

THE BULLETIN

A publication of the Benson-Ames Alliance

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DAY OF SERVICE PLANNED FOR SEPT. 8; JOIN IN!

What are you doing Wednesday, Sept. 8?

On that date, the Benson-Ames Alliance, with assistance from a group of volunteers from Mutual of Omaha, will be picking up trash, removing graffiti and carrying out other tasks designed to make its corner of the city a better place.

Volunteer teams will be working in five highly visible public spaces within the alliance:

- The alleys of downtown Benson
- Benson Park, 7002 Military Ave. (217.3 acres)
- Fontenelle Park, 4405 Fontenelle Boulevard (108 acres)
- Gallagher Park, 2936 N. 52nd St. (18.8 acres)
- The Peanut at the edge of Metcalfe Park

"Well maintained public spaces can act as a deterrent to unwanted behavior," said Troy Arthur, chair of the Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council.

"We're pleased with Mutual of Omaha's interest in the alliance, and we look forward to working with them this fall."

Arthur also encouraged local groups to carry out other volunteer projects on Sept. 8. "Let's make it a real day of service throughout the alliance," he said. For more information, call 402.554.4010.



The volunteers will focus on trash and graffiti removal.



Community Spirit in Action.

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BENSON BID SEEKS TO EXPAND, REFOCUS EFFORTS

For the past 10 months, a group of hardworking Benson business owners and advocates has been doing its part to help jumpstart the revitalization of downtown Benson.

The Benson Business Improvement District (BID), established by the City of Omaha in 1977, is seeking to expand its current boundaries and finance a new strategic work plan that will help improve the look and feel of downtown Benson.

The proposed Benson BID boundaries are similar to the boundaries of the new Tax Increment Financing District approved by the Omaha City Council in January to incentivize commercial and industrial development.

The group is also seeking to expand its board from five to seven members and change its assessment formula to fund

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BULLETIN BITS

B-AA Social Services Committee Forms

The Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council has formed a new Social Services Committee. Membership includes representatives of Outward Bound, Catholic Charities, Goodwill Industries, Holy Name Housing, The Foundry, the Benson Community Center and Benson High School.

The group's first order of business will be to create a directory of social services available in the Benson-Ames Alliance.

Membership on the B-AA Social Services Committee is open to anyone interested in helping make the Benson-Ames Alliance a better place for its residents and all those who visit.

For more information or to get involved, contact Liz Cornish, chair, at 402.614.6360, ext. 204, or lcornish@outwardbound.org. For more information about the Benson-Ames Alliance, visit www.benson-ames.org.

Clairmont Heights Marks 100th Anniversary of First Nebraska Flight

The Clairmont Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) commemorated the 100th anniversary of the first airplane flight in Nebraska July 24 during its annual summer block party.

Neighborhood children released balloons from the place where this historic flight took off—what is now the intersection of N. 45th Street, Fontenelle Boulevard and Military Avenue. In 1994, a small marker was placed on the site by the Aero Club of Nebraska. It reads: *From the Midwest aviation field located at this spot, on July 23, 1910, Glenn Curtis made the first aeroplane flight in Omaha and Nebraska. On the next four days, many flights were made by Curtiss, James C. Mars and Eugene B. Ely.*

The CHNA also used the occasion to announce plans for creating a sculpture on the site that will commemorate the event. It will also serve to

educate neighbors, city residents, aviation enthusiasts and historians about what happened there.

Trudy Swanson, an artist who lives in the CHNA, has developed a design. The association plans to raise funds to complete and install the sculpture.

For more information about the sculpture project, contact Tim Butz at tcbutz@cox.net.

Free Web Page Available to B-AA Neighborhood Associations

Does your neighborhood association have a web presence?

If your neighborhood association is located within the Benson-Ames Alliance (Western Avenue to Sorensen Parkway and Saddle Creek Road/Fontenelle Boulevard to 72nd Street), the Benson-Ames Alliance will provide it with a free web page as part of the Benson-Ames Alliance web site (www.benson-ames.org).

The neighborhood association is responsible for providing the content as well as a contact person. For more information, call 402.554.4010 or email info@omahabydesign.org.

Plans Under Way for Unity Parade

The Benson Neighborhood Association (BNA) is making plans for its annual Unity Day Parade Saturday, Sept. 18. The event will begin at 11:00am at Gallagher Park, 52nd and Maple, and continue through downtown Benson along Maple Street to 63rd Street.

To obtain an entry form, contact Liz Moldenhauer, president of the BNA, at emoldenhauer@mail.unomaha.edu. All entry forms should be completed by Aug. 31.

Do you have news to share about your B-AA business or organization? Send it to info@bensonbeat.com.

FUNDED: Hale Horticulture, a new gardening class offered as part of Nathan Hale Middle School's Expanded Learning Time curriculum.



THE COLE CREEK PROJECT AT WORK IN THE B-AA

The Cole Creek Project, a \$1.6 million urban stream restoration initiative in the Benson-Ames Alliance, funded a series of projects through its 2009 mini-grant program. Schools, neighborhood associations, churches and civic groups located within the Benson-Ames Alliance were eligible to apply for funding for projects that addressed stormwater management or water conservation.

www.colecreek.org

Above:
A Nathan Hale Middle School student at work in the school's new drought resistant garden.
At right:
rain barrel building and decorating.



FUNDED: a Clairmont Heights Neighborhood Association build and decorate your own rain barrel workshop.

B-AA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Benson Neighborhood Association

Fontenelle to 72, Ames to Western

Meets the last Monday of every month (except May, June, July, August and December) at 7 p.m. at Benson Baptist Church, 6319 Maple.

Liz Moldenhauer, president (mold_e@yahoo.com)

Clairmont Heights Neighborhood Association

45 to 48, Military Avenue to Maple

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Holy Name Little Gym.

Kim Reid-Kuhn, president

clairmontheights.wordpress.com

Cole Creek Neighborhood Association

60th to 72nd, Camden to Sorensen

Daniel Clute, president (drdjclute@gmail.com)

Country Club Community Council

52 to 56, Corby to Blondo

Meets the first Monday of every other month (February, April, June, August, October and December) at 7 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 5410 Corby.

Matt Herzog, president

www.historiccountryclub.com

Fontenelle View Neighborhood Association

48 to Fontenelle Boulevard, Ames Avenue to Brown

Charlene Potter, contact person

Fort Redman Neighborhood Association

50 to Fontenelle Boulevard, Brown to Sorensen Parkway

Cynthia Wakefield, contact person

Hartman Avenue Neighborhood Association

50 to 60, Kansas Avenue to Fort

Meets the second Thursday of January, April, July and October at 7 p.m. at Mount View Presbyterian Church, 5308 Hartman.

Skypp Dorsey, president

Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association

Lake to Western (48 to 52), Blondo to Western (52 to 56)

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in March, June, September and November at Harrison Elementary School, 5304 Harrison St.

Ann Hosford, president

www.metcalfe-harrison.org

Please send listing corrections/updates to baalliance@omahabydesign.org.

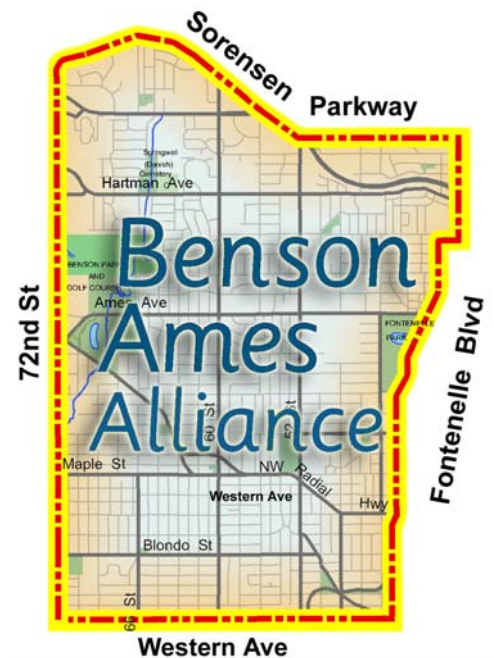
BENSON BID EXPANSION

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its strategic work plan, which focuses on cleaning and maintenance, lighting and security, signage and landscaping. The proposed changes will be considered by the Omaha Planning Board later this summer.

"I believe in Benson and its business potential," said Greg Bourne, owner of Burke's Pub and a current member of the Benson BID board. "As individual property owners, we all need to get on board and do collectively what we can't do alone."

For more information, visit www.benson-ames.org and click on the Benson Business Improvement District link.



The Bulletin is published quarterly by the Benson-Ames Alliance. To submit news or request copies to stack in your business or organization, call 402.554.4010 or email info@omahabydesign.org.

