publisher.

Borders, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Costco (chains) AIA Bookstore, Gateway Arch Museum Store, Jefferson National Parks Association, Saint Louis Art Museum Shop, St. Louis Public Library, Washington University Campus Store, Left Bank Books

Things to Remember

- Nov 4 - BPWNA Board Meeting -7p, 2832 Arsenal, Five Star
- Dec 11 - W&S Advisory Meeting 7p - 2832 Arsenal, Five Star. 3rd District Public Affairs follows at 7:30p
- Dec 18 - BPWNA Monthly Meeting - Annual Holiday Potluck - 7pm, 2832 Arsenal, Five Star Senior Center.
- Jan 6 - BPWNA Board Meeting -7p, 2832 Arsenal, Five Star
- Jan 8 - W&S Advisory Meeting 7p - 2832 Arsenal, Five Star. 3rd District Public Affairs doesn't meet.
- Jan 15 - BPWNA Monthly Meeting - 7pm, 2832 Arsenal, Five Star Senior Center.

Like to help plan these or any other event?
Bill Byrd at bpwnabill@yahoo.com or call the neighborhood office at 314-771-0803.

Come to the December Potluck and share, ask, and tell how you can make things great for all of Benton Park West.

Benton Park West
 Neighborhood Association
 P.O. 18671
 Saint Louis, MO 63118

On the Web
www.bentonparkwest.org

