

THE BULLETIN

A publication of the Benson-Ames Alliance

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DUO TO LEAD B-AA STEERING COUNCIL IN 2012

The Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council will be led by two co-chairs in 2012—Liz Cornish and Andrew Rainbolt.

Cornish currently serves as director of community partnerships at Outward Bound Omaha, a nonprofit educational organization and expedition school that serves people of all ages and backgrounds through active learning expeditions that inspire character development, self-discovery, and service in and outside the classroom. Outward Bound Omaha shares office space with the NorthStar Foundation in the Baker Place development on Ames Avenue in the Benson-Ames Alliance.

Cornish received her B.A. in outdoor experiential education from Prescott College and her M.Ed. in recreation from the University of Arkansas. She moved to Omaha in 2009 to establish Outward Bound's Omaha center. In addition to Omaha, the organization operates centers in Baltimore, Denver, Philadelphia, the San Francisco Bay area and the Twin Cities.

Rainbolt is a workforce development consultant with the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. He assists Omaha area businesses in meeting their workforce needs and works to deepen the human capital pool across Omaha's targeted industry sectors for economic

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Liz Cornish



Andrew Rainbolt



Community Spirit in Action.

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NEW FOCUS AREA FOR B-AA IN 2012

A new year means a new focus.

In 2012, the Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council will be focusing its efforts in the area surrounding Ames Avenue between two of the alliance's greatest assets—Fontenelle Park and Benson Park.

Several task forces are in the process of forming to identify current issues faced by residents, businesses and organizations and execute projects that address those issues.

"We want to hear from the stakeholders in the Ames Avenue area so we can work on projects that address their needs," said Liz Cornish, co-chair of the B-AA Steering Council.

Potential task force topics range from crime and safety to business development. If you're interested in getting involved in the discussion, call 402.554.4010.



BULLETIN BITS

Teens to Document Life in North Omaha

Editor's Note: Omaha by Design is a financial supporter of The Teen Voices Project.

The students are back from winter break. The cameras and tripods have been ordered. Thanks to the support of 144 community backers who contributed funds ranging from \$5 to \$5,000, The Teen Voices Project is under way at Benson High School (BHS).

The project, conceived by Jerred Zegelis and brought to life by Kickstarter, is turning a group of students into documentarians who will be capturing what life in North Omaha is like today.

"The students my school serves live mostly in the North Omaha area," writes Zegelis, a photography and journalism teacher at BHS. "In the media, this area is often seen as a place that's dangerous and infested with crime. While there are problems, the students we serve want the world to know there is much more to our community that what someone might see on television or in a news article."

Some of the school's advanced photography students are serving as group leaders on the project. They will guide a class of beginning photography students through the documentation of the Benson area around a number of self-selected themes: diverse, selfless, historic, creative, successful, powerful and breaking stereotypes. The beginning students are currently studying documentary photography and will move to photographic composition in the near future.

Once the final images have been selected, the students will produce a book featuring them, Zegelis said. Hundreds of the images will become a part of the community itself via a large-scale, temporary public art project, the details of which are still being finalized.

The Kickstarter funds, Zegelis said, have allowed him to purchase the equipment necessary to repeat the project each year with new groups of

students. "We can together show that the world still cares about the powerful and artistic voice of teenagers and that maybe—just maybe—they can change the world—or at least their part of the world—for the better," he writes.

For more information about The Teen Voices Project, visit www.kickstarter.com/projects/1394593468/the-teen-voices-project. For more information about Kickstarter, an online mechanism for funding and following creative projects, visit www.kickstarter.com.

Planning for 125th Under Way

On March 4, 1887, Erastus Benson platted the first lots northwest of what is now the intersection of 60th and Maple. He named it Benson Place.

A group of volunteers has formed to help plan and execute Benson's 125th anniversary celebration in 2012. If you'd like to help, contact Kurt Goetzing at 402.953.3500 or kurt@omahaadvertising.com.

B-AA Executive Committee to Meet Feb. 15

The Benson-Ames Alliance Executive Committee will meet Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 3:30 to 5:00pm at Burke's Pub.

B-AA Steering Council to Meet March 14

The Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council will meet Wednesday, March 14, from noon to 1:00pm at The Omaha Home for Boys in the Youth and Family Services Building, Rooms B and C.

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

Stay in Touch with the B-AA

Want to keep tabs on what's happening with the Benson-Ames Alliance? Follow the organization on Facebook (search for Benson-Ames Alliance), visit the web site at www.benson-ames.org and stack copies of this newsletter at your business or organization free of charge (call 402.554.4010 to request copies).

DUO TO LEAD B-AA STEERING COUNCIL IN 2012

- Cont'd. from the front development.

Prior to joining the chamber staff in 2008, Rainbolt served as director of community development for the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority. He received his teaching degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and holds a Master of Urban Studies in Community and Economic Development from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The Benson-Ames Alliance (B-AA) is a grassroots group of community leaders dedicated to revitalizing the area bound by Western Avenue on the south, Sorensen Parkway on the north, Saddle Creek Road/Fontenelle Boulevard on the east and 72nd Street on the west.

The B-AA is striving to become a sustainable community that actively seeks a balance between its built and natural environments. Omaha by Design serves as the project manager.

The B-AA Steering Council meets the second Wednesday of every other month at The Omaha Home for Boys from noon to 1:00pm. The next meeting is set for Wednesday, March 14.

For more information about the alliance, visit www.benson-ames.org or call 402.554.4010.



INTERGENERATIONAL CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT BEGINS



Work on the St. Richard's Campus project at 4318 Fort St. is under way. The 9.78 acre site is being developed into an intergenerational campus that will bring together the community's vulnerable children, seniors and families. For more info, email info@HolyNameHousing.org.

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 (drdclute@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.

Delena Givens Brown, president (chanasneighbors@gmail.com)

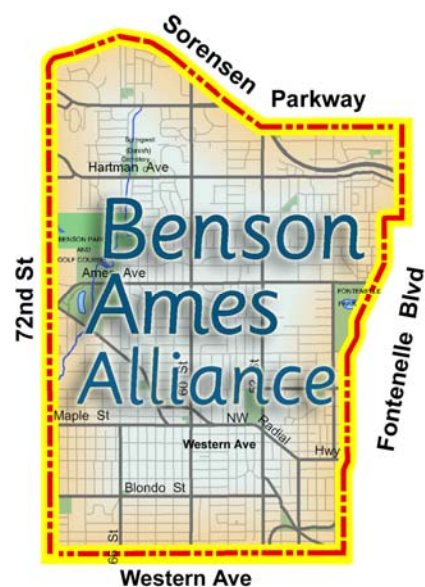
Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association

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

