

# FOPARSE NEWS & VIEWS

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**DECEMBER, 1988**

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

## THIS ISSUE: WELCOME PAT GRIFFIN, CITY LIFE, LOTS OF LETTERS

Concerned Citizens of Forest Park Southeast, an independent nonpolitical, nonprofit organization, publishes FOPARSE NEWS & VIEWS. NEWS & VIEWS is printed as a community service by Center Bank, the bank that considers all of St. Louis to be its neighborhood.

### WELCOME PATRICIA GRIFFIN by K. CHAUFFE

Patricia Griffin is our new Neighborhood Liaison Officer and replaces Jane Rund in City Hall. She has a communications degree from Loyola University in New Orleans and has been active in political and community affairs in St. Louis, her home town.

As Liaison, Pat is the intermediary between residents and businesses in the 6, 8 and 17 Wards. Her job includes working with neighborhood groups, implementing programs such as Operations Brightside and SafeStreet, directing citizen complaints to proper agencies and assisting in special neighborhood projects such as house tours. In addition to working long hours at City Hall, Pat will also be attending two to three neighborhood meetings a week. When asked what she would like to tell residents of FPSE, she stated, "I look forward to working with all of you and acting as your liaison to city government. If you have any questions about city government, need assistance regarding city services, or have problems from potholes to holes in trash containers, I am the person to call." Her number at City Hall is 622-4661.

### NEW FOOD PANTRY

by M. JEFFERIES

Church of the Living God, 1034 S. Kingshighway - corner of Gibson and Kingshighway, is sponsoring a food pantry. It serves the elderly, infants and needy. According to program director Otis Burnell, the program is targeted to people in the 63110 zip code area, and funded by the church with additional support from Operation Food Search, Someone Cares Mission and the St. Louis Area Food Bank. Hours of operation are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 AM to 6 PM and Saturday 10 AM to 1 PM.

Besides Pastor S. E. Shannon and affairs liaison Evelyn Fields, program staff includes: Lillian Dumas, Mae Shelton, William Wright and J. D. Whitney.

Senior citizens in need of transportation to the church may call 534-9071. On December 17th at 2 PM there will be a Christmas party at the Church featuring Santa Claus, free toys and free clothes.

### HOUSING CORP NEWS by K. CHAUFFE

During the November meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously passed several changes to the Housing Corporation's by-laws. These included the requirement that the president and vice president reside within FPSE, that the representative of the Samuel McRee Redevelopment Corporation need not reside within its boundaries and that the representatives for the Samuel McRee and Washington University Medical Redevelopment Corps. may repeatedly succeed themselves on the board. Neighborhood representatives may succeed themselves only once.

Jan Elder, current executive director, announced that the Search Committee has chosen several prospective candidates to interview for her position. Suzanne Goodaan, WUMRC representative, was elected to replace Tom Goshen on the Search Committee. Goshen, B.U.7 representative, had stepped down from

the Board so as to apply for Elder's job. He has since withdrawn his application and resumed his board position.

The Board considered two requests for the Housing Office's obsolete OSBORNE computer system. B.U.6 proposed that the computer be available for organizational use by all of block units. Jane Rund, former Liaison Officer to FPSE, who is now director for Southwest Neighborhood Improvement Association, wants the computer donated to her office. The Board tabled both requests until it is known if the computer is functional and what its current market value is.

### EDITORIAL

#### DID S-P-T VOTING KILL

##### MEDASSIST?

Supporters of Amendment B, MedAssist, can in part blame its failure on straight-party-ticket voting. After voting the party ticket some voters stopped. They may have been unaware that a straight-party-ticket vote did not also register votes for the amendments or other issues. According to Board of Election statistics (11/18/88) in precincts six through ten of the 17th ward, voters cast 1562 votes for the major presidential candidates, but only 1313 votes on Amendment B. The difference between these numbers, 249 or 15%, may represent votes lost to the MedAssist Amendment because of straight-party-ticket voting.

Unfortunately, the design of the Democratic sample ballot for the 17th ward may have encouraged this misunderstanding by having arrows from the "yes" vote for Amendments 7 and 8 pointing toward the same line as "punch 9 -straight Democratic ticket."

When amendments are on the ballot, better voter education is necessary. Political parties publicly endorsing amendments should expend more effort informing the public of the need to vote for all the issues and less time encouraging them to just punch one number for the straight party ticket.

### BLOCK UNIT NEWS

by STAFF

#### ADAMS GROVE

President Bernice Matlock announced that the licence for a package liquor store on Vandeventer was denied because the location was within the area where new liquor outlets are prohibited. She also announced that in response to neighborhood protest, the city had revoked the licence of Trapino's Bar, 4371 Hunt. Yvonne Jacobs stated, "This shows what a neighborhood can do when everyone stands together." Following a presentation for Amendment B, Jackie Jackels announced that she needed to hire several people for the Adams-After-School Program. Mike Kovich, president of Executive Roofing Company, announced plans to renovate the storefront at 1100 Tower Grove and locate his business there, if he can obtain a zoning variance.

#### NEW BOYLE

B.U. 7 held an executive planning and review meeting in October. Topics discussed included neighborhood improvement and qualifications for and ways to increase membership. President Ida Fields stated that property owners have the most to gain by participating in the block unit because they have the most invested, but that renters can also benefit from joining with their neighbors and working

for a better neighborhood. She said, "This neighborhood is our home and we are the people who will have to work to improve it."

Doris Dednam, vice president, expressed concern that much of the area is continuing to decline. She urged for strong and prompt enforcement of city codes as one tool for neighborhood improvement.

Doctor Thomas Goshen, secretary-treasurer, announced that he was applying for the executive director's position with the FPSE Housing Corporation. Regarding neighborhood affairs he expressed the opinion that irreconcilable differences separate the east and west parts of the neighborhood. "Newstead", he stated, "forms a boundary and the people on opposite sides have different goals."

#### GIBSON HEIGHTS B.U. 5

Captain Gary Perkins, third district, addressed B.U.5's October meeting (see Crime Beat). Following a talk for the Amendment B (MedAssist), Pat Batson, alumnus of Phi Delta Chi Fraternity, spoke regarding complaints of large parties, public urination and litter lodged with the School of Pharmacy by B.U. 5 and several Oakland Avenue residents. He read a letter, reportedly co-signed by four Oakland neighbors, in support of the fraternity's contention that they are good neighbors. Batson stated, "we care about the neighborhood...there will be no more large, open parties." Steve Sorkin and Allen Levin reported that similar problems of noise, litter and parking, occur whenever the fraternity or sorority on Chouteau have parties.

In November B.U. 5 elected by acclamation Allen Levin and Caroline Mura co-presidents, Claudia Korndorfer vice president, Larry Ritter treasurer and Phil Heagney secretary. Action to fill the liaison position with B.U.6 was tabled. Sgt. John Podalak of the 3rd District fielded questions about drug problems near school bus stops and street gangs in the eastern part of the neighborhood. Pat Fitzgerald, Phi Delta Chi, offered to arrange free blood pressure and cholesterol screening at the January meeting. Jerry Scherer, president of FPSE Housing Corp., stated that several excellent candidates had been interviewed for the position of the Executive Director of the Housing Corp. Maud Essen, lane duck president, announced that Jackie Jackels has provided free presents for the holiday party. In response to a motion by Steve Sorkin, B.U.5 voted to donate \$100.00 to the food pantry at the Church of the Living God and to invite the ladies from Shalom House to the holiday meeting, which will be held at 6:00 P.M. on December 15.

#### GIBSON HEIGHTS B.U. 6

In October President Richard Sandall announced that Jackie Jackels resigned as B.U. treasurer and representative to the Housing Corporation. Afterwards, Jackels stated that she wished to be unencumbered should political or public service require her attention. Controversy arose as to when her replacement on the Housing Corp. should be elected. Members decided to allow the new executive board to decide the issue.

Members voted to exchange liaisons with the New Boyle and Adams Grove Associations. Angie Renner is the liaison to New Boyle. No liaison was chosen for Adams Grove. Venita Woods, Angie Renner and Karl Onauff volunteered to serve on the nomination committee for November's election.

At the November meeting Angie Renner requested that her name be removed from the Nomination Committee's report and withdrew her name as the Committee's nominee for vice president.

Executive officers elected by the block Unit for 1989 are Jane Sykes president, Norma Randall vice president, Richard Sandall treasurer and Angie Renner secretary. Gate Dolan was elected B.U.6's representative to the Housing Corp.

Lt. John Burke and Sgt. John Podalak, 3rd District, answered questions regarding crime in the area. Problem areas cited by residents included the intersections of Gibson and Arco with Newstead, where crowds loiter and drugs are reportedly sold. The officers stated that over 26 arrests have been made, but that "crack" is becoming a problem in the area. After the meeting, a resident complained that two of the elderly ladies present at the meeting provide sanctuary for their grandsons, who are allegedly involved in selling drugs. She stated, "I was not about to say anything with those two women present."

### CITY LIFE — WHY I LIKE IT by J. JACKELS

Living in the city is T.V. come to life. It's a live 24-hour 3-D soap opera on the reality channel. I live here. I see what really goes on and I am part of it. The city is fascinating. It's alive, multifaceted, good and bad.

I live near a corner in the heart of the city. Here we mix everything together and do it naturally, poverty and wealth, greed and generosity, hope and despair. We are the heart of the city. I've lived in many other areas, but this city is my home. The old cliché is true, "Home is where the heart is."

The people in the city have something in common. They can communicate. There is something for everyone here. You just have to know where to look. Ask anyone, literally anyone, who lives in the city by choice and they would have it no other way. You are born to the city; you love it or leave it. The city is special.

I see thing from my home that I've never seen on T.V. From my back steps I overlook an empty lot of weeds mixed with flowers, broken bottles and litter. Who knows what you might find there if it was cleaned up. "One man's trash is another man's treasure", as the cliché goes. If I sit on my front steps, I see the reality channel in living color. Sure, I could change the channel by moving to the county, but why would I want to? On the reality channel we have live performances every day right here where I live. In the city we have a common cause, a concern for where we and our children live. This is our home.

### CRIME REPORT

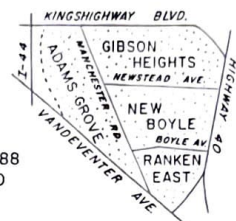
by M. ESSEN, Crime Reporter

As part of his effort to restore FPSE's confidence in the Third District, Police Capt. Gary Perkins spoke at B.U. 5's October meeting. His theme was "Working Together".

Perkins provided some pertinent facts:

1. In 1978 there were 2200 police officers city-wide, today only 1500.
2. The 3rd district contains 87,000 people and is the largest at 9.7 square miles.
3. In 1988, the 216 officers in the 3rd district made 5800 arrests, issued 10,000 traffic summonses and 32,000 parking violations as of October.

Perkins stated that crime reports in





FPSE were up by only one per month in 1988 compared with 1987. He listed the following efforts the 3rd made in FPSE during 1988, stating "It's time to return neighborhoods to the people."

1. FPSE resident Officer Rick Heaghey has had permission to use his cruiser when off-duty to maintain a higher local police presence.

2. Officer Harper, August's officer of the month who rides in FPSE, issued 100 traffic summonses and parking violations and made 23 self-initiated arrests.

3. The 3rd's directed patrol has been assigned to FPSE. An onboard computer is used to check vehicles and assist in arrests-in-progress.

4. Team techniques have been used successfully in staking out drug and fencing operations and solving business and residential burglaries.

5. The neighborhood improvement Program, or Foot Patrol, has been to FPSE more than once.

Perkins also spoke on the "Get Tough" program, through which neighbors learn to be effective observers and reporters of crimes. He encouraged FPSE residents to set up Neighborhood Watch units, citing its great success in other neighborhoods. Perkins stressed the police's willingness to work with neighborhood groups to reduce crime in FPSE and reminded the audience that the district's motto is "Together We Can".

### ARCO FOOD SHOP REHAB by K. CHAUFFE

Michael Curran, developer of the Oakland Row House, plans to redevelop the "Arco Food Shop" building at 4471 Arco Ave. Extensive neglect and structural decay have deterred many individuals from rehabbing the attractive building. Curran reportedly plans to renovate the exterior of the structure first, but not complete interior work until a buyer is found. The first floor will be commercial and the second residential. Curran stated, "The building would be ideal for an artist who could live upstairs and have a studio below." Expected cost of the project is between \$80 -100,000 and should be partially funded by the Community Development Agency. A fifteen year tax abatement will be available. Interested parties should phone Michael Curran at 351-0151.

### SHOULD LETTERS BE SIGNED?

Over the weeks several residents have expressed concern about the unsigned letters published in NEWS & VIEWS. Remarks have ranged from, "Credibility of the letters is compromised because they are unsigned" to "You are all just a bunch of f----- liars."

The editors wish our writers would allow us to print their names and sincerely thank those who have. Signed letters are more believable and impressive. We can, however, understand the concerns and fears of the other writers. Reasons for remaining anonymous are numerous and varied. They all indicate a basic belief that speaking out is "taking a chance". Of those whose letters have been signed, none to our knowledge has suffered reprisals.

Below is a short collection of reasons given for having names withheld.

1. "My husband told me I couldn't write to the paper, but I did and I don't want him to know."

2. "Drawing attention to yourself is the best way to get your house robbed."

3. "If I don't have to give my name when I write to Ann Landers, why do I have to do it when I write to your paper?"

Should we change our policy and only publish letters accompanied by names? Write and let us know.

### FOPARSE VIEWS

POLICY: All letters submitted for publication must be signed. Names are printed only on request. Send letters to FOPARSE, P.O. Box 13060 Chouteau Station, St. Louis, Mo. 63110 or leave them at 4420 Arco Ave.

### SAINT JOE

I am sick and tired of you people printing those awful things about Joe Roddy. His whole family are fine people and work hard to make this neighborhood what it is. A nice place to live and raise a family. Joe is always doing nice things for people. And he never asks for nothing in return. He gets people jobs. He passes out food and clothes from the church. He helps people when their kids get arrested. If ever there were a saint walking on the face of this earth it is Joe Roddy.

And what do you loyal opposition do? Do you drive senior citizens to the polls or to meetings? Do you help get people out of prison? Do you give food to the needy like it says in the bible? Have you got people jobs? NO!!! All you do is sit back in your comfortable houses and complain and print that garbage newspaper of yours with letters from people who don't know nothing.

Complain and make people upset is all you do. You don't even deserve to live in the same neighborhood as Joe. Well just keep it up and see what is going to happen to you. God made a place for people like you and it is called HELL. You'll be sorry. Joe has got lots of powerful friends.

### ADAMS GROVE

#### MORE CRIME NEWS

Why don't that crime reporter write more about crimes in this neighborhood. Who gets arrested and what they done. That be more interesting to read a bout and more truer. Lots of people I know buy the EVENING WHIRL to read about crimes and that is what you should be writing a bout in your paper.

### New Boyle

Reply: Crime and our perception of crime are our biggest problems in FPSE. Let's put our interest and efforts into eliminating crime, not into viewing it as a spectator sport.

### HISTORIC DISTRICT GUIDELINES

I want to know more about the guidelines for the historic district. This spring I plan to have some work done on my house. Where can I get more information?

Reply: Phone your alderman at City Hall.

### NEIGHBORHOOD PAPER

I suddenly realized how very much our neighborhood needs this newspaper. Unlike other neighborhoods we have no Shaw's Gardens or Lafayette Square to serve as a focal point for our area and unite us into a community. We don't even have a shopping center or movie house where neighbors can meet. Our neighborhood has been divided into block units which isolate us from people only a block away. Deserted Manchester has become a major barrier in this neighborhood. We are also divided into churches and political groups. Everything seems aimed at tearing our neighborhood apart. This newspaper helps unite us into a unique community within the city. It exists for only our neighborhood. It can help give us an identity and even to communicate with each other through the letters. I don't know if that was the aim of the people who founded the paper, but it may be the best thing the paper does.

### ADAMS GROVE

I really like the map on the newspaper's heading. I have only lived here a few years and have been hearing the various names but never knew where the exact locations were. One question though, I have also heard the name "Rock Springs", where is that?

### Gibson Heights

Reply: New Rock Springs is the area now called Ranken East. The back of a building on the northwest corner of Boyle and Chouteau still bears an advertisement for Rock Springs Confectionery. The neighborhood originally extended farther to the north. That area was demolished for highway construction and is now mostly commercial.

We have been needing this paper for a long time. I never know what is happening in the other parts of the neighborhood. Years back when there were still businesses on Manchester you used to see your neighbors shopping and you could learn what was happening from them. But all that is gone now. The big newspapers never mention a little area like this and we don't get the West End Word or the Southside Journal. I like the newspaper, but still rather hear news from neighbors. I sure wish somebody would rebuild the businesses on Manchester.

### Gibson Heights

#### 2 For I in MY HOMETOWN

I wonder how many people at that job fair know that they was applying for 2 jobs -- one with those companies and the other with the 17th ward machine for the next election. I bet they be getting a phone call from the Boss real soon, and I don't mean Springsteen

### I-44 Neighborhood

#### BLACK UNIT NEWS

It's great that the paper is printing block unit news. I found it interesting about what is going on in the other parts of the neighborhood. I especially liked the remarks of President Fields on neighborhood improvement. But what happened to Adams Grove and Ranken East?

### Gibson Heights

Reply: Ranken East does not meet and we hope to have a reporter to cover Adams Grove.

### SAMPLE BALLOT

Apparently, the 17th ward machine considered it more important to plug itself than to openly support the many Democratic candidates in the Nov. 8 election. I refer to the fact that 40% of the sample ballot was occupied by a photo of the alderman and the names of already-elected FDR Club officials. Neither these officials, nor the alderman, were candidates in this election. Without this wasted space there would have been ample room for the names of the Democratic candidates.

Once again, the FDR (Franklin D. Roosevelt) Club, confuses being a good Democrat with supporting the 17th ward machine. The two are not the same. The sample ballot is just another example of the political antics for which the 17th ward is known. Maybe the FDR Club should change its name, because it does not appear to stand for the same type of democracy that Roosevelt did. One suggestion I've heard was "FULLY DOMINATED BY RODDY CLUB". I was told that it could keep the same initials and meet all the requirements for truth in advertisement. This would also explain why non-Roddy-supported Democratic candidates are never invited to speak at the FDR meetings.

### Mark Jefferies

#### WHERE WAS JOE????

I read in yesterday's paper (Nov. 5) about the alderman's vote on the expense disclosure bill. All of the alderman's was listed except Joe Roddy. Where was he and why didn't he vote?

### Gibson Heights

Reply: According to a representative for the Board of Aldermen, Roddy voted for the disclosure bill. Tim O'Neal, Post-Dispatch reporter, stated that omission of Roddy's name was an error.

### EVERBODY KNOWS

Every body knows your paper is just trash and then f----- letters is made up to get people to vote against our aldermen. You ain't fooling no body. If then letters was real why ain't none of them signed?

Lester Coleman  
no address given

### TONY ROBINSON

I would like to know why Tony Robinson is Committeewoman of the 17th ward. She is

never seen except at election time when she makes a few rounds of the polls with her political buddies. The fact is that 75% of the voters do not even know her.

We of the 17th ward have had some excellent Committeewomen over the years who worked hard and whom everyone knew by name or sight. They were FOR ALL THE PEOPLE not just the chosen few.

I am sure Tony is a fine person, I personally have nothing against her but there are many women in this ward who are much better known by ALL VOTERS, and who work much harder than Tony does, and who are much more deserving of the title.

She is retired from a city job and lives in one of the Senior Citizens Apartments. I think it is time for her to rest and let someone do her job that has the get up and go to do it. If she wishes to remain she should get out and make herself known. She has accomplished one thing, her son Pelham Robinson got the city Controller's job after his predecessor was forced out after years of loyal service. They will say she retired which is true but it was after she was left no choice. By the way who the hell is Pelham Robinson? He is another one we never heard of until his mother took office. Where is he and what has he done for the ward?

Gibson Heights

Note: Pelham Robinson is in the Registrar's Office, not the Comptroller.

### SORE LOOSER

Sorkin is just a soar looser. Coarse them peoples break the law to win but that's what politics is about. Hell, that is how them people always wins elections. Ther ain't no one winning nothing in the 17th ward without that machine behind them less they can break the law better then that machine.

Ranken East

### TRY SOMETHING WILD

#### READ A BOOK!!

### WALKING FOR HEALTH

Brisk walking is good for your health, according to the Journal of American Medical Association. Evidence indicates that it will lower cholesterol levels, control hypertension, reduce anxiety, improve cardiovascular health and reduce body fat. Just 40 minutes of walking a day is sufficient to help improve your health and raise your metabolic rate, the rate at which calories are burned, for up to 4 hours afterwards. A walking program should begin with short walks and gradually increase in duration and speed. It is always best to have a general physical before beginning any strenuous exercise program.

### FAREWELL TO JAN

The staff of NEWS & VIEWS wishes Jan Elder the very best in her move to Seattle. Jan has served the neighborhood unselfishly over the past two years and has seen the Housing Corp. through a difficult transition. She was director during the sale of the Corp.'s building on Arco and the move to the new office at 1074 S. Taylor. Jan was largely responsible for the successful house tour last spring. Perhaps, her greatest contribution to the neighborhood, however, was one simple phrase, "You have to learn to work together." We had all heard it before. Maybe she just said it at the right time to the right people, or maybe she just repeated it frequently enough that it finally began to sink in. Whatever it was, it happened and some of us began to work together. The neighborhood now has a monthly newspaper. Block units are exchanging clasons. People are trying to communicate, to see what they have in common. If one was to describe the legacy of Jan's term as director, it might be accurate to say that under her direction we took the first stumbling steps down the road to rebuilding the Forest Park Southeast Neighborhood. This was no small accomplishment. Best of luck to you, Jan.