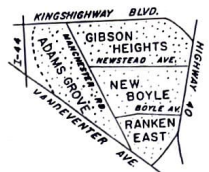


The FOREST PARK SOUTHEAST Neighborhood Newspaper

FOPARSE NEWS & VIEWS



Published by: CONCERNED CITIZENS OF FOREST PARK SOUTHEAST
 Address: P.O. Box 15060 Chouteau Station St. Louis, Mo. 63110
 Distributed to: ADAMS GROVE, GIBSON HEIGHTS, NEW BOYLE, RANKEN EAST & CITY HALL
 February Editor: K. Chauffe
 Vol. I/No.6

Founded — June, 1988
 Circulation — 1800

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

FEBRUARY — MARCH, 1989

This Issue: WILLIAMS TALKS, WELCOME KATE ROTH, CONSERV & LETTERS

G. WILLIAMS TALKS BLACK EX-CANDIDATE

Background: There were three candidates for 17th Ward alderman, Socialist James Garrison and Democrats Gaylard Williams and Joseph D. Roddy. Late on January 26, the last day for a candidate to remove his name from the ballot, Williams withdrew. NEWS & VIEWS spoke with Williams, a prominent black lawyer from the West End and a legal assistant to Freeman Bosley, on the same day. Williams stated that he withdrew for financial reasons.

In early February City Hall sources informed NEWS & VIEWS that Williams withdrew immediately following a meeting between Joe P. Roddy, Alderman Joe D. Roddy, Freeman Bosley Jr., Gaylard Williams and Nancy Rice, the mayor's political assistant. It was reported that Joe Roddy made commitments in exchange for Williams' withdrawal. Connections were also suggested between Roddy's objection to Williams' candidacy and the City Hall "job swap". According to the source, part of the "job swap" engineered by Mayor Schoenehl and Representative Clay was an agreement that Clay would not oppose the re-election of the aldermen from the 2nd, 7th and 17th Wards, all of whom are white, and Schoenehl would appoint Virvus Jones, a black, as comptroller. This appointment places a black on the important Board of Estimate and Apportionment. Alderman Roddy has stated that he was involved in the "job swap" negotiations.

NEWS & VIEWS phoned Williams and asked him about the January 26 meeting and if commitments were made. Although he hesitated initially, the following day he suggested a face-to-face interview at his office. The following are excerpts from that interview.

As to why he entered the race, Williams stated, "I got into the race without months of planning. Personally, I was a serious candidate, but cost proved to be a major factor. As you know, Roddy (J. P.), has several strongholds in the ward, primarily the senior citizens' homes. Other candidates can not easily get in. I was somewhat naive about the politics of the 17th Ward, but I truly feel that much of the ward is not represented, especially the economically depressed and predominantly black areas. I wanted to offer an alternative."

When asked about the January 26th meeting, Williams continued, "I believe the meeting was organized by Joe Roddy, the father. I know I didn't do it. They (Roddy's) saw me as a viable candidate. As an African-American or black candidate, I would have appeal to the black population of the ward, not that I planned to make race a issue. I would hope that a well qualified and experienced candidate would appeal to all of the people of the ward." "That I am black is just as obvious as Roddy's name is Roddy. It has certain advantages and disadvantages which can't be denied."

"What they (Roddy's) came offering was not enough. I was prepared to stay in the race if they would not make concessions and give guarantees. Right up front, I told them that I had limited funds. I only had about \$600 on hand and some promises for contributions." "It was a long meeting and time was a factor for them. We all knew that this was the last day to withdraw and it was getting late in the day. Finally, they conceded and both Roddys agreed to my demands."

Concessions involved promises of only limited use of blighting and eminent domain,

removal of "red tape" road blocks preventing people from opening stores on Manchester and pledges of no retaliation against Williams' supporters. Williams cited two examples, "Both Roddys promised not to oppose Jerry Pitts, who had operated Trapinos Lounge (4371 Hunt) from opening another bar. A lady who lives next to Villa Lighting was afraid that they might take her house so that Villa could expand its parking. They (Roddys) promised this would not happen."

Williams continued, "My fear is that people will think I sold out. I personally got nothing from the agreement. I lost lots of sleep trying to decide if I should run. I still am not sure I did the right thing. But with limited funding I did not know if I could run a credible race. I know that many people were disappointed in my withdrawal."

When asked if his withdrawal was part of a Roddy-Bosley deal to guarantee no Roddy opposition to Bosley's re-election, Williams stated, "I know of no agreement between Roddy and Bosley. If Roddy agreed not to oppose Bosley if I withdrew, I was not party to it. Bosley is not up for re-election till 1991 and that is a long way off. As to the "job swap" agreement, I only know what I read in the newspaper."

When asked about his future plans, Williams, who lives on the northern border of the ward, smiled and stated, "I may move to the center of the ward. With redistricting coming up, I would hate to find myself gerrymandered into another ward." Gerrymandering is an old political tool to eliminate an opponent by changing political boundaries so as to place him into another area.

As Williams walked the reporter to the elevator, he said, "I could have denied that the January 26 meeting ever took place, but that would have been a lie. It was obvious you were going to write a story about it and I figured it was better to tell you what happened, even though some people will accuse me of selling out. In a democracy people need to know what's going on. Freedom of the press is essential."

On February 16, the day following the Williams' interview, Alderman Roddy refused a phone interview with NEWS & VIEWS on the topic of the January 26 meeting and insisted that all questions from the paper on any topic be submitted to him in writing. That night written questions were handed to him with a note requesting his reply by noon on the 18th. He has not responded. K. CHAUFFE

OPERATION CONSERV

The Gibson Heights area, 4400 and 4500 blocks between Highway 40 and Manchester, has been included in one of the newly designated Conserv districts. Operation Conserv (Concentrated Services) is designed to co-ordinate 17 city services, so as to strengthen neighborhood development within the district. A major focus of the program is improving residential property. This will be accomplished by door-to-door inspections, redevelopment or removal of run down buildings, enforcing building codes and replacing problem absentee owners with responsible neighborhood-based owners.

The Conserv Program is directed by the Conserv Council, composed of the leaders of the services co-ordinated by Conserv and directed by a chairperson from the mayor's office. Each district will be evaluated for its strength and weaknesses, condition of its buildings and streets, relationship between businesses and residents and many other

factors. Then members of the council will meet with neighborhood leaders to devise detailed plans for the district.

Each Conserv district has been assigned a Conserv Liaison Officer. For Gibson Heights she is Carole Christopher (see January Housing Office Report). Christopher assumes the duties of the Neighborhood Liaison Officer (NLO) for the district.

NEWS & VIEWS was unable to determine why only part of FPSE was placed in the Conserv Program or what could be done to have the entire neighborhood included. Christopher stated that the boundaries were already established when she assumed her position, although she has the understanding that the boundary could be changed to include more of FPSE. The director of the Program, Donald Roe, did not return our calls. K. CHAUFFE

WELCOME KATE ROTH

Kate Roth is the new executive director for the FPSE Housing Corporation and replaces Jan Elder. She has previously worked for the Community Development Agency in St. Louis, where she directed one of their housing programs, and for a developer in Soulard Neighborhood.

Kate stated that as executive director, she plans to work to stabilize the neighborhood and to assist the area in developing an identity. Kate interprets the main function of the Housing Corporation to be to co-ordinate the numerous neighborhood programs and to assist in selective redevelopment. When asked what she would like to tell the residents of FPSE, Kate replied, "The time has come for this neighborhood to become a more active participant in the city." K. CHAUFFE

JACKELS' COMMENTARY

I, like Dr. Martin Luther King, have a dream. I dream of many things, as you do. Sometimes we dream of different things. I'll share mine with you and hope you'll write to me and share yours too.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

I dream of a time when the neighborhood will be united, neighbors talking to one another, people keeping the trash picked up and parents teaching children not to litter. I dream a day when there is a neighborhood handyman with a good reputation who does honest and reliable work, of a neighborhood without fear where neighbors watch out for one another, and a place where residents are not afraid to get involved.

I pray for the day when the crime rate is so low that the subjects at the block unit meetings are block parties, picnics, dances, flowers and who needs a helping hand and we all live in a neighborhood where property owners are proud of their houses and are willing to follow their neighborhood guidelines.

I dream of a united people, a united cause, and a united neighborhood.

CRIME BEAT

You will be thrilled to hear that police statistics for January, 1989 show no crime in FPSE. Anyone who drives along Newstead knows I'm joking of course. We believe we have a crime problem and yet Third District records don't reflect this. What's going on?

The answer is simple. In FPSE, we don't call 911 when we see or think we see criminal activity. Thus, crime statistics, which are used to schedule police patrols, are inaccurate. If we are getting less than our

share of police protection we have only ourselves to blame!

Why don't we call 911? Many people fear that calling 911 will bring them unwanted police attention which may cause criminal retaliation. To avoid this, tell the 911 operator that you do not want the police to come to your door, but you will answer any questions the officer may have over the telephone.

This and other crime-fighting tips were featured in a discussion led by Third District Public Affairs Officer Bill Vicente at a January 17 meeting of block unit officers at the Housing Office. Vicente presented a slide show outlining the three components of Neighborhood Watch: protect your property by identifying and securing it, protect yourself and your neighbors by calling 911 when you suspect criminal activity and be a witness when charges are brought against criminals.

Kathy Becherer, Administrative Director, Operation Safe Street, also spoke at the meeting. She discussed the importance of home security and demonstrated the use of deadbolts and strike plates. People commonly do not use long enough screws to attach strike plates and this makes it possible to kick in solid doors. Becherer noted that home security packages and smoke detectors are installed for free for senior citizens, the disabled and crime victims by Operation Safestreet.

Both speakers emphasized that the only way we can stop crime from taking over FPSE is by starting Neighborhood Watch in each block of our neighborhood. Vicente cited a block in the south part of the Third where five "crack" houses were closed down by a Neighborhood Watch group and no one got hurt.

Who can be in Neighborhood watch? Everyone who cares about our neighborhood and his family's safety, regardless of age, sex or other time commitments.

How do you get involved? You decide you're fed up with crime and you are going to do something about it. Look into the mirror and say, "I am taking charge of my safety, I promise to give a few hours each month to helping my neighbors be safer too. I will learn to give good descriptions when I call 911 to report crime. I'm getting involved."

If you have ever said, "someone needs to do something about crime in this neighborhood", then you are a person who should be involved in Neighborhood Watch. Because that someone is you and the time is now. So, call one of these people to join up: Bill Vicente, Third District, 444-5431; Kathy Becherer, Operation Safestreet, 622-3444; Kate Roth, FPSE Housing Corp., 533-6704; Maud Essen, Crime Reporter, 531-8098. MAUD ESSEN, CRIME REPORTER

NEWS NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

To Steve Sorkin and Jeane Vogel on their recent, January 8, marriage. The wedding, held at the United Hebrew Congregation, was followed by a gala reception attended by numerous city and state officials.

To Mike Curran, developer of the Oakland Row House on the sale of the last unit.

SYMPATHY

The staff of NEWS & VIEWS wishes to express our sympathy to Nancy Beck, previous Executive Director of FPSE Housing Corporation, on the death of her father, Clarence Beck.

Also sympathy is expressed to the Strawn family on the death Mrs. Ella Strawn.

A BIG THANKS

To Alderman Roddy from the residents who use the Arco-Taylor intersection for the return of the stop signs on Taylor. It is much safer now.

REMEMBER

April 15 is not only tax day, it is also the day scheduled for Operation Brightside's Project Blitz. Mark it on your calendar and be prepared to help clean the neighborhood.

FALL HOUSE TOUR

The Housing Office is planning for a Fall House Tour. Let's plan ahead to make the neighborhood look great by planting flowers that will bloom in the fall. We will give some suggestions in the next issue.

HOUSING CORP. NEWS

December Meeting

Leigh O'Donnell, Associate Executive Director of Operation Teamwork, stated that FPSE has been designated as a target area of the program. Operation Teamwork attempts to involve city youths in existing city sports programs. Volunteers are needed to serve as instructors and/or co-ordinators. Call Leigh O'Donnell at 361-0015.

The Selection Committee informed the Board that after reviewing applications and interviewing several applicants, they offered the Executive Director's position to Kate Roth, current director of the For Sale Incentive Program of the Community Development Agency. Roth later arrived at the meeting and requested the Board to compose a list of goals and objectives for her to pursue. Board voted to sell

the Osborn Computer to Haud Essen, past president of Block Unit 5. She plans to employ the computer in organizing Neighborhood Watch

January Meeting

Carole Christopher, ConServ Officer for the "SLU High/Ranken West ConServ District, stated that her job will be to work for the improvement and marketing of the 4400-4500 blocks north of Manchester (see ConServ District). She said that she is currently making a door-to-door inspection for building code violations and has been busy tagging derelict auto for removal. Christopher is compiling a series of map overlays that will identify property ownership, section 8 housing and areas of criminal activity within the ConServ District.

The Board again considered and tabled a proposal to expand membership and include realtors, architects and/or representatives from banks so as to increase its "talent pool". The Board established four subcommittees: Planning and Real Estate - McCoy, Dolan, Goshen and Scherer; Fund Raising - Goshen, Sheets and Matlock; Tenant and Landlord - Goodman and Dolan; and Newsletter - Scherer, Matlock and Sheets.

Kate Roth reported that the projected six-month budget showed a \$5,000 deficit. The Board voted to rollover only \$10,000 of a \$15,000 CD so as to cover the potential shortfall. Kate Roth also announced that ten buildings had been included in an F.S.I.P. application. All but one of these are in the 4400-4500 blocks north of Manchester.

BLOCK UNIT NEWS

GIBSON HEIGHTS BLOCK UNIT 5
Mark Skelton, comptroller, Church of the Living God, announced at the January meeting that the Church will begin some minor improvements this spring. He also spoke about the church's attempt to purchase the building on Gibson immediately east of the church.

Kate Roth, new Executive Director of FPSE Housing Corp., stated she will be working to market the neighborhood. She said that part of her job will be to meet everyone and she looks forward to knowing all of the residents.

A representative of Phi Delta Chi Fraternity announced that they will be offering the following health checks to

members of BUS in the upcoming months: February - Free glucose level test, March - rectal cancer test (\$0.25), and April - cholesterol level tests (\$3.00). Charges cover cost of materials.

Maud Essen spoke on the need for Neighborhood Watch. She stated, "We need to scare ourselves about crime in a non-destructive way. We need to scare ourselves into action. Things are only going to improve if we work on them. Think of what crime is doing to the children of the neighborhood and the value of our houses. Neighborhood Watch is something we can do regardless of age. Senior citizens can play a vital role because they are home all day. I'm not talking about mobile patrol, this is something people can do at home."

GIBSON HEIGHTS BLOCK UNIT 6

At an informal January meeting members of BUS discussed the lack of tenant screening by absentee landlords, in particular the properties owned by Ron Parli and Russ Lauer and the Section 8 housing owned by J. Hedve and Dr. Garrett Hagen at 4414-4416 Arco. One member stated that she and other neighbors had specifically warned Lauer about some of his prospective tenants, but "he rented to them anyway and now there is constant noise from the building". Another member reported that the Hedve-Garrett building had been raided by the police "for drugs", but that "they appear to still be dealing from there and Section 8 has taken no action to evict the tenant."

Another problem discussed was the overflow of trash from MetroMinistry. Reportedly, after filling its dumpster additional trash is placed in bags and cardboard boxes in the alley. A member stated that trash is frequently scattered about by people rummaging through the "throw aways" or after rains when the paper containers fall apart.

NEW BOYLE BLOCK UNIT 7

At the November meeting of BUS Secretary-Treasurer Tom Goshen announced that only residents of the area can be members of the block unit, so as to "prevent slumlords from taking over the organization." Alderman Roddy announced that Brian Murphy of CDA had committed an additional \$5,000 to the Housing Office for 1989. JJ Jackels announced that she was still looking for people to hire to help teach arts and crafts for the Adams After School Program.

President Ida Fields made a plea for the people in the neighborhood to work together. She stated, "Without God we can do nothing. We have to learn to work together and not hurt each other's feelings. Mr. Roddy is a great man and an inspiration to the poor, those who are the have nots. He helps the poor people and no one should write against him. We have to work together to make this neighborhood go and the only way to make this a community is through love."

POTATO-RICE CAKE RECIPE

Boil and drain rice and potatoes. Mash together and add baking mix and spices (garlic, onions etc.). Mix well. Mold into patties. Bake until brown. Serve with condiments.

FOPARSE VIEWS

POLICY: All letters submitted for publication must be signed. Names are printed on request. Send letters to FOPARSE, P.O. Box 15060 Chouteau Station, St. Louis, Mo. 63110 or leave them at 4420 Arco Ave.

You know we have the potential of having a great community. Why is it that we can't act like a community. We have the resources and manpower to make this one heck of a neighborhood.

We have people with political clout and know how. We have lawyers, doctors, nurses, teachers, counselors, engineers, etc. Most of all we have young children and what we call common folk, all who care. We can build this community. We can get rid of the drugs, burglary and robberies. We can get

our youth a facility so they don't have to stand on the neighborhood corners. We can have a childcare facility that can serve our neighborhood. We can surely keep our neighborhood school open.

We can begin to intermingle with our neighbors on the south side of Manchester. We are a community whether we like it or not. One thing everyone here has in common is the need to work together to bring this community back to life. People once knew their neighbors, why can't they now?

Morna Randall
Gibson Heights

A TRIP TO THE CLEANERS

Honey, so you think Joes a saint. Well has he pulled the wool over your eyes. You think that them politicians do nice things out of the goodness of their hearts. They drive people to the polls. They give away food. Well let me tell you something. They do it to BUY VOTES. And its not their food or money they give away. No! It comes from church groups and political slush funds. But they don't tell you that cause they want you to think that it comes from them. They want you to remember them pulling out their wallet and giving you their last few dollars.

Honey, I'll drive you to the polls or give you a little of somebody elses money if you elect me or my kid to a job that pays \$25,000 in City Hall. And that salary is only part of the money even a half stupid politician can make. They got all kinds of INSIDER INFORMATION. They know where developers are going to buy and where roads are going to go. How else could they afford their big houses and cars. Just remember the next time somebody drives you to the polls hes really trying to take you to the cleaners.

ADAMS GROVE

BAD LANGUAGE

I think its terrible for your paper to use those dirty words in your paper. And the people who write them in letters should be ashamed of themselves. Children might get a hold of your paper and start asking what all of those xxx's are for.

NEW BOYLE

SPT VOTING

I'll go your straight party ticket voting editorial one better. I think they should outlaw it. All it does is make it easy for people not to think and plays into the hands of people you want power without working for it. Punching one number for all the candidates is like buying a pig in a sack. You never know what the politicians are trying to sneak past us. I say that we should get rid of spt voting and get rid of the electoral college!!!

NEW BOYLE

FDR MEMBER SPEAKS

I have been a member of the FDR Club for a long time and what you wrote in your paper is a lie. The members decide a lot of things. Joe Roddy is a great man and a good Democrat. He never dominates the meetings he just runs them because somebody has got to or nothing would get done. We don't hear from the other candidates because we don't want to. They don't have a change of winning without Joes support so why should we waste our time listening to them if they are just going to lose anyway. Joe always finds the best candidates and brings them to us to listen to and support. That is how Democracy works. After he passes away, and I pray to God every night that it will not be soon, maybe we will change the name of the FDR Club but it will be to the Joe P. Roddy Democratic Club in honor of the greatest Democrat the 17th Ward has ever produced.

CNE

That FULLY DOMINATED BY RODDY club sounds like a real joke. What type of idiots

belong to it to let themselves be pushed around by some little dictator?

SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD

Editorial Remark: You are mistaken. There are some very fine people in the FDR Club. Although we personally disagree with the manner in which the organization appears to be run, the members are at least trying to participate in local government. In contrast, the majority of voters do not even bother to vote. Some residents are not even registered. These are the idiots.

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your newsletter. I found it both interesting and informative.

Alfred Wessels
Alderman, 13th Ward

I just want to say that I support Joe Roddy because of all the good things he and his son has done for this neighborhood. The records speak for itself. When Joe was head of that housing company he got Washington University to come into this neighborhood. He got all them homes redone on Arco. When his son was head of that company he got the city to redo that big building on Oakland. Now that he is alderman he will do a lot more for us.

ADAMS GROVE

I think its terrible that the lady was afraid to sign her name because her husband might find out. In this day and age men - especially husbands- have got to learn that women - especially wives- have rights to. Her husband should be ashamed of himself. He needs to move into the 1980's before it is the 1990's.

ADAMS GROVE

That JJ Jackels article was real good. I never thought of a neighborhood as 3-D TV but it sure is. Especially around here. I also like her article about that poor cat. I like cats and dogs to. People had oughta take better care of there pets. JJ must be a real nice person.

NEW BOYLE

I found that Medassist editorial a dirty underhanded slam against the Democrats of the 17th Ward. We worked hard and long to get names on the petitions so the amendment would be on the ballot and now you are blaming us because it failed. You must be a bunch of Republicans.

CNE

Editorial Remark: The editorial blamed no one. It only stated that the FDR sample ballot was poorly designed and may have confused some voters.

In this neighborhood people should be looking more at what we have in common and not what divides us up. The differences are always there and easy to see. It would be better if the secretary-treasurer of B.U. 7 looked for things to bring the people on the two sides of Newstead together instead of making them think how different they are. Now that would be something to be proud of.

GIBSON HEIGHTS

I think that you paper is extremely biased against the alderman, Joe Roddy. The letters you print almost always criticize him or his father. But I must admit that you treated him very fairly and even-handed in the letter where was Joe? It would have been very easy for you to have made him look bad, but you actually went to the trouble to find out that the Post Dispatch made a mistake.

GIBSON HEIGHTS

I can't believe this paper. Its too good to be true. For years I have waited for the truth to come out in public and there it was in black and white. The machine stays in power because it cheats. It is just that simple and at last someone has had the brains to say it. Good for you Sorkin!! Maybe there is some hope for the 17th ward.

Gibson Heights

BECOME INVOLVED IN FPSE!!