

THE BULLETIN

A publication of the Benson-Ames Alliance

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TWO B-AA GROUPS RECEIVE NEIGHBORHOOD LEAF

The Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association and the Country Club Community Council sit side by side in the Benson-Ames Alliance. In addition to sharing a border, they share a green space and a desire to improve their corner of the city.

The two groups are the 2011 recipients of Omaha by Design's Neighborhood Leaf for their efforts to improve Metcalfe Park. The award, presented annually, recognizes an individual, organization or business that has worked to preserve and enhance the metropolitan area's residential neighborhoods. Representatives of the two groups were honored at the Oct. 19 meeting of the Omaha by Design Advisory Committee.

A ribbon cutting for the Baright Playground at Metcalfe Park was held Sept. 23, the culmination of more than a year's worth of effort on the part of the two neighborhood groups. More than \$107,000 in private funds was raised for new playground equipment, benches, picnic

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The Barights lived across from Metcalfe Park for more than 60 years.



Community Spirit in Action.

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TREE PLANTING HELD AT COMMUNITY GARDEN SITE

The Benson-Ames Alliance celebrated the 2011 edition of ReTree Nebraska Week by hosting a tree planting event at the Sahler Street Community Garden Sept. 22.

In 2008, the NorthStar Foundation leased 14 acres of land from the Omaha Home for Boys on the eastern part of its campus near 48th and Ames Avenue. This land is now home to the Hitchcock High Ropes Course. Ensuring continued investment in the neighborhood, NorthStar also acquired several multi-unit buildings that had been condemned and unmaintained near 48th and Sahler streets. The buildings were removed, and a community garden was established on site earlier this year.

The garden's new tree, a Burr Oak, was provided by ReTree Nebraska. To view a video of the planting, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22g6Aniz3sQ>.

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BULLETIN BITS

B-AA Steering Council to Meet Nov. 9

The final meeting of the Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council in 2011 is set for Wednesday, Nov. 9, from 11:45am to 1:00pm at The Omaha Home for Boys in the Youth and Family Services Building, Rooms B and C.

The meeting will focus on the alliance's accomplishments during its first five years and a new focus area for 2012 and beyond. Attendees will also get a sneak peek at the alliance's GIS web site in the making.

To attend this meeting as a guest, contact Omaha by Design at 402.554.4010 or info@omahabydesign.org.

Spring Trolley Tour of B-AA Parks

The B-AA Neighborhood Affairs Committee is interested in organizing a trolley tour of parks within the alliance this spring.

If you'd like to help plan and execute this event, contact Ann Hosford, chair of the B-AA Neighborhood Affairs Committee, at ahosford2@gmail.com.

New Restaurant Coming to Maple Street

Maple Street in downtown Benson will soon be home to a new dining establishment—Lot 2 Restaurant and Wine Bar.

The venture, launched by owners and certified sommeliers Brad and Johanna Marr, will be located at 6205-1/2 Maple St. It will focus on approachable, innovative food sourced from local farmers and ranchers.

Lot 2 also plans to serve hand-crafted cocktails using fresh product. Its wine list will cover wines from around the world,

Construction work on the restaurant is under way with an opening planned for December or January. You can follow Lot 2 Restaurant and Wine Bar on Facebook.

Coordinator Sought for Benson Citizen Patrol

Want to help make your neighborhood a safer place? The Benson Citizen Patrol (BCP) is seeking a coordinator.

This position is responsible for maintaining the calendar and designated patrol area, getting the necessary supplies to the patrollers (vests, radios, car magnets and other supplies) and serving as a link between the BCP and other neighborhood entities.

There are no set hours. If you're interested, contact Liz Moldenhauer, president of the Benson Neighborhood Association, at 402.880.4664 or bensonneighborhoodassociation@gmail.com.

Board Games Among Books

The Benson Branch of the Omaha Public Library will host another edition of Board Silly Saturday, Nov. 5, at 7:00pm. The event will feature board games, refreshments and the chance to meet interesting people. You must be 21 and over to attend. For more information, call 402.444.4846.

Holiday Luminaries Date Set

The Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association and the Country Club Community Council will partner once again this holiday season to light luminaries around Metcalfe Park Sunday, Dec. 11.

The groups also will be offering free trolley rides around the park and through the neighborhoods for those interested in viewing the festive lights. Volunteers are sought to help make the luminaries and light them. If you'd like to help out, send an email to metcalfeevents@yahoo.com.

Post It On Facebook

If you're located in the Benson-Ames Alliance and your group is hosting an event, post in on the B-AA Facebook page and spread the word!



Pictured above and below: Several families take advantage of a 70-degree October afternoon to give the improved Metcalfe Park a workout.

TWO B-AA GROUPS RECEIVE 2011 NEIGHBORHOOD LEAF FOR METCALFE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Continued from the front

tables, a rain garden and bike parking. Seven new trees were also planted courtesy of ReTree Nebraska. The playground is named after the late Helen and Hollis Baright, who lived across from Metcalfe Park for more than 60 years and whose foundation made a sizable donation to the project.

Tiffany Regan, president of the Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association, said the effort was launched last spring when the group decided its priority was replacing the park's 20-plus year-old playground equipment. She and Pat Bianchini began doing research, a \$7,500 seed grant from Bank of the West was secured, and the project grew from there.

Regan said Matt Herzog, president of the Country Club Community Council, took the lead on the design and construction aspect of the project, and the Omaha Parks Foundation contributed \$50,000 in matching funds.

"My advice for other neighborhood organizations is there is money out there – call places, talk to people, search on the Internet," Regan said. "When it comes to your neighbors, keep your eyes and ears open – they have connections, too. Use their connections, follow all leads and be persistent."



B-AA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Ames-Benson Neighborhood Association

60 to 66, Fowler to Sprague

Meetings vary.

Pamela Duncan, president

Benson Neighborhood Association

Fontenelle to 72, Ames to Western

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

Liz Moldenhauer, president (bensonneighborhoodassociation@gmail.com)

Facebook—Benson Neighborhood Association; Twitter—@BensonNA

Clairmont Heights Neighborhood Association

45 to 48, Military Avenue to Maple

Meetings vary.

Trudy Swanson-Sena, president (ClairmontHeights@gmail.com)

Facebook—Clairmont Heights Neighborhood Association

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

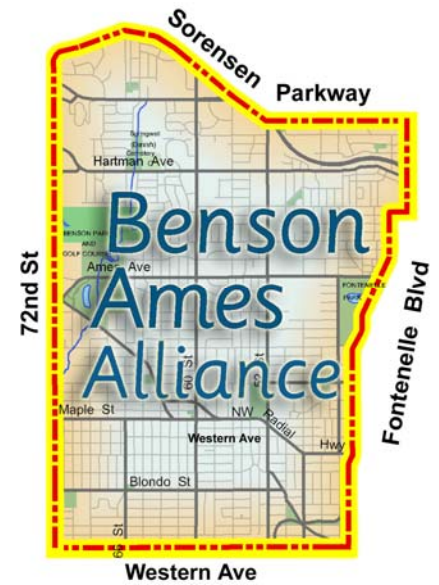
Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association

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.

Tiffany Regan, president

www.metcalfe-harrison.org



www.benson-ames.org

The Benson-Ames Alliance is a volunteer grassroots organization formed in 2005 to help plan for and implement the revitalization of this historic corner of Omaha. Omaha by Design serves as the project manager.

The Bulletin, the B-AA newsletter, is published quarterly. To submit news or request copies to stack at your business or organization, call 402.554.4010 or email info@omahabydesign.org.

Follow the Benson-Ames Alliance on

