

“THE PLEASANT SIDE” Newsletter

Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association

Volume 14, Issue 4

October-November-December 2008

*Come to our meetings:
Charless Home 7:00pm*

4430 Nebraska

- November 19, 2008
- January 28, 2009
- March 25, 2009



MPNA Board

President: Joe Davis
Vice Pres: Steve Limmer
Secretary: Cheryl Teeter
Treasurer: Janet Utley
Other Individuals:
Greg Hobbs
Jennifer Windler
Tony Duncan
LaGina Taylor
Catherine Mood
Connie Petty
Donna Bryant
Sue Luepker

MPNA preparing for “Share the Holiday” Festival Wednesday Evening—November 19, 2008



Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association’s annual Holiday celebration is currently being planned by the Board. Last year’s event was well received, so we are continuing with the same format—yet bigger and better! The Board would like to extend an invitation for our members and sponsors to come join us for a festive filled evening! The November meeting date is scheduled for November 19, at 7:00pm. Our celebration will center once again on two local service agencies. These two organizations will be receiving contributions from our membership. We are helping “Santa’s Helpers, Inc.” and “Hole in the Roof Ministry Center”. More information about the important services provided by these two agencies can be found in this newsletter. We only ask that our membership bring any of the items listed by these agencies.

The Association will be hosting many fun activities during the evening festival. We will be playing various Holiday games. There will be cash prizes for each winner, along with many attendance prizes. We have sustained many sponsors for this event, allowing us to up the cash value of the prizes. We also have some very nice attendance prizes for this event. Not only will there be cash prizes and attendance prizes, we will also be serving refreshments. The Charless Home is graciously supplying a delicious sheet cake, along with beverages, supplies, and decorations. We will also be having the “White Elephant” gift exchange. If you would like to participate, please follow the guidelines listed. 1.) A white elephant is something that you have in your home that you really don’t need. 2.) The white elephant gift needs to be wrapped. 3.) To get a white elephant gift, you must bring one.

We hope to see everyone come and participate in our festive evening event. Mark your calendar and remember to join us for the start of the 2008 Holiday season.



Corporate, Sustaining (Supporting), & General Members

77 Members strong

June 1, 2008 till May 31, 2009

77 Members strong

\$40 CORPORATE MEMBERS

A Big Difference Sign Co.

4460 Virginia Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63111
314.481.6698

Alderman Kenneth Ortman

Alderman Matthew Villa

Brian & Roberta Bast

Bluffs On Broadway

c/o Mark Widman
4708 South Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63118

Crawford Tire & Auto

4759 Nebraska Ave
St. Louis, MO 63111
314.351.3303

The Original Crusoe's Restaurant

3152 Osceola St.
St. Louis, MO 63111
314.351.0620

Anthony Duncan – Architect

4527 Virginia Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63111
314.650.4385

Good Shepherd Academy

5500 Virginia Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63111
314.351.5437

Feasting Fox Restaurant

4200 South Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63111
314.352.3500

Rose Fox

G.C.I., Inc

3214 Meramec
St. Louis, MO 63118
314.481.8886

Greg Hobbs & Allen Kunzie

Our Lady's Inn

4223 South Compton Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63111
314.351.4590

Connie Petty

\$40 CORPORATE MEMBERS

continued...

Southern Commercial Bank

3207 Meramec St
St. Louis, MO 63111
314.832.2880

State Farm Insurance

c/o Jake Schillinger
5229 South Grand
St. Louis, MO 63111
314.832.2880

***Winkelmann Sons Drug Co. ***

3300 Meramec St.
Saint Louis, MO 63111
314.353.3300

\$25 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Caya Aufiero
Joseph Davis
Janey DeSmedt & Paula Meyers
Wallace Dittrich
Tom & Marion Eckhard
Nadine Eimer
Franciscan Connection
Susie Val Eggemann
Anne Fuhler
Ted Funkhouser & Harry Glen
Harbaugh's Hair Center
Doug Haskins
Betty Huber
Alderwoman Dorothy Kirner
Nelson & Linda Laffey
Maggie Lampe
Meramec Market
Alderman Craig Schmid
Alice Schwald
St. Anthony of Padua Church
David & Cindy Szymanski
Leo & Eleanor Szymanski
Earnest & Diana Thomas
Lia Toedte & Nila Gorman
Thomas Villa
Alfred & Marcella Weigel

\$10 GENERAL MEMBERS

Rita Barlows
Jane & Darron Borella
Donna Bryant
Barbara Burkard

Richard & Kathy Hampton
Eleen Harris
Sheila Harris
Muriel Hofman
Jewell Jones
Henry & Peggy Kellerman
Judy Kemp
Janice Kuehnle
Ruth Meuser
Amir Mirsaeedi
Catherine Mood
George Moore
Jonda Moritz
Karen Parson
Jim & Bev Petty
Grace Phillips
Robert Pikul
Ed & Dolores Roach
Amy Schafer
Margaret Schmitt
Maurice Shannon
Gena Simone
Mike & Ann Smart
Cheryl Teeter
Janet Utley
Voiture Locale No. 38
Dennis White
Shawn Williams
Jennifer & Jason Windler

WE

STILL

HAVE

ROOM

FOR

YOUR

MPNA

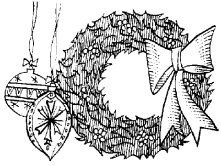
MEMBERSHIP

FOR

2008-2009

PROUD SPONSORS

of the MPNA "Sharing the Holidays" Festival 2008



Anthony Duncan Architects—\$50 cash

Connie Petty—\$50 cash

Bluffs on Broadway—\$50 cash

Alderman 9th Ward, Ken Ortman—\$50 cash

Alderman 13th Ward, Fred Wessels—\$100 cash

A Big Difference Sign Co.—\$50 cash

Jim the Plumber—\$50 cash

Crawford Tire & Auto Center—donation

The Charless-Bethesda Home—donation

Greenfields Custom Interiors—donation

The Original Crusoe's Restaurant—donation

Angie Singler—donation

Dutchtown South Community Corp.—donation

Alderman 25th Ward, Dorothy Kirner—\$50 cash

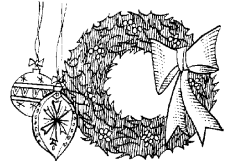
Kress Law Firm, LLC—\$50 cash

Jake Schillinger, Agent—State Farm—\$50 cash

Alderman 11th Ward, Matt Villa—\$50 cash

Meramec Market—\$100 cash

Shane Cohn—\$50 cash



Santa's Helpers

Who are Santa's Helpers? They are a 100% volunteer not for profit organization, which spends an entire year collecting gifts for needy families. Their purpose is to show the less fortunate that someone really cares. Santa's Helpers began in 1966 when Rita Swiener heard from a professor about a poor family that had fallen through the crack of social support, and would not be helped over Christmas. She and a few friends sprang into action with gifts for every member of that family. Since that day, thousands of children have had a Christmas visit from Santa, bearing personalized gifts for them and their family. Rita says, "When I walk into those and see the joy on those little faces and the tear in their mothers' eyes—I don't know how I could ever stop." Last year, Santa's Helpers, Inc. delivered over 16,000 gifts to over 2300 children and their families in the Metro St. Louis area who would not have received a gift otherwise. This dedicated group of volunteers starts the day after Christmas, collecting donations and gifts for the following holiday season. The agency obtains their names of needy children from Catholic Charities, Dream Factory (Children's, Shriner's, and Cardinal Glennon Hospitals), Homeless Shelters, Churches, Jewish Family & Children Services, Schools, Big Brother, Big Sisters, and local charities in St. Louis, Metro East, Jefferson, and Franklin counties.

Below are a few of the stories from Santa's Helpers, Inc. Please read how this agency has assisted many families.

Story 1: Mr. M. has full custody of his four children. Two of his children have cancer. Although Mr. M's employer has been supportive; Mr. M. has missed many days of work due to the medical needs of his children. This, along with the trips to St. Louis, has put a strain on his budget as well as his old station wagon. The children know there might not be any toys this Christmas. Mr. M. wrote, "I understand you sometimes allow the parents a "wish list". If this is so and you give my kids any toy that requires batteries, please for my gift, give me batteries." His children did receive some battery operated toys and Dad got a case of batteries plus a gift for him. (referred by SLCH)

Story 2: Ms. R called Santa's Helpers on Dec. 22, so her 8 yr. Old could talk to Santa. This was important to her, as they both knew he would be getting no gifts this year. She told her son Santa would not be able to find them. (they had left an extremely abusive situation in the middle of the night and were hiding at a friend's house) When Ms. R. was informed of what Santa's Helpers does, she offered to clean our houses in exchange for a few toys for her son. When "Santa" got on the phone and asked the boy what he wanted for Christmas he replied, "My bike, we couldn't take it." Santa said his sleigh was very full this late and what else would he like. The young boy said, "anything would be ok." On Dec. 23, someone brought in a boy's bike. This young boy got his bike along with other toys. Ms. R. cried watching her son hug Santa. The youngster had written a thank-you note to Santa. He had started not to believe in Santa, but now he always will. (referred by a social agency)

Story 3: A needy family with three boys was expecting a Christmas Eve delivery from Santa's Helpers. Due to bad weather, Santa's caravan arrived close to 11pm. Three sleepy but excited boys watched as Santa started pulling their gifts out of the bag. When bagging the gifts for this family, Rita Swiener, our Executive Director, recalled a very expensive pair of boots had been donated and sat around the warehouse for over a month since we mainly do toys, not shoes. A volunteer had bought them for her son, who wore them once, didn't like them and wouldn't wear them again. Although Rita had no way of knowing the oldest boy's shoe size, she decided to dust off the box and give him the boots as an extra gift. With two younger boys, they would fit someone. At 2am, Santa called Rita to tell her this young boy had started jumping up and down, screaming, "my boots, my boots", when he opened the box. They fit perfectly. His mom had explained that he only asked for boots for Christmas. She hadn't allowed him to go outside to play because she was afraid he would ruin his only pair of shoes. The mom was puzzled as to how the agency knew his size.

Seriously ill children, along with their siblings, are allowed to make a **WISH LIST**. The following types of items are requested: MP3 players; jewelry making kits (for 12-16 yr. olds); remote control cars; models (cars) for ages 15+; white polo shirts—school uniform shirts—kids sizes 10,12, and 14; hoodies—adult LG (kids wear them really large) **NO BLUE OR RED**; Scrabble and hand held video games; Spiderman and Batman action figures; Lego sets for older kids (9-12); educational baby toys (18 months—3 years); teen boy gifts (15-17)





Hole in the Roof

Ministry Center

What is Hole in the Roof? Hole in the Roof Ministry Center was birthed from a vision to help people who are hurting find peace, love, wholeness, healing, and empowerment from a relationship with Jesus Christ. In Luke chapter five of the Bible, the story is told of the men who brought a paralyzed man to Jesus for healing. They were so desperate to help their friend that they cut a hole in the roof of the building and lowered their friend to the feet of Jesus. We here at Hole in the Roof Ministry Center have the same heart cry as those men in the Bible. We want to help people find that lasting loving relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Hole in the Roof Ministry Center is founded on these basic core values:

1. We are a church that wants to reach the lost and minister to the hurting. We believe the Church is supposed to be a place where people can come to find healing without judgment. All that is being done should be Christ centered, Biblical, holistic, use grass roots people, and provide spiritual accountability.
2. We are a church that reaches out to the community we live in through various outreach ministries that empower individuals to change their lives. Empowerment has three components: Design a plan, teach responsibility, and always remember do not do for a person what they can do for themselves. It is so important to listen to the people being served and help them find empowerment.
3. We are a church that wants to promote unity, social justice, and healing in our community and in the Body of Christ. We want to train, develop, and support leaders for service both in the church and in the community. Our love for Christ should break down every racial, social, or economic barrier.

One of our ministries is the "Bread of Life Outreach". The image that arises in the minds of most people when food pantry is mentioned is one of lines of people standing outside of a church waiting to be handed their bag of food. At Hole in the Roof Ministry Center, our goal is not to be a typical food pantry. In fact, we do not even consider ourselves a food pantry. Our Bread of Life Outreach is a food resource ministry that seeks to break the cycle of dependency. We seek empower individuals to discover what has brought them to this point in their lives and then guide them through the steps to freedom. The Bread of Life Outreach is every Tuesday, at 5470 Gravois Avenue. Hours on Tuesday mornings are 11:00am to 1:00pm, and Tuesday evenings are 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Individuals coming for the first time need to bring the following items with them: 1.) Driver's license or State I.D. ; 2.) Proof of all income (paycheck stubs, food stamp letters, social security award letters, etc.) ; 3.) A utility bill with your name and current address listed on it.

We would like to say Thank You so much for offering to help out our Bread of Life Outreach with the generous donation of items. At Hole in the Roof Ministry Center, we help about 150 individuals each month with food resources and personal hygiene items. Last Tuesday, we had our largest influx of new clients. The numbers seem to be growing each week with the poor economy and all. This past June, we moved into our new location at 5470 Gravois Avenue. In July, we reopened our Bread of Life Outreach and are planning on starting a new computer job skills training class later this year. We are also planning Bible Study groups, adult literacy classes, and an after school tutoring program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Paul Hamilton at either this email: holeintheroof@sbcglobal.net ; or phone: 314-558-1383 ; or visit our website at www.holeintheroof.org - Thanks again for your assistance and help.



Important Numbers

Police Numbers

Police Emergency—911 Non Emergency—231-1212
 Police Hotline—241-2677
 Area One Main #(1st, 2nd, 3rd Dist) - 444-0100
 Watch Commander—444-0131
 1st Dist Problem Property—Officer E. Reece—444-0171
 1st Dist Public Affairs—Officer T. Bottini—444-0176

Other Numbers

Aid for Victims of Crime, INC.—652-3623
 Call-A-Ride—652-2600
 Child Abuse Hotline—1-800-392-3737
 Housing Analysis—C.D.A.—622-3400
 Meals On Wheels—268-1523
 Neighborhood Housing—533-0600 Ext. 126
 Operation Brightside—722-4646
 Operation Safestreet—622-3444
 Poison Control Center—777-5200
 St. Louis Agency on Aging—612-5946
 Women’s Abuse Shelter—533-1313

City Service

Mayor’s Office—622-3201
 Alley Lights (give address & pole number) - 342-1000
 Animal Regulation Center—353-5838
 Board of Election Commissioners—622-4201
 Building Division Inspection Section—622-4671
 Citizen’s Service Bureau—
 Request for all City issues—622-4800
 City Government Services Information Line—622-3600
 Neighborhood Stabilization Office—Main—622-4628
 9th Ward—NSO Dena Hibbard—613-3109
 20th Ward—NSO Barb Potts—613-3083
 25th Ward—NSO Dianne Rains—613-7146

Alderpersons

Board of Alderman—Main Exchange—622-3287
 9th Ward Alderman—Ken Ortmann—776-0161
 20th Ward Alderman—Craig Schmid—589-6816
 25th Ward Alderwoman—Dorothy Kirner—351-5346

MPNA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please mark the membership status you would like:

_____ General Membership / \$10 _____ Sustaining Membership / \$25 _____ Corporate Membership / \$40

_____ Check if you are a NEW member joining us for the first time.

I would like more information on:

_____ Volunteering _____ Committees _____ Meetings _____ Serving on Board

Mail to:

Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association

PO Box 18662

Saint Louis, MO 63118-9998

NEIGHBORS CORNER – Fall 2008

by Joe Davis – President – MPNA



Some of our streets are now getting new asphalt again this year - your tax dollars at work. If you are in need of sidewalk repairs or replacement, please contact your Alderman to see if you can be put on the 50/50 program, the City, if approved may pay up to 50% of the cost. This could be a huge cost savings for you as a home owner. If you are a business and you plan exterior repairs or improvements, contact your Alderman to see if any help is available to share some of that cost. We do have some programs in place that can help improve the look of our area; all you have to do is ask your Alderman what is available.

The A-B Quarry on Virginia 4700 block now has the new wrought iron fence, grass had been planted, and they are almost finished. The project has taken a little longer than anticipated, but they have also worked very well with the neighborhood to make this area appear nice visually. Rod has informed me that we should not have to worry about the maintenance any longer. They have someone to oversee the upkeep of the grounds. We encourage any business or residence that will be

replacing or adding new fencing along the frontage of Virginia to please use wrought iron, so we can visually look uniform throughout the area. I think most of you would agree it is a tastefully done accent.

The economy may look bleak in many areas, but in our neighborhood we have new construction on South Broadway. A new O'Reilly's Auto Parts Center will open soon, next to where the old Blockbuster was. One of our well known restaurants here, Crusoe's, has expanded his business with a much larger dining room, a larger bar in back, and a bigger parking lot. Please check his new additions out at the corner of South Compton & Osceola.

When Dutchtown South Community Corp. did their yearly Garden Awards, more than half of the awards went to home owners and businesses in Mt. Pleasant. Take a drive and you will see that many people are now gardening more than ever. Think about how your property can look with just a few minor improvements of landscape. Nicely done landscape can account for as much as 20% of your appraised value, nice trees on a vacant lot are a valuable cost on an appraisal.

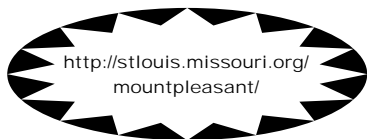
We need more people to be Block Coordinators (Captains) to help keep people informed on your block. Call Connie at Dutchtown office 352-4865 for more info and helpful materials to give out to your neighbors. We are told that when the economy takes a dip that crime can go up, be watchful of your surroundings, and report any suspicious behavior to the Police.

We also need volunteers to help keep Mount Pleasant Park areas clean for our kids to play safe. Just a few minutes in or around the park, you will see what a difference it will make for everyone. Want to get involved, even the small things help, call 351-3616.

**FALL EDITION:
OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER—2008**

Write us at:
MOUNT PLEASANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 18662
SAINT LOUIS, MO 63118-9998

Email: thepleasantside@yahoo.com



Additional Information

GRAFFITI

Call 911 to report anyone vandalizing with graffiti. Call 622-4800 immediately to have it removed. We have zero tolerance for graffiti.

WELCOME NEW HOME OWNERS-TENANTS

We send a warm 'Welcome to the Neighborhood' to all who have recently moved into MT. Pleasant. Let us know the address of any new people who have moved in and we will send them a copy of our newsletter and a welcome letter. You can inform us at the general meeting of January, March, May, July, September, or November.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Would you be willing to distribute The Pleasant Side to your block? If so, thank you and please inform us at the general meeting of January, March, May, July, September, or November. We will get you the copies you need. Remember that something so simple could encourage other neighbors on your block to get involved.