

**Don't forget!**  
**Feb 19**  
**BPWNA**  
**Neighborhood Meeting**  
**7 pm**  
**2832 Arsenal (Five-star)**

# The Porch Review

## Benton Park West



**Celebrating 75 Blocks of Courage**

### BPWNA Notes

- Feb 2: BPWNA Board Mtg**  
6:30 pm, 2832 Arsenal
- Feb 12: Weed & Seed**  
7 pm, 2832 Arsenal
- Feb 19: Neighborhood Mtg,**  
7 pm, 2832 Arsenal
- Feb 21: STL Mardi Gras**  
booth all day and shuttle  
from Arsenal & Jefferson
- Mar 2: BPWNA Board Mtg**  
6:30 pm, 2832 Arsenal
- Mar 7: Movie Night**  
Cherokee Rec. Center
- Mar 12: Weed & Seed**  
7 pm, 2832 Arsenal
- Mar 19: Neighborhood Mtg,**  
7 pm, 2832 Arsenal
- Apr 4: Gardens opening day**  
7 pm, 2832 Arsenal

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### **Questions? Comments? Concerns?**

Contact the neighborhood  
office:  
Phone 314.771.0803  
email: bpwna@yahoo.com

Local high school in limelight

## Roosevelt HS ROTC in Obama parade



Roosevelt High School's Marine Corps ROTC made its national television debut before millions on inauguration day as it marched past President Barack Obama

Not only did the Roosevelt High School Marine JROTC march in the Inauguration Parade but one of the graduates of Roosevelt High School, James T. Conway, was on

the reviewing stand with President Barack Obama. Conway was the 34th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps.

The school is one of two in Missouri marching in the parade. The other is Blue Springs High School's Golden Regiment Marching Band.

Board plans for eventful year

## More BPW events planned for 2009

The Benton Park West board took the many suggestions of residents from the December neighborhood meeting and have planned a tentative event calendar for the coming year.

Plans include the return of the most popular events in 2008 including movie nights, the easter eggstravaganza, a Cinco de Mayo booth, a music event in Benton

Park, neighborhood house tour, and the Hallowe'en Trunk or Treat.

New events this year will include participation in the city's Mardi Gras celebration, the opening of the new dog park, community classes and more. Watch out for a new calendar of events to be published soon.

**The Presidents Corner... "Word of the Byrd"****Connecting with your neighbors**

Do you know who lives on your block? Who's your Aunt Agnes? Who just moved in? Do you know who just got a new car? I've not seen the neighbors in a couple of days; do you think everything is OK? How about a BBQ on the block?



These and many more questions are what residents asked each other 100 years ago...even 50 years ago. What happened to caring about our neighbors and making sure that everything is "OK"?

Some people might say they don't like to have people "know their business", but if that same business is damaged or stolen these same people would be happy for you to tell the police anything that you saw to help them solve the crime. It's important to know who belongs and who doesn't.

Modern conveniences have made it too easy for each of us to stay inside. Before air conditioning, clothes dryers, TV, computers, etc., our society was outside. On a warm night neighbors talked and knew each other because it was too hot to be inside. Spring and fall nights were spend out with neighbors to find out the neighborhood news as well as the U.S. and world news, even mornings and evenings for many were spent outside hanging laundry to dry.

Our time is consumed with the latest movies on TV, Tvo this show or that show, checking email, finding what information can be Googled, etc. We are on a fast paced trip to not having a connection with our neighbors. Neighbors are what make a neighborhood. Know how to get in touch with your neighbors. Start a phone list on your block. Let it be known that the kids on your block can knock on your door any time if they are in trouble or need help.

In this early part of 2009, I challenge each of you to turn the TV off and step outside to talk with your neighbors. Take a fan outside, even on the hot days, to keep the air stirred while sitting out once the sun has gone down. We've gone through a very cold spell the end of January, but even on a cold day make a point to be out and say hello! If you need to, mark your calendar to be out one day a week...sweeping your walk/steps, cleaning up trash in front of our house, etc.

Every block has one person who "knows what's going on". Find that person on your block and connect with them. Many of our blocks have an official person call the Block Link. This is the person who delivers your monthly newsletters. If you don't receive a monthly newsletter, ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP your block by delivering newsletters once a month.

This year many of us are pulling in the spending, not going as much, maybe even talking about what our parents and grandparents did in the "hard times". Let's depend upon our neighbors and friends as we support each other. Supporting each other is called Community. We are a community here in Benton Park West.

If you do need to spend your money, then "spend it at home". There are many business that carry the everyday items we need even to items that we might buy once every 5-10 years. I recently bought another car from a car dealer in our neighborhood. I found the people to be very friendly and nice. Also, there was no hassle on the transaction and I feel I found the car I am supposed to have. If you're interested in where I bought my car, just call or email me.

The important thing is to get out and talk to people.

See what is going on in your neighborhood and take the time to "ask why or why not".

*Bill Byrd*

**2009 BOARD****President - Bill Byrd**

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BPWNA is a 501(c)3 organization registered with US IRS and the Missouri Secretary of State.

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Advertising deadline: 1st of each month

Editorial deadline: 5th of each month

From the capitol:

## Healthcare continues to be a priority

The 2008 Legislative Session was convened on January 9. Since this is an election year, conventional wisdom says that fewer bills will pass and less controversy may be expected overall, but

early indications are that there may be quite a few battles. For

example, Gov. Blunt has

announced an expansion of healthcare (after presiding over a process that cut 180,000 people off Medicaid during the past three years), and Rep. Rob Schaaf of the Governor's own party is calling for hearings and questioning whether Gov. Blunt has authority to set-up Insure Missouri as a program.

The text of Gov. Blunt's State of the State address is available in the House Journal at: <http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills081/jrn/jrn004.htm>

My reactions to the Governor's speech include:

I am disappointed that Gov. Blunt continues to repeat the myth that he inherited \$1.1 billion budget deficit. The Missouri Constitution doesn't permit the state to deficit spend. The budget he inherited (FY 2005) was balanced when the General Assembly passed it in



May 2004, and it was balanced when Gov. Blunt took office in January 2005.

I object to the claim that the General Assembly has budgeted wisely and produced a budget surplus. Spending too little to meet the state's needs around healthcare, education, veterans, mental health, public safety and many other essential services does not produce a true surplus. Failing to invest adequately in these areas hurts our economy, limits our future, and creates pain and suffering.

I am saddened that the proposed budget for elementary and secondary education only meets the bare minimum required by state law and that the proposed budget for higher education does not get us back to the 2002 level of spending.

I am troubled for the economy. Only nine states had worse unemployment levels than MO in November, 2007. I am working with a "Moving

### JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD

Missouri House of Representatives (District 59)

#### Office:

201 West Capitol Avenue,  
Jefferson City, MO  
65101-6806  
phone: 573-751-4567;  
[jeanette.oxford@house.mo.gov](mailto:jeanette.oxford@house.mo.gov)

#### Home:

2910 Lemp Ave, St. Louis, MO  
63118-1716  
phone: 314.772.0301  
[jmo4rep@juno.co](mailto:jmo4rep@juno.co)

Missouri Forward" sub-committee to propose economic development alternatives.

The governor spent a disproportionate amount of his speech on tough talk about illegal immigration. He overstates the size of the problem in Missouri and contributes to an atmosphere of confusion and fear. The solutions he proposes are either already in state code (like barring undocumented immigrants from getting a driver's license) or divert scant state resources to a problem that requires a federal solution.



## CHEROKEE STATION

[www.cherokeestation.com](http://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.



# Featured in Sauce Magazine and St. Louis Magazine



**Winner of the  
BPWNA 2006 Most Attractive Storefront  
BPWNA 2008 Spirit of Service by a Business/Community Group**

# Benton Park West Gardens open April 4

Benton Park West's gardens will open for the 2009 season on Saturday, April 4.

•The main focus of the opening day will be to prepare the garden for the Easter Eggstravaganza that takes place the following Saturday by

- installing sign provided late last year by Gateway Greening
- completing construction of a simple compost pile behind Children's Garden

Want to get involved? Call the neighborhood office (314) 771-0823 and ask for more information.



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 Fax.314-865-2900      Social Activities  
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 Michael W. Howard      Executive Director



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# Keep your dog on a leash? - check the new law!

St. Louis Aldermen last week passed a bill that means pet owners cannot leave a dog or cat tethered outside for 10 continuous hours or more than 12 hours a day.

It also requires collars to properly fit and be made of nylon or leather. Tethers should be in proportion to the animal's size, according to the bill.

The tether would have to be 15 feet long and the animal would have to have access to sufficient food and water.

Randy Grim is the founder of Stray Rescue of St. Louis, a non-profit group based in Lafayette Square that rescues strays and places them in homes, and he has a heavy hand in the creation of this bill.

He says that a large number of dog bites on children come from chained dogs. Dogs chained 24 hours a day become a possible danger -- they are more aggressive. He also says chaining a dog makes it more vulnerable and territorial. "Some states have completely outlawed



© Derek Cadzow

chaining or tethering of dogs, Grim said.

The bill also requires proper shelter and hay and woodchips or something similar to protect from the cold.

The dog couldn't be made to defecate where it eats, drinks, or lies down. Chains couldn't be too heavy and dogs and cats couldn't be beaten, tormented, overworked, neglected or cruelly treated.

The penalty for violation would be a \$100 to \$500 fine and up to

90 days in jail for the first violation, And for the second violation, it would be a fine of between \$300 and \$500 and up to 90 days in jail. If someone still doesn't get it, and violates a third time, they're liable for a fine of \$500 plus a stay in jail of between 10 and 90 days

To help dog owners comply with the new law, the Stray Rescue and Operation SPOT is planning programs in which dog owners can turn in chains and receive appropriate tethers, collars and hay, Grim said.



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# BPWNA at St. Louis Mardi Gras

Several Benton Park West Neighborhood Association members will be populating a booth at St. Louis's Mardi Gras celebrations on February 21.

Sales of soda, water, beer, energy drinks, hurricanes and bombs will help our association raise money to help fund programs for the balance of 2009. BPWNA's booth is located at 7th and Geyer, next to the music stage, and organizers expect a steady stream of traffic.

BPWNA members attended special training to help them understand how to deal with the many administrative processes for what is one of St. Louis's biggest annual celebrations.

The neighborhood association will be running a shuttle bus all day between the Five Star Senior Center and a location just two blocks from our booth at 7.

Why not come to 7th and Geyer and join the fun!



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# Practical tips for avoiding foreclosure in

from a brochure by foreclosurehelpstl.org (<http://www.foreclosurehelpstl.org/files/foreclosurehelpstlbrochure103008.pdf>)

Are you having trouble keeping up with your mortgage payments? Have you received a notice from your lender asking you to contact them?

- Don't ignore the letters from your lender.
- Contact your lender immediately.
- Contact a HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency.
- To find a local HUD-approved Counseling Agency call the United Way at 211 or one of the agencies listed in this brochure.

If you are unable to make your mortgage payment:

1. Don't ignore the problem. The further behind you become, the harder it will be to reinstate your loan and the more likely that you will lose your house.
2. Contact your lender as soon as you realize that you have a problem. Lenders do not want your house. They have options to help borrowers through difficult financial times.

3. Open and respond to all mail from your lender. The first notices you receive will offer good information about foreclosure prevention options that can help you weather financial problems. Later mail may include important notice of pending legal action. Your failure to open the mail will not be an excuse in foreclosure court.

4. Know your mortgage rights. Find your loan documents and read them so you know what your lender may do if you can't make your payments. Learn about the foreclosure laws and timeframes in your state (as every state is different) by contacting the State Government Housing Office.

5. Understand foreclosure prevention options. Valuable information about foreclosure prevention (also called loss mitigation) options can be found on the internet at [www.fha.gov/foreclosure/index.cfm](http://www.fha.gov/foreclosure/index.cfm) or [www.foreclosurehelpstl.org](http://www.foreclosurehelpstl.org)

6. Contact a HUD-approved housing counselor. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds free or very low cost



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## today's economic environment

housing counseling nationwide. Housing counselors can help you understand the law and your options, organize your finances, and represent you in negotiations with your lender if you need this assistance.

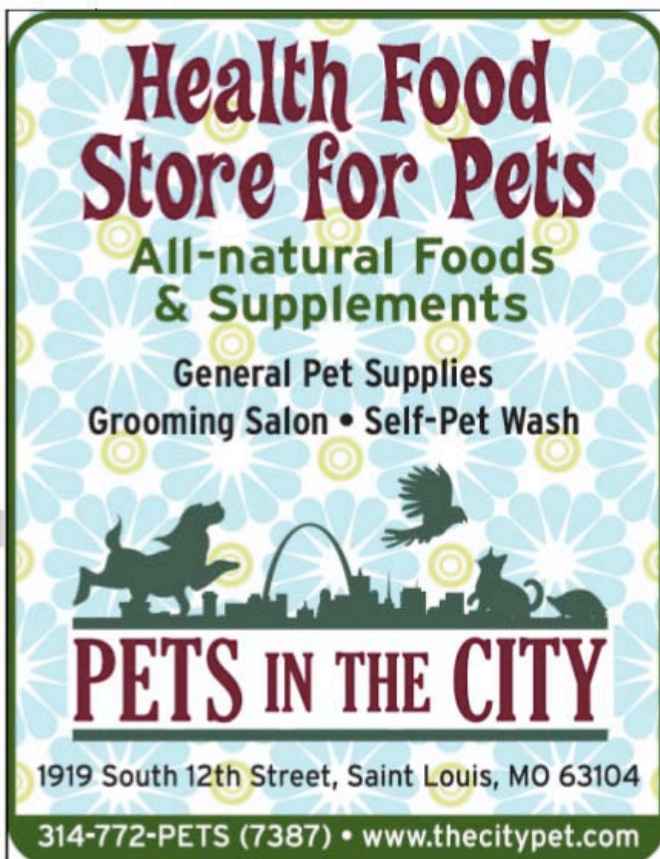
7. Prioritize your spending. After healthcare, keeping your house should be your first priority. Review your finances and see where you can cut spending in order to make your mortgage payment. Look for optional expenses: cable TV, memberships, entertainment that you can eliminate. Delay payments on credit cards and other "unsecured" debt until you have paid your mortgage.

8. Do you have assets—a second car, jewelry, a whole life insurance policy—that you can sell for cash to help reinstate your loan? Can anyone in your household get an extra job to bring in additional income? Even if these efforts don't significantly increase your available cash or your income, they demonstrate to your lender that you are willing to make sacrifices to keep your home.

9. Avoid foreclosure prevention companies. You don't need to pay fees for foreclosure prevention help—use that money to pay the mortgage instead. Many for-profit companies will contact you promising to negotiate with your lender. While these may be legitimate businesses, they will charge you a hefty fee for information and services your lender or a HUD approved housing counselor will provide free.

10. Don't lose your house to foreclosure recovery scams! If any firm claims they can stop your foreclosure immediately if you sign a document appointing them to act on your behalf, you may well be signing over the title to your property! Never sign a legal document without reading and understanding all the terms and getting professional advice from an attorney, a trusted real estate professional, or a HUD approved housing counselor.

*Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Homes and Communities*



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## Texas Hold 'Em at Five Star Senior Center

Programs for the center continue to grow and funding is more uncertain than ever, so the need for fund raising and grant writing has not went away. With that said here we go with the first event for the year.

Saturday February 28th "Texas Hold-em" doors open at 5:30 p.m. game starts at 6:30 p.m. entry fee \$50.00 includes chips, food, beer, & soda. Get your group together and plan on having a great time, we will have these every three months May, August, and November dates to be announced.

Mark your calenders for Friday April 10th for our "Fish Fry" this is Good Friday so the center will



© Derek Cadzow

be closed. We will be serving from 11:00 a.m. till 7:00p.m. so that we can take orders to be delivered to business's, and individuals so watch for the information to come out. We think that by offering a lunch we stand to make a good profit.

Also keep your eye out for other events that we will be sponsoring to raise funds for the center. If anyone has ideas of fund raising or would like to help plan or work we always have a place for more volunteers.

Hope to see you all at the Five Star Senior Center 2832 Arsenal St. Louis, MO 63118

# MISSISSIPPI



# MUD COFFEE

Photo Exhibit by Brian M. Ballok

Currently displayed through May 31st

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314-776-6599

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



## Its time to renew your membership for 2009!

The following people and businesses have joined or rejoined for 2009. Those listed with an \* beside the name are new members in 2009! The BPWNA application is on the next page.

2009 BPWNA Members

### General Level

Edna Campos-Gravenhorst  
 \*Dane Check  
 \*Gale Erickson  
 Ted Gravenhorst  
 Clint Gulleddgel  
 Natalie Hilfiker  
 Kathryn McKay  
 \*Amana McKenney  
 \* Gerard Monti  
 Mark Nuyen  
 Erica Nuyen  
 Obi Nwakanma  
 Amanda Oncken  
 Christian Oncken  
 \* Melissa Pink  
 George Pumbo  
 Danielle Reamey  
 Andrew Roberts  
 Gwendolyn Robinson  
 Jennifer Shoemaker  
 \*Steve Skidmore  
 Carrie Sleep  
 Jay Swoboda  
 \* Karen Talbot-Wood  
 Mira Tanna  
 Shelle Veres  
 Steven Veres  
 Sherry Young

### Senior Level

\* Frances Bunse  
 \* Barbara Christ  
 \* Walter Christ  
 Anna Pierce  
 Jerry Pierce

### Supporter Level

Derek Cadzow  
 \* Glenn Campbell  
 \* Michelle Foley  
 Ted Gann jr.  
 Kevin Hovis  
 Laura Leese  
 \* Sara Miller  
 Megan Schacht  
 Jackie Weatherly

### Patron Level

Joe Haden  
 Bruce Levine  
 Marlene Levine  
 Aaron Wiel

### Sponsor Level

Bill Byrd  
 Jeremy Funke  
 Linda Hennigh  
 Carl Hoffman  
 Chad Johnson

### Friend Level

Eddie Brauer  
 Jean Durel  
 Dena Hibbard  
 Judy Lane  
 Pat Ortmann  
 Ken Ortmann  
 Barb Potts  
 Craig Schmid

### Business Level

Auto Bargain Center  
 Blue Brick Renovation & Construction  
 Luvy Duvy's  
 Indigo Massage Therapy  
 Coldwell Banker/Gundaker  
 Park Avenue Coffee  
 Clowder House Foundation  
 St. Frances Cabrini Academy  
 The Salvation Army  
 Edward Jones  
 Five Star Center  
 St. Louis Building Corporation  
 One Nite Stand  
 Park West Grille  
 Personalized Mementos  
 Millennium Restoration & Development  
 Cherokee Stn Business Assoc  
 Jefferson Ave. Bistro

### 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

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## CONTACT NUMBERS

### Crime prevention

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 Prob Prop	444-1085
Citizen Ser Bureau	622-4800

### Aldermen

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
Judy Lane	lanej@stlouiscity.com

### Miscellaneous

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

### Other phone numbers

Operation Brightside	772-4646
Operation Safestreet	622-3444
Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-392-3738
Parental Stress Help	1-800-367-3543
United Way Information	421-4636
Parents Anonymous	647-HELP and 866-492-0843
Foster Parenting	(314)-340-7536
Animal Abuse Hotline	(314) 647-4400
EmergencyCare	(314) 773-5900

## Be a 2009 neighborhood association member

Dear resident, friend, and supporter: Fill out your application

### 2009 Membership Application-Benton

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ General: \$10/person

\_\_\_ Senior: \$6/person

\_\_\_ Supporter: \$25/person

\_\_\_ Patron: \$50/person

\_\_\_ Sponsor: \$100/person

\_\_\_ Friend: \$20/person

**Mail to: BPWNA Membership  
PO Box 18671  
St. Louis, MO, 63118**

### I would like to be involved with:

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

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Financial Advisor

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Saint Louis, MO 63118

On the Web  
[www.bentonparkwest.org](http://www.bentonparkwest.org)

