

# FOPARSE NEWS & VIEWS

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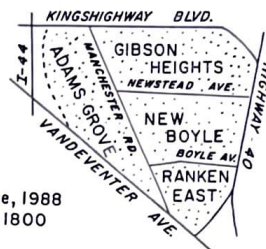
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FOREST PARK SOUTHEAST  
"IN THE CENTER OF ST. LOUIS"



## THIS ISSUE: C.D.A. STUDY, POLICE WALK, BLOCK UNIT NEWS

Concerned Citizens of Forest Park Southeast, an independent nonpolitical, nonprofit organization, publishes FOPARSE NEWS & VIEWS. Neither the Housing Corporation nor any block unit is affiliated with NEWS & VIEWS. NEWS & VIEWS are printed as a community service by Center Bank, the bank that considers all of St. Louis to be its neighborhood.

### C.D.A. STUDY by K. Chaffe

EDITOR'S NOTE: A confidential, preliminary Community Development Agency (CDA) study of the residential area west of Kingshighway and the 44-4500 blocks between Manchester and Hwy 40 was mistakenly released to the public. A preliminary study is only a working copy, proposals included in it are considered, evaluated and either dropped or expanded upon in the final report.

Because a representative of CDA stated that the report was available to the public, several copies were duplicated and distributed. These eventually made their way around the neighborhood producing rumors of varying accuracy. So as to "lay the rumors to rest" NEWS & VIEWS is publishing a selective summary of the report. Already several parts are being changed according to a letter to the Housing Corp from the report's authors. When available, the final report will be summarized here.

The preliminary CDA study defined 44-4500 blocks as part of a larger area (FPSE) which has experienced extensive blight and disinvestment. Stabilization of this smaller area is affected by conditions of the larger area. Crime and the perceptions of crime are seen as one of the major barriers to redevelopment. The report continues, "Loitering, drug dealing and gangs contribute to the insecurity...The lack of moderate-income home owners who have a stake in the neighborhood contributes to the lack of concern... for neighborhood problems." Despite negative perceptions, the study states that the 44-4500 blocks have strong enough points to create a good housing market.

The report targets three critical subareas: the Cadet-Manchester "vedge", Newstead Ave. and the blighted area east of Newstead. It suggests that it may be necessary to expand the available land of the "vedge" by removing housing along Cadet and possibly eliminating the street in order to attract a commercial developer.

So as to isolate the 44-4500 blocks from commercial traffic and create a buffer from the blighted area to the east, the study suggests closing the intersections of Newstead with Chouteau, Gibson, Arco and Oakland. Taylor would then be the sole street access to the residential area. Commercial traffic would be directed to the east.

The study proposes that the area east of Newstead and north of Manchester be reserved for future commercial—not residential—development. It suggests that the city should begin a program of strategic property acquisition for future commercial/industrial development. In the final report this section is reportedly replaced by a proposal that the area east of Newstead be made the subject of its own CDA study so as to more fairly evaluate its residential potential.

Other goals cited in the study include:  
—Clean and landscape buildings on Manchester so as to improve the looks of the buildings, but no redevelopment in the short term.  
—Improve performance of absentee landlords whose buildings are frequently cited by inspectors.

### SHALOM HOUSE by G. Albers

MetroMinistry has begun a new ministry: sheltering the homeless. Shalom House United Methodist, a night shelter for single homeless women, opened September 1 at the Metro facility. The shelter accommodates fourteen women (soon to be twenty), providing an evening meal, activities, breakfast and a safe, comfortable bed. Metro's Shalom House is part of St. Louis Shelter System. This means the Salvation Army Reception Center screens and refers guests and the American Red Cross provides transportation for them. Screening contributes to the safety of our guests, volunteers and neighbors. There are no "walk ins" from the street, so there will never be people lining up outside Metro's doors hoping to "get a bed". In the evening the Red Cross van brings the assigned ladies to the door. Supervisors lock the doors for the night. In the morning the ladies leave in the vans.

Volunteers are needed to help in the evenings (6-9:00 PM) and to stay overnight in the shelter with our staff. The ladies are delightful people, so volunteers are afforded some wonderful fellowship time. If interested, call Gay Albers at 534-1010 or come by during metro's regular hours.

### NORMA RANDALL—V.I.P. in FPSE by J. Jackels

Norma Randall lives in the 4400 block of Arco and has three children, two boys and one girl. She is very active in neighborhood affairs. Norma is night director for Shalom House at Metro Ministries, youth director for City Life Youth Group, an election judge and vice president of Ranken Health Clinic. She was director of St. Cronon's social services for three years and co-director of their youth program. After leaving St. Cronon's, Norma earned an associate degree in Human Services and Criminal Law from Forest Park Community College.

Norma is well known in FPSE, especially by the youth. She is out and about in the neighborhood, always ready to lend a hand. Watch for her to become more politically involved in the future.

Nominate someone you know to be the FPSE person of the month. The nominee should be someone who contributes time and energy to the neighborhood, but who may not be well known.

### ADAMS AFTER SCHOOL by R. Carpenter

Adams Community Center Fund and Mullanphy Community School have opened a program of after school activities for children in the Adams gym. Activities are scheduled for Monday through Thursday from 3:00 to 5:30 PM.

A DANCE/DRILL TEAM class for girls, third grade or older, will be held on Monday and Wednesday from 3 to 4 PM. Ms. Tonya

Groves, a high school senior with several years of dance and drama instruction and with experience in teaching dance at Mullanphy, will be the instructor.

Also on Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 5 PM will be a KARATE class. The instructor, Michael "Spider" Russel, is an active competitor in both amateur and professional tournaments and was schooled in Shorin-Ryu style. This course will be open to boys and girls, third grade or older.

Tuesdays and Thursdays will open at 3 PM with FLOOR HOCKEY training. From 4 to 5:30 various ART, CRAFTS and GAME activities will be available. Volunteers are requested to help supervise these activities for the children in grades 1 to 5.

Mr. Steven Gillispie will serve as supervisor of the Gym and leader of the Tuesday and Thursday activities.

If you have suggestions of additional activities and programs for children or adults at the Adams facility, please call Robert Carpenter at Mullanphy Community School after 1 PM. 772-9550.

### HOUSING CORP. NEWS by K. Chaffe

The Housing Corporation did not meet in September. Prior to the October Meeting Jackie Jackels resigned from the Board and is temporarily replaced by her alternate, Karl Chaffe.

At the October meeting Bernice Matlock stepped down as acting president. Jerry Scherer, Block Unit 5, was elected president and Bernice Matlock vice president. Sam McRee's new representative to the Housing Corp. is Ronald Gines from Adams Grove. Newton McCoy is his alternate.

Several changes in the corporation's by-laws were proposed including adding the requirement that president and vice president must reside in FPSE and deleting the requirement that the representative of Sam McRee must live within the Sam McRee area. A similar exception is allowed for the WMURC representative. These changes will be voted on at the November meeting.

Jan Elder, director of the Housing Corp. announced that she will be resigning in January and returning to Seattle.

Two committees were formed, a search committee—to find a new director, and an absentee landlord committee—to identify and work with problem landlords.

### SAFE HALLOWEEN by G. Albers

The City Life Youth Group is sponsoring a fun-filled Halloween for children, ages 5 to 10. We'll go to Tower Grove Park for hayrides, story telling and a haunted garden. Transportation and supervision provided. Groups leave every 40 minutes from Metro at Taylor and Gibson. CALL MARY AT 534-1010 to sign up. Tower Grove Park trips begin at 4:40.

Movies/cartoons will be shown at Metro starting at 4:30. Children can come just for the movies. At 7:00 we go trick-or-treating in the neighborhood. "SAFE HOUSE" signs will be available if you would like to be visited—call Metro if you can not trick-or-treaters. Parents can collect their children at Metro at 8:15 PM. There is no cost, but children going to T.G. Park must register early.

### BLOCK UNIT NEWS by Staff

#### GIBSON HEIGHTS BLOCK UNIT 5

At the September meeting of block unit 5 President Maud Essen encouraged members to speak positively of the neighborhood to potential neighbors. She proposed that the block unit publicly recognize developers who have done outstanding work in FPSE. Essen also noted the need for the reestablishment of the Neighborhood Watch program.

Block Unit 5 voted to plant an oak tree in honour of past president John Bryan who recently moved from the neighborhood.

In other business a representative from Jonron Development reported that the Lamskin Temple is almost fully rented. Alderman Roddy stated that he has finally begun addressing crime in the area (see CRIME BEAT) and that Anheuser Bush will demolish the service station on the Cadet-Manchester wedge. Roddy stated that because of conflicts between the historic district plan and proposals in the preliminary CDA study (see CDA STUDY), he was waiting for the final CDA report before formally proposing the historic district designation. He also announced the upcoming job fair at Adams school. Block Unit 5 meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the basement of the Church of the Living God at Gibson and Kingshighway.

#### GIBSON HEIGHTS BLOCK UNIT 6

At the September Meeting of Block Unit 6 President Richard Sandall announced that the organization has been chartered as a nonprofit corporation. Special thanks go to the SLU Legal Clinic for assistance. It was reported that all but two of the units in the Oakland Row House have been sold and that developer Michael Curran plans to begin another project in FPSE as soon as another sells. Jackie Jackels was honoured by the group for being one of 50 winners in the Post-Dispatch contest on ways to improve St. Louis. Gay Albers addressed the group regarding the Shalom House (see SHALOM HOUSE). Block Unit 6 meets at 7:00 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Gibson Heights Church at Taylor and Arco.

#### NEW BOYLE

New Boyle Improvement Association is active again. The association serves the area bounded by Newstead, Boyle, Manchester and Hwy 40. At the September meeting President Ida Fields stated, "The block unit is here to make a better neighborhood, not to put people out. We are neighbors in a community and trying to do the best we know how. We may not have a lot of money, but we do have each other." She cited the first goal of the organization will be to work to get the streets and alleys clean.

Doris Dednawa, a Southwestern Bell employee and second generation resident of the neighborhood, was elected vice president at the meeting.

Perhaps the philosophy of the organization was best expressed by member Ralph Mason when he said, "In unity there is strength. We all have to work together. Everybody has to sacrifice to get things done. Don't just say, go it, do it!"

The NBI meets the last Monday of the month at 7:30 at 4210 Gibson.



# TALK

by V. Woods

Some people say that talk is cheap; This I do not believe. Because one word of gossip can cause a heart to grieve. True, talk means nothing when it's just A lot of chatter. Then, on the other hand, good will can help us climb the ladder. To me, talk is a treasure When put to honest use; But those who speak without forethought Are guilty of abuse. Remember what I've written, When you're inclined to speak. If you can not say something good, Your words are truly weak.

# CRIME BEAT

by Maud Essen, Crime Reporter

MEETING: Third District Police Captain Gary Perkins breakfasted with a group of concerned citizens from FPSE on August 18. Perkins stated that he has an open door policy. Neighborhood representatives can bring their concerns directly to him. He was disappointed that FPSE residents were unaware that extra patrols had been in our neighborhood since March.

Perkins encouraged the group to organize Neighborhood Watch programs in FPSE. Elsewhere, it has reduced crime by 27-29%. Neighborhood Watch teaches residents to be effective observers, witnesses and reporters of criminal activity. Perkins stressed that it can help supplement the understaffed Third District police force. He supported the South of Forty Security Association (SFSa) patrol, but implied that such a group is not a substitute for Neighborhood Watch. SFSa made about 90 arrests during Fall of '87 and spring '88. Frequent and direct communication between the Third District and FPSE is crucial to effective crime deterrence. To report a crime or suspicious activity phone 911.

FOOT PATROLS: In September Perkins assigned police foot patrols to FPSE for several evenings. We are the second neighborhood to receive this service. The patrol consists of 10 officers and their supervisor, Sgt. Dan Duffy. The officers walk a beat in predetermined sections of FPSE in teams of two. Duffy drives through the area and radios the officers about incidents in their sectors. The foot Patrol also maintain radio contact with the dispatcher, so a call to 911 is immediately brought to their attention. Perkins anticipates keeping criminals off-guard by periodically returning the patrols to FPSE.

Most arrests by the Foot Patrol in FPSE were alcohol violations, but there were also 2 felony (1 drug related) and 3 miscellaneous arrests during a 7 day period. Fifteen of those arrested had bench warrants against them. Duffy also wrote 37 parking tickets, issued 11 traffic citations and conducted 55 field interviews.

FPSE residents responded positively to the Foot Patrol, displaying signs and banners of appreciation, speaking to officers as they walked the beat and opening their homes so the officers could take breaks, if duties allowed. FPSE showed its appreciation by hosting a light supper for the patrolmen at the Housing Corporation. Manchester AG and the Housing Corp. provided the food. These efforts impressed the officers, many of whom only meet the criminal element in FPSE rather than the responsible citizens who work hard to improve the area.

WARNING: Officer Rick Heagney advises that theft of late-model U.S. autos is up in FPSE. He suggests buying and using a bar device (#25 - 30) which fits between the pedals and the steering wheel to deter car thieves.

COLLEGE RESPONSE: Block Unit 3 President Maud Essen and a group of residents met with Dean Taylor Lindhorst of St. Louis College

of Pharmacy and officers of Phi Delta Chi Fraternity. The fraternity has sponsored beer parties at 4520 Oakland attended by hundreds of people. The parties spill out into the neighborhood and those living nearby have long tolerated of extreme noise, littering, drunken driving, public urination and parking problems. Past negotiations with the fraternity were unsuccessful and recently Phi Delta Chi had three parties in two months.

As a result of the meeting, Dean Lindhorst placed the fraternity on probation and banned open parties. The fraternity officers indicated that they are willing to send a representative to S.D. 5 meetings and work for improved relations. They also offered to perform beneficial neighborhood services. Phone your suggestions for possible services to Maud Essen (949-1314 or 531-8039).

# FOPARSE VIEWS

POLICY CHANGE: Because of problems which have developed regarding the use of author's initials, the following is now the papers policy:

Only signed letters will be considered for publication.

Names will be printed only upon request and if verified.

If there is no request to use the author's name, only the section of the neighborhood will be given.

Send letters to FOPARSE, P.O. Box 15060 Chouteau Station, St. Louis, Mo. 63110 or leave them at 4420 Arco Ave.

# ED.R. "negative campaigning"

BACKGROUND: Last election day, August 2, complaints were lodged against Steve Sorkin's campaign by his opponent, James Kelly, because of alleged similarity between JFK Democratic literature endorsing Sorkin and FDR Democratic literature supporting Kelly. Board of Elections (BOE) ordered the JFK literature confiscated. On appeal before the courts, Judge Dowd overturned the BOE's order and the JFK literature was distributed.

In a September 1 letter to the members of FDR Democratic Organization James Kelly and Antoinette Robinson, Democratic committeepersons of the 17th ward wrote, "While we, under normal circumstances, could sympathize with Jamie Kelly's opponent's lack of success in his quests to be elected to public office, we were so taken back by his negative campaigning and questionable tactics, as revealed by the Election Board, news media and personal observation, that rather than sympathize with him we believe that the reformer should be reformed." In addition, FDR members reportedly raised Sorkin's name at a public hearing on campaign literature.

NEWS & VIEWS is providing space for Sorkin's response to the committeepersons' accusations because it is uncertain whether the next FDR newsletter would do so. Kelly could not be reached and Robinson said that she did not know.

To the residents of the 17th ward,

News of the September 1 FDR letter accusing me of "negative campaigning and questionable tactics" and recent testimony at the BOE hearing on campaign literature demand that I set the record straight.

The decision by the BOE to confiscate the JFK literature on August 2 was clearly unconstitutional. Contrary to the impression given to the media, Judge Dowd found that the JFK literature was clearly labeled and identified, offered

significantly from my opponent's literature, made no false or misleading claims and was totally legal. He concluded this despite the fact that two attorneys - one for the BOE and the other for my opponent - as well as a state representative and the committeewoman tried to convince him otherwise.

Actions by the BOE clearly show that it is willing to attack Democratic reformers,

but unwilling to enforce the laws when broken by the 17th ward political machine.

Since I first ran in 1982, my campaigns repeatedly reported illegal behavior by workers for the machine. We have supplied BOE with specific names, places, times and actions of violators, but the BOE has done nothing. For example, in 1986 we reported election judges who gave incomplete and misleading information to elderly voters. The BOE did nothing.

No campaigning is allowed within 25ft of the door of the polling place. Yet, in 1984 and 1986 after we repeatedly complained about a political machine worker who walked voters INTO the polling place and told them how to vote, the BOE did nothing.

As a final example, in August's primary we called BOE several times to complain of violations at precinct 7. These violations included a prominent member of the ward machine entering the polling area illegally and another worker taking campaign literature from voters AT THE DOOR of the polling place. At one point an election judge came to the door and asked a ward machine worker to come in and assist a voter! Again the BOE did nothing.

For years the 17th ward machine has violated election day laws and the BOE has done nothing. In response to suggested improvements, the head of the BOE, Jerry Wanser, said that the improvements were "too much trouble". The 17th ward political machine acts as though it owns the polling places because it knows that it can get away with it.

Wanser and the BOE knuckled under to the frivolous charges of "deception" against me on August 2, but continues to ignore serious, documented allegations against the machine.

If anyone questions who practices "negative campaigning and questionable tactics", consider how the FDR Organization distorted the facts about the JFK campaign literature and then make your decision.

STEVE SORKIN

# REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION

## Singing His Praise

I think that we are the luckiest ward and neighborhood in the city to have an alderman like Joe Roddy. He is young and good looking and knows what he is doing. He is one of the people of our neighborhood. He can remember what it was like when he was a boy before it began to run down. With his fathers connections we are going to see this neighborhood come round real fast. Four years from now when Joe is up for reelection this place is going to be like it used to and from Kingshighway to Vandeventer people will be singing his praise.

ADAMS GROVE

## Bus Stop Dangers

I think the school bus should pick up kids somewhere else other than the corner of Gibson and Newstead. Thats the worse place for kids to have to wait cause of what goes on there. I got me three kids and I worry about them every morning till they on that bus. I seen young men and kids down there selling drugs to the kids who wait for busses. Everybody in the neighborhood knows that corner is the drug center for the neighborhood so why dont the school do something with them school busses.

NEW BOYLE

## Job Fair Discord

I couldn't believe my ears the other night when our alderman said that he had been spending his time organizing a job fair. What does he think he is, an employment agency? The government pays millions of tax dollars each year to find out where there are jobs and to advertise them at unemployment offices. What do we need this job fair for? Does the alderman think that

he is going to find jobs that the government can't? Does he think that businesses are going to create jobs just so they can be in the fair? This is just a lot of nonsense.

If people are looking for work, they should GO TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE!!!!

The politicians have let so many poor people into this neighborhood that now there just aren't enough patronage jobs to go around. The only reason for this job fair is so that our alderman can wave his arras at election time and say he found people jobs. When people in this neighborhood do get good jobs all they do is move away and more unemployed people move in.

# GIBSON HEIGHTS

## Letter to Loyal Opposition

M.J. You don't know the half of it. When the "people in power" do you a favor they don't just expect to be repaid in the voting booth, they expect repayment to begin weeks and months before. I made the mistake of getting their help in getting a job. I have been repaying that favor for years. Every time there's an election I am expected to drive people to meetings, put up signs, pass out literature, attend rallies and talk to my neighbors about their candidates. It doesn't matter if I like the candidate or not. I am expected to do all of this for no pay. If I complain, I am reminded that they got me my job and that good jobs are hard to come by. It reminds me of the movie about the mafia - the Godfather. They do you a favor and you owe them for life. I guess the 17th ward has its own Ranken Mafia.

NOT FROM FPSE

## Here And In Heaven

Why are you people always fighting in this neighborhood? Theres enough trouble in this world already so that we dont need no more. I wish we could have a big meeting and everybody could say whats bothering them and then we could all be friends and no one would have to be upset. God dont put us here to fight He put us here so that we could work together in His name. Whose in power aint as important as what they do with it. The people in power has got to learn to share it with some of them who wants it. Theres enough problems here for everyone who wants to work to have one to work on. As my gramma always use to tell me - love your neighbor and try to do something nice for them and God will award you here and in Heaven.

NEW BOYLE

## A Neighborhood Divided

I don't see how anyone can say that this is one neighborhood. Manchester divides us into two neighborhoods - the north and the south - just like the Mason and Dixon line used to divide the U.S. I don't see where we have much in common. All the renovation has been in the north where the politicians and the wealthy people live, the security group only operated in the north and now this foot patrol was only in the north. I also just found out that the north has got four people on that housing company and we only got one. I think that Adams Grove is treated like a poor cousin or stepchild in this neighborhood. What we ought to do is take our share of that housing office money and start an office of our own. It is easy to see that we are being used by the north.

ADAMS GROVE

