

THE BULLETIN

A publication of the Benson-Ames Alliance



Community Spirit in Action.

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THE ENVIRONMENT IS HER ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

For most people, a refrigerator serves one purpose and one purpose only—keeping things cold. For Charlene Potter, a member of the Fontenelle View Neighborhood Association (FVNA), it's a canvas that also doubles as a platform for environmental advocacy.

"Nature teaches us, if we're willing to look and listen," said Potter, an environmental artist and participant in OPPD's Refrigerator Art Project. In March, OPPD sought proposals for green-themed temporary art installations using refrigerators as the basis of the artwork. The objective—to increase awareness of energy efficiency and recycling.

Potter's "Under the Pot, a Stand or Not?" was one of the proposals selected by OPPD for implementation. Her entry has separate designs on all four sides, each bearing an individual message about the importance of protecting the environment. The first side, "Flames," depicts the importance of fire and the sun as tools for growth. The second side, "Layers of the Earth," represents the importance of the

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Charlene Potter, an environmental artist, is active in the Fontenelle View Neighborhood Association. (Pictured with her work in progress.)

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AND "NIGHT OUT FOR NEIGHBORS" AUG. 2

Due to the recent flooding in the metro, the Omaha Police Department and the Neighborhood Center have joined together to host a special event on National Night Out in 2011.

On Aug. 2, residents in neighborhoods throughout the metro are asked to turn on their outside lights and spend the evening outside with their neighbors.

Many neighborhoods will be hosting a variety of events such as block parties, cookouts, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities and visits from the Omaha Police Department.

During these get-togethers, neighbors are asked to bring one of the following items to help those affected by the flood: rubber gloves, buckets, disinfectants, brushes, brooms, mops, safety glasses,

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BULLETIN BITS

Test Plot Planted in Benson Park

The test plot for the Prairie in the Park project is now home to a mixture of native grass and wildflowers seeds that, over time, will create a two-acre urban prairie in Benson Park.

The project – a partnership of Omaha by Design, the City of Omaha Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Property and the Benson-Ames Alliance – is introducing the urban prairie aesthetic to appropriate parcels of public park property throughout the city.

Two varieties of seed mixes have been planted in the Benson Park test plot – a low grow grass and wildflower mix and a rain garden mixture. The seeds for the test plot have been donated by Dick Berry, chairman and owner of United Seeds Inc. in Omaha.



For a complete list of the seed varieties, visit www.omahabydesign.org/projects/environmental-element/natural-environment/prairie-in-the-park/the-plants.

Temporary signage has been installed along the plot's perimeter (see photo above) to alert visitors to the project. This fall, interpretive signage explaining the value of incorporating native plantings into the local landscape will be added.

Funding for the Prairie in the Park project is provided through grants, donations and in-kind support from the City of Omaha Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Property.

For more information or to schedule a speaker for your club or organization, contact Omaha by Design at 402.554.4010 or info@omahabydesign.org.

Revamped Web Site

The Country Club Community Council, one of nine neighborhood associations in the Benson-Ames Alliance, has revamped its web site.

The site is packed with photos. It also has a history section that outlines the neighborhood's development and profiles the different styles of architecture that can be found along its tree-lined streets.

Check it out at www.historiccountryclub.com.

B-AA Social Services Spotlight:

Youth Emergency Services

Youth Emergency Services (YES) is dedicated to being a source of hope and guidance for homeless and at-risk youth by providing shelter and support as well as letting youth know there are people who want to help them turn their lives around.

YES operates a street outreach program, an emergency shelter, a maternity group home and a transitional living program. These programs not only provide shelter, advocacy and education, but promote personal and family development.

Much of the organization's success in getting youth off the street depends on the commitment of volunteers. YES is seeking the public's support in helping raise awareness of its services, serving as volunteers and assisting with fund-raising needs. For more information, visit www.yesomaha.org or facebook.com/youthemergencyservices.

Next B-AA Steering Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council is set for Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 11:45am 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.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AND “NIGHT OUT FOR NEIGHBORS” AUG. 2

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garbage bags, clean rags,
paper towels, bottled water
and Gatorade.

If your neighborhood isn't hosting an event but you'd still like to donate, you can bring your item to one of the following locations Aug. 1-6 from 9:00am to 4:00pm:
Northwest Police Precinct,
10245 Wiesman Drive;
Southwest Police Precinct,
9864 M St.; Southeast Police
Precinct, 2475 Deer Park;
Northeast Police Precinct,
4316 N. 30th St.; Central
Police Station, 505 S. 15th St.;
Neighborhood Center, 115 S.
49th Ave. in Omaha or 136 S.
Main St. in Council Bluffs; or
any Omaha Fire Department
location.

The final dropoff point is the Target parking lot at 72nd and Dodge Saturday, Aug. 6, from 9:00 to 11:00am.

The event is sponsored by a host of city and neighborhood groups in Omaha and Council Bluffs, including the Benson-Ames Alliance.

If your neighborhood group needs assistance in getting donated items from your individual event to one of the collection sites or for more information about National Night Out, contact Bridget Fitzpatrick at 402.444.6478/402.980.6063 or bfitzpatrick@ci.omaha.ne.us.

THE ENVIRONMENT IS HER ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

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soil. The third side, "Raindrops from the Pot," references the importance of protecting water quality, ending toxic dumping and collecting rain water for reuse. The fourth side, "Bend with the Wind," references the importance of clean air and the need to heed the forces of nature. The piece will be topped by a porcelain clay pot sculpture, "Water Flower all a Bloom."

Potter was first introduced to ceramics as a student at Bellevue University in 2009 after years of working in a number of fields, including running her own business, Rainbow Draperies. "My hands are drawn to porcelain clay like a magnet," Potter said. "The clay talks to me and tells me what to do."

The project entries will be displayed at various locations in OPPD's service area, tentatively starting in the Old Market.

For more information about Potter's work, visit www.rosewoodenvironmentalart.com. For more information about the FVNA, one of nine neighborhood associations in the Benson-Ames Alliance, visit www.omahabydesign.org/projects/urban-design-element/neighborhood-omaha/benson-ames-alliance/neighborhoods/fontenelle-view.



At left: an early version of Potter's OPPD Refrigerator Art Project work. Above: a pot sculpture, titled "Water Flower all a Bloom," will be placed on top of the finished piece. "My hands are drawn to porcelain clay like a magnet," Potter said. "The clay talks to me and tells me what to do."

B-AA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Please send listing corrections to info@omahabydesign.org.

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

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

Trudy Swanson-Sena, president

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

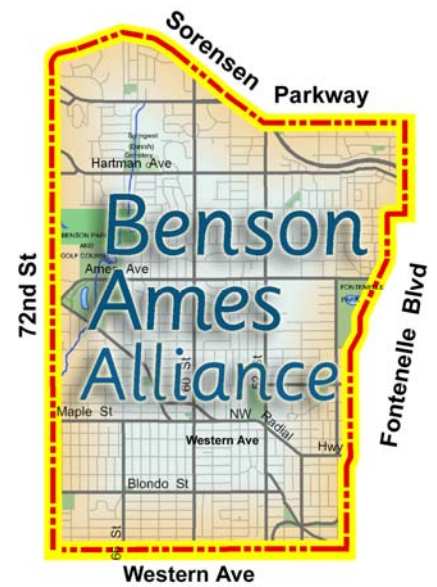
Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association

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

