
METCALFE-HARRISON

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Printing provided by The Neighborhood Center

May 2010

From the President

By Ann Hosford



Dear Neighbors,
Again the yards and parks look wonderful. I see lots of families enjoying Metcalfe Park and even more walkers through the area. Thanks to you all for making your yards clean, safe, and inviting. It helps everyone's morale, home resale, and property values.

The Benson Ames-Alliance wants to be the Green Alliance in Omaha. All its efforts in our area – Dumpster Day, Park Clean up, Big Green Garage Sale, and the June meeting – encourage us to “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Rethink.” It is so easy.

We have lots going on, as you can see in this publication. As always, we could use your assistance in all projects. Your ideas, concerns and praises are always appreciated. You can contact anyone on your Board or online at www.metcalfe-harrison.org. There are lots of interesting links to the City, Benson, and “green” organizations.

Thanks for all your support for one another.
-Ann

May 15: Dumpster Day, Park Cleanup

Our annual Dumpster Day for this year is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, at 51st and Decatur streets from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Clean out your basements and garages and bring your unwanted junk to this free event. Those who live in the neighborhood will be encouraged to start or renew their MHNA membership at this time.

Please do not bring yard waste or trash that could be collected on your normal pickup day. Free vouchers will be available at our site for same-day disposal (at another location) of large limbs and other yard waste that does not qualify for normal pickup. Our site will not accept appliances or tires, but those items may be taken to two other sites on May 15. Appliances will be accepted Hillside School, 7500 Western Ave., while tires will be collected at Boyd Elementary School, 8314 Boyd St.

A park cleanup will run in conjunction with Dumpster Day. Please bring your gloves and gardening tools to help beautify our park. While the whole area could use work, please focus on the Peanut roundabout and the playground.

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June General Neighborhood Meeting

Our next Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association meeting will be held at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8**, at Metcalfe Park. We will focus on city parks, trees and what it will mean to have a new City Forester. Please join us and meet your neighbors!

Let's Do What You Want to Do

The neighborhood association is interested in helping organize social groups to meet the interests and needs of its residents. Groups could meet as frequently as desired and would provide opportunities for neighbors to meet new people and form friendships that would strengthen our neighborhood. Some ideas for neighborhood social groups could include: a book club, lunch group, walking group, investment group, a babysitting co-op, playgroup, garden club, poker club, knitting club, bridge club, singles group, or anything of interest to you. If you have an idea for a neighborhood social group or would be interested in leading or participating in one of the groups listed, please contact Melanie Lotspeich at melanielotspeich@gmail.com or 943-7272.

Continue Reporting Potholes to City

Many areas of the neighborhood are still plagued with potholes. If you have a pothole on your street or notice one while driving around the neighborhood, report it to the City of Omaha for repairs. You can do this by visiting the City website, www.cityofomaha.org, or by calling 444-4919. Be able to provide an exact address or intersection near the location of the pothole.

Your 2010 Board Members

Ann Hosford – President

1776 N. 52nd St. 551-4862

president@metcalfe-harrison.org

Deborah Morris – Secretary

5433 Franklin St. 551-8776

secretary@metcalfe-harrison.org

Jon Iverson – Treasurer

1612 Happy Hollow Blvd. 558-8807

treasurer@metcalfe-harrison.org

Pat Bianchini – Events

5220 Hamilton St. 556-0159

events@metcalfe-harrison.org

Beth Meiches – Community Relations

4949 Charles St. 551-2633

RPMeiches@aol.com

Harry Morris – By-laws

1530 N. 52nd St. 554-1314

harry@metcalfe-harrison.org

Connie Simons – Peanut Project

5406 Seward St. 553-8408

consimons@yahoo.com

Marilyn King – Programs

1414 N Happy Hollow Blvd. 551-6438

programs@metcalfe-harrison.org

Visit us on the Web at www.metcalfe-harrison.org and sign up for free e-mail alerts about neighborhood news, meetings and events. We will not share your e-mail address or use it for any other purpose.

Important Phone Numbers

Code Enforcement	444-5371
Street Repair	444-4919
Tall Weeds/Litter	444-5910
Animal Control	444-7800
Cox Cable Complaint	444-4567
Mayor's Hotline	444-5555
Snow Removal	444-5220
Park Division	444-5955
OPPD Street Lights	554-6773

MHNA Business Members

Thank you to all our business members for supporting our neighborhood and helping to keep it safe!

Paparazzi by Appointment	553-FOTO
Sgt. Peppers Italian Restaurant	558-7717
Janousek Florist	556-5652
Kelley's Hilltop Lanes	553-6411
Unionist Printing	558-9500
Indian Creek Nursery	558-5900
GBT Children's Academy	556-4282
Omaha Auto Detail	932-7161

Your City Council Update

By Pete Festersen, District 1

Dear Metcalfe-Harrison Neighbors,

I am pleased to see winter give way to spring and to see the "peanut" growing again!



Here are a few updates on some important issues near you:

- My neighborhood job creation plan continues with infrastructure improvements scheduled in Benson, Dundee and Florence.
- Violent crime remains a challenge for our city including a recent incident outside of Kelley Bowl.
- The City Council recently approved new zoning for the Crossroads Mall property communicating our desire for mixed-use investment in the area.
- Private contractors have been hired to attend to the many potholes in our city more expediently. Please report any remaining potholes to 444-4919.
- A contract for the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project to take place from 50th to 54th Streets and Franklin to NW Radial Streets was recently approved. Initial public meetings will be held this year with construction beginning in 2011.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent you on the City Council. Please don't hesitate to contact me for further information on these issues or other items of interest.

Pete Festersen
pete.festersen@ci.omaha.ne.us
444-5527

Volunteers Needed for Park Committee

Do you have children who use the playground at Metcalfe Park? Would you like to see the park improved and the equipment replaced? The neighborhood association would like to create a committee to explore options for replacing the playground equipment at Metcalfe Park. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to serve on a committee that will explore city policy and fundraising options. Please contact Pat Bianchini at 556-0159 or events@metcalfe-harrison.org if interested.

A Special Thanks to the Neighborhood Center

The MHNA would like to give a special thank you to **The Neighborhood Center** for kindly printing our newsletters at no cost. This is an exceptional gift and is greatly appreciated by everyone involved in the MHNA. Please visit our website for educational activities happening at the Center.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DUMPSTER DAY , PARK CLEANUP

METCALFE PARK

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010

Bring your unwanted items to the dumpster at 51st and Decatur streets between 9 a.m and 1:30 p.m. The Metcalfe cleanup location will not accept appliances or tires. Bring along your gardening tools and help clean up our park. (More information on page 1.)

BIG GREEN GARAGE SALE

BENSON-AMES ALLIANCE AREA

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2010

Free sign up for this area garage sale is available at www.biggreengaragesale.com. Post your sale by May 12 to receive a free reusable garage sale sign.

(More information on page 4.)

MHNA GENERAL MEETING

METCALFE PARK, BY PLAYGROUND

JUNE 8, 2010, 7:00 P.M.

We will focus on the city parks, trees and what it will mean to have a new City Forester. (More information on page 1.)

MHNA GENERAL MEETING

HARRISON SCHOOL LIBRARY (USE SOUTH ENTRANCE)

SEPT. 7, 2010 7:00 P.M.

Topics and speakers TBA.

Neighborhood Historical Facts

Charles Street was named after Charles W. Hamilton who was the postmaster of Omaha for 47 days in 1859. Hamilton was a financier, backer of the Grand Hotel, and president of the U.S. National Bank in 1896.

How did Saddle Creek Road get its name? According to the Omaha World-Herald, a man heading out west to strike it rich mining for gold didn't get very far when a saddle fell from his wagon and into a creek. When the road was established, it became known as "Saddle Creek Road."

Thank You to Our Block Captains

Thank you to all of our neighbors who have volunteered to be block captains: **Ralph and Doty Ellenberger, Alice Holmes, Gus Von Roenn, Sean Conway, Brad and Kathryn Hove, Tanya Seina, Sione and Karen Heimuli, Jeff Maier, Mark Volenec, Peter Hamel, Lucy Kennedy, Nancy Hawkette, Tim Becic, Terri and Wes Grunke, Yvonne Rucker, Olin Dirks, Jon Iverson, Gary and Debbie Rosenberg, Mike Colvin, Pat Kies Mueller, Connie Simmons, John and Trish Mitchell, Larry and Catherine Sosso, Jo Bartikoski and Don Wesling, Marilyn King, Marian Fey, Pam Bordner.**

If you are reading this newsletter, you probably received it from one of our block captains. Each captain is responsible for delivering newsletters to a two-block area four times per year. We are looking for more block captains. This volunteer service is a great way to meet more MHNA members, provides opportunities to stroll through the neighborhood, and saves the organization about \$2,000 per year in postage. Other volunteer opportunities are also available. Please indicate your interest in volunteering when you join or renew your association membership, or feel free to contact any MHNA board member.

Waiting List Available for Dundee Community Garden Plots

Looking to get involved in the Dundee Community Garden? If you haven't already secured your plot, you will have to get on the waiting list for next year.

Located across from the Underwood Towers apartments on the corner of Underwood Avenue and 49th Street, the Dundee Community Garden is already planted and ready for a busy growing season, according to one organizer, Jo Bartikoski. The garden provides 44 plots for rent at a cost of \$20 per season. Plots are sized at 4-feet-by-10-feet. Gardening tools and water are provided to plot renters. In addition to the rented plots, the garden also has four community plots. All produce grown on the community plots are donated to a local food pantry. Those who rent a plot are expected to provide eight hours of volunteer work on the community plots throughout the course of the season.

While all the plots have been claimed, the garden will host a number of free public events throughout the summer:

-Sat., May 15, 10-11 a.m.: Introduction to Gardening: Heirloom Plants and Open Pollination. (Relocated to A.V. Sorenson Community Center, 48th and Cass, in event of rain.)

-Sun., June 13, 3-4 p.m.: Dundee Community Garden Ice Cream Social, \$1 donation requested

A list of other local gardening classes and events – including classes about composting and gardening with children – is available at the Dundee Community Garden website, www.dundeegarden.org.

If you are interested in having your own plot, Dundee Community Garden organizers recommend getting on the waiting list now to secure a plot for next year. To get on the waiting list, contact Mary Green at McGreen4@cox.net. For more information about the Dundee Community Garden and its events, visit www.dundeegarden.org.

Benson-Ames Alliance Spring Update: Think Green – Have a Garage Sale May 22



Greetings from the Benson-Ames Alliance! In celebration of spring, we are hosting our first ever Big Green Garage Sale Saturday, May 22. How can the Metcalfe-Harrison

Neighborhood Association participate? All residents, schools, churches and other organizations in the Benson-Ames Alliance – which includes your association - are encouraged to hold a garage sale on that date.

Once you figure out what you're going to sell, you can post your sale information free of charge on www.biggreengaragesale.com. Just click on the "Got Stuff to Sell?" link, fill out the fields and hit submit. If you have any problems adding your information, call 402-554-4010.

If you post your sale before May 12, you will receive a reusable garage sale sign to help draw street and sidewalk traffic to your event.

You'll be able to pick up your sign Friday, May 14, at Andrea Maleki State Farm Insurance (6068 Maple St., Suite B) from 9:00am to 5:00pm or Saturday, May 15, at the Benson Branch of the Omaha Public Library from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

The alliance is also encouraging all those who hold a sale to donate a percentage of their proceeds to a local nonprofit or cause, green or otherwise. If you don't have a favorite, we've got a list of groups for you to consider in the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of the web site.

Help reduce what goes in our landfill. Help raise a bit of money for good causes. Plan your garage sale today. We'll see you May 22!

- Lisa Dale, Chairperson
Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council

Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association

Membership Form

Be a part of the Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association. The Association works for you and your neighborhood. Did you know that it is MHNA that sponsors Dumpster Days, the doggie bags in the park, Movie Night in the Park and bowling outings?

Call Jon if you want to know if your dues are current.

Send form and check to:

Jon Iverson

1612 Happy Hollow Blvd.

Omaha, NE 68104

Annual Dues	
Family	\$10
Senior/Single	\$8
Church/School	\$8
Business	\$25

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ (never given out, for information only)

Type of Membership: Family Senior/Single Church/School Business

For Business Listings:

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Phones: _____ Website: _____

I am interested in volunteer opportunities

Do not list my name in the newsletter