

B-AA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Benson Neighborhood Association

Fontelle 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.

Mary Boyle, president (mareb5@cox.net)

clairmontheights.wordpress.com

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.

Shane Sukstorf, president

www.historiccountryclub.com

Fontelle View Neighborhood Association

48 to Fontelle Boulevard, Ames Avenue to Brown

Charlene Potter, contact person

Fort Redman Neighborhood Association

50 to Fontelle 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.

Lorraine Gardner, 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.

BULLETIN BITS

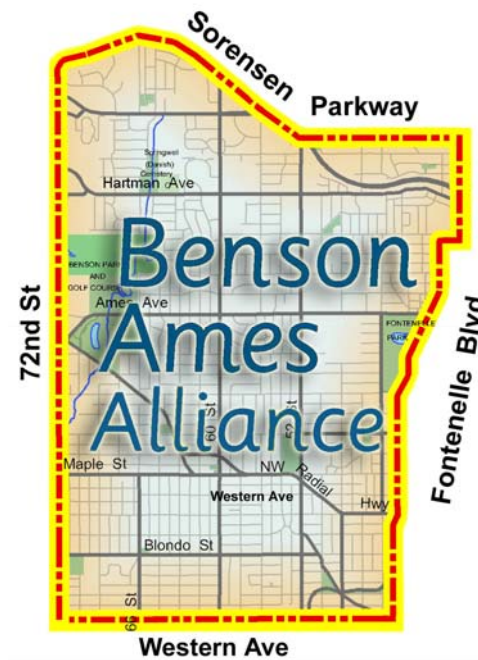
B-AA on Facebook

The Benson-Ames Alliance now has a Facebook page. If you're a user, this is a great way to keep track of the latest alliance news and activities. Simply search for "Benson-Ames Alliance" and become a fan today!

What Does Benson Need?

When it comes to business, what do you think would fit in downtown Benson? What's needed and, more importantly, what would be supported?

Send your ideas to Liz Moldenhauer, president of the Benson Neighborhood Association, at mold_e@yahoo.com. Or, if you're a Facebook user, post them to the Benson, Nebraska Facebook page.



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

THE BULLETIN

A publication of the Benson-Ames Alliance

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BENSON ROUTE OF 20-MILE BIKE LOOP PLANNED FOR THIS SPRING

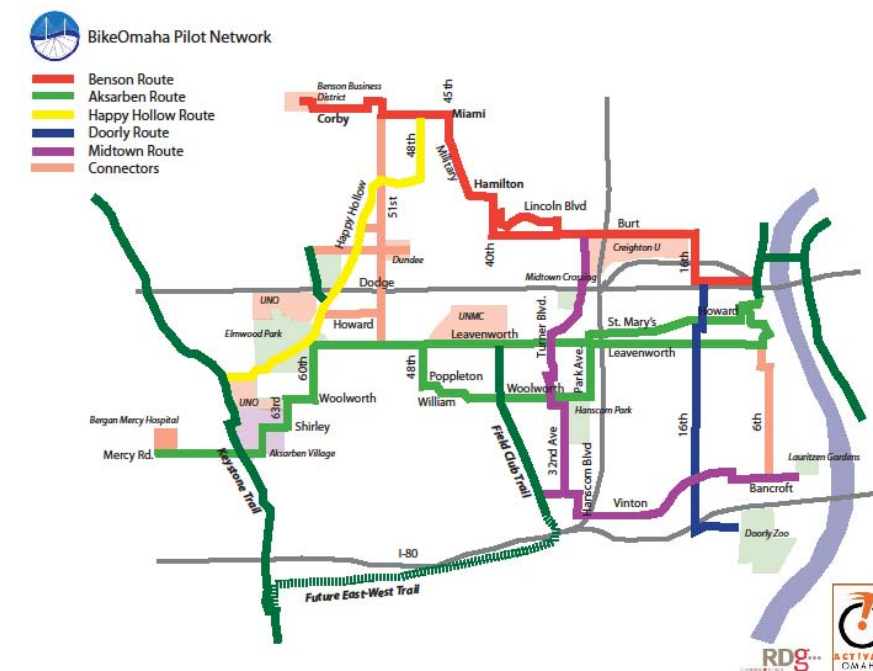
Bike Omaha is coming to the Benson-Ames Alliance this spring.

The project, launched last August by Activate Omaha, is creating a 20-mile loop of on-street bicycle facilities in the city. Omaha's 16th Street from Capitol Avenue to Cuming Street was the first section of the project to be implemented, said Tammie Dodge, project manager with Activate Omaha. It's part of the Doorly Route that, when completed, will link downtown Omaha with the riverfront and the Benson Business District.

The \$600,000 pilot, funded privately through the Peter Kiewit Foundation and an anonymous donor, will feature five initial routes:

- *Benson*, from downtown to the Benson Business District
- *Aksarben*, from downtown to Aksarben Village

- *Happy Hollow*, from the Benson Route at 48th and Miami to the Keystone Trail
- *Doorly*, from downtown to the Henry Doorly Zoo
- *Midtown*, from Creighton University to the Field Club Trail and Lauritzen Gardens



The system also includes connecting routes to complete an overall network that connects downtown Omaha with the regional trail system and serves many important destinations, Dodge said.

Work on the Benson Route is set to begin this spring with a tentative completion date of May 1, said Todd

Pfitzer, city traffic engineer in Omaha's public works department.

For more information about Bike Omaha, contact Dodge at 402.934.5923 or tammie@activateomaha.org.



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LIVING GREEN IN THE B-AA: THE BENSON HIGH SCHOOL RAINGARDEN INITIATIVE

The Bunnies are going greener, thanks to a collaborative project that's putting stormwater management center stage in classrooms across Benson High School.

Living Green: the Benson High School Raingarden Initiative involves planning, designing, installing, maintaining and promoting a new rain garden on the grounds of the school. The effort is a partnership between the City of Omaha, Omaha by Design, Benson High School (BHS), the Benson-Ames Alliance and Community ReDesigned.

A rain garden, an example of a stormwater management best practice, is a planted depression that allows runoff from impervious surfaces to soak into the ground instead of flowing into storm drains and surface waters where it contributes to erosion, water pollution and flooding. These gardens, which use native plants, can cut down on the amount of pollution reaching local creeks by up to 30 percent.

At the beginning of the fall semester, representatives from the partnership met with BHS faculty to determine their individual interests in participating in the project. The response, said BHS magnet coordinator Peggy Pavlik, was positive, running the gamut from math, earth science and chemistry instructors to those who teach computer aided drafting and marketing.

Students then began work on the initiative by selecting a project name—Living Green, deciding on a project logo and selecting a site for the garden after participation in a field survey. The garden will be located on the school's southern edge near the old entrance.

During the coming months, BHS students will:

- Design the layout of the garden

- Research and select appropriate plants
- Produce a conceptual design and layout
- Help facilitate the construction bidding process
- Review the construction contracts
- Oversee construction of the garden
- Promote the garden to the general public

Once the project is completed, the site will serve as an outdoor classroom for future Bunnies.

"Living Green is an incredible opportunity for our students to apply their classroom knowledge to a real world project in real time," said Lisa Dale, principal of Benson High School and chair of the

Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council. "It's allowing them to think imaginatively, work in teams, interact with professionals, manage a project and present material in front of an audience. Our students recognize that these

skills are going to serve them extremely well, no matter what they do."

Funding for Living Green is provided by a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to the City of Omaha for stormwater management implementation. A key component of Omaha's stormwater management program is education and outreach to the public, said Nina Cudahy, environmental quality control manager with the city's public works department. "We are being challenged to change the way we manage stormwater, and the city values the importance of educating a younger generation about what we can do to improve water quality in our streams," Cudahy said. "Benson High School's magnet status, coupled with the Benson-Ames Alliance's commitment to sustainability, made the school an ideal location for this education and outreach initiative."

Visit www.wearelivinggreen.com for more info.



GOODWILL MOVING ITS HEADQUARTERS TO THE B-AA

Benson Park Plaza in the Benson-Ames Alliance is about to get a lot busier.

Goodwill Industries Inc. has announced plans to move its corporate headquarters, currently located at 41st and Pacific streets, to the newly constructed building at 4805 N. 72nd St.

The Seldin Company property was purchased by Goodwill Dec. 30 for \$5.9 million. The Seldin family is donating 352,000 square feet of fully improved infrastructure and paved parking area serving the new building, valued at \$1,850,000. Goodwill also plans to devote \$5.3 million for renovations and furnishings. A capital fund raising campaign is currently under way.

The sale of Goodwill's 41st and Pacific facility to Douglas County was finalized Dec. 21. Goodwill retains occupancy until June 30.

Goodwill has outgrown its current location, and in order for the agency to continue effectively serving program participants and the community, a larger facility was needed. The new 70,000 square foot corporate headquarters will house the administrative branches as well as numerous programs of Goodwill. A 25,000 square foot retail and donation center also will be part of the new headquarters, which sits on eight acres in the Benson Park Plaza.

"We're pleased to welcome Goodwill

to the Benson-Ames Alliance," said Lisa Dale, chair of the Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council and principal of Benson High School. "Their commitment to sustainability and community outreach embody our redevelopment goals for the alliance area."

Initially, 60 administrative staff and trainers will occupy the building, which can accommodate an additional 20 staff for future growth.

"Goodwill's commitment to sustainability and community outreach embody our redevelopment goals for the alliance area."

- Lisa Dale, chair Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council

About 25 retail and production staff also will be employed at the facility.

The existing facility, built in 2008, will be redesigned by RDG Planning and Design and constructed by Kiewit Building Group.

Construction will begin this winter, with partial or full occupancy by mid-to-late summer 2010.

The project will follow the sustainable principles and strategies set forth in the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system.

With a MAT transfer center less than two blocks from the facility, the new Goodwill headquarters will be easily accessible to program participants, customers, employees and the community.

For more information, contact Kris Pachunka at 402.403.7048 or kpachunka@goodwillomaha.org.

AROUND THE B-AA

TIF Thumbs Up

The Omaha City Council approved the creation of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district in downtown Benson at its Jan. 26 meeting.

TIF is a special financing process used to promote commercial and industrial development. It provides financing for public improvements and other TIF eligible redevelopment activities using new tax revenue created by new, expanded or renovated commercial property in a TIF district, which is defined by the community.

The creation of such a district will enhance the B-AA's efforts to revitalize the area in conjunction with The Maple Street Corridor Project, said Lisa Dale, chair of the Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council and principal at Benson High School.

For more information about The Maple Street Corridor Project, call 402.554.4010 or visit www.bensonbeat.com.