



BISSETT NEWS

Supported by Community Partnership of the Ozarks' Caring Communities Initiative

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Fall 2017

Annual Neighborhood Night Out and Other Fall BNA Activities

Thursday, August 31: Annual Neighborhood Night Out (4:30-7:30 pm, Bissett Elem. East Parking Lot):

Bring the whole family to enjoy free food, kids games, door prizes, and learn about many services available from across the City. This year our event is combined with Bissett Elementary Open House. Whether you have kids at Bissett or not, come out to meet some neighbors and have an enjoyable evening.

Monthly Meetings: Learn about community services and community goings on. Talk about Neighborhood activities. Join in an optional pot luck dinner. At every meeting Police Officer Mike Ramsey keeps us up to speed on crimes, and our Neighborhood Health Advocate is on hand. Come, meet some neighbors, enjoy some good food, learn a little and share your ideas.

Tues, Sept 12: L.A. Wise Pavilion Planning: Miles Park is the director of facilities for Springfield-Greene County Parks. He will provide a status update on planning for the new pavilion to be built in the park. Come see what he has to say and share your thoughts.

(6:30 pm mtg/6:00 optional pot luck. Bissett Elementary)

Tues, Oct 10: City Utilities Electric Power: Nathan Bruns, CU's point person on power outages and what CU is doing to minimize them, will talk about CUs Electric Department and will also have information on weatherization and other CU programs intended to reduce resource consumption and save you money.

(6:30 pm mtg/6:00 optional pot luck. Bissett Elementary)

Tues, Nov 14: Home Computer Security: Rob Sorbo provides computer tech support for the Assemblies of God World Headquarters here in Springfield. Rob will provide some practical advice on cost effective steps you can take to help protect your electronic devices from viruses, malware and the like.

(6:30 pm mtg/6:00 optional pot luck. Faith Baptist, 2920 W Nichols)

Special Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, October 21: Bissett Neighborhood will receive a **Special Cleanup Service** thanks to the City. Put out bulky items at the curb **BEFORE 8:00 AM** and they will be picked up. Read more inside this newsletter to get the cleanup guidelines.



"If everyone invested in the neighborhood they lived in, the United States would be a magical place."

- Actor Anthony Mackie

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Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower *Albert Camus, French Philosopher*

BNA Donates Sports Equipment to Bissett Elementary

Last Spring, we asked Bissett Elementary School Principal Marcie Stallcup what she needed for the start of this school year. She said without hesitation that the students lack simple sports equipment for use during recess. BNA set about the task of filling that need and on August 11 presented the school with a gift of new soccer balls, basketballs and jump ropes. We have Jeff Newlin at Play It Again Sports to thank for helping us out with special pricing which allowed us to maximize the gift.



Bissett Neighborhood Association Officers Chandra Palmer, Mario Gonzalez and Pete Radecki present sports equipment to Bissett Elementary School.

One Time Only: Special Fall Curbside Cleanup! *You need to have your refuse out at the curb before 8:00 am on Saturday, October 21.*

This is NOT your typical neighborhood cleanup where you haul stuff to the dumpsters at Bissett Elementary. In this one all you need to do is get your refuse to the curb in front of your house. Republic Waste Services will have workers and trucks to pick the stuff up, so this is a really good chance to get rid of big items that you might not have the ability to haul anywhere. They can take old furniture and other large items, but CANNOT take brush and leaves, old TVs, refrigerators, construction debris, old paint, hazardous chemicals nor normal household waste. And if you need help getting your stuff to the curb, the BNA is arranging for volunteers to help get the refuse out of back yards and houses. Call Pete Radecki at 417-988-1257 to arrange for this service or to volunteer to help.



Green for Greene! The Missouri Jobs Center will again be coordinating free training for good, high-paying jobs associated with environmental assessment and cleanup. The training itself will begin in February 2018, but the sooner you get your application in the better as seating is limited. Contact Isaac Weber at iweber@springfieldmo.gov or (417) 841-3361 to get all the details.



And the Winner Is...

At our June BNA monthly meeting, a brand new Keurig-style coffee maker was given away as a door prize and the winner? Bissett neighbor Marie Christian! Above she is seen being presented the prize by BNA president Pete Radecki.

Ideas Anyone?

We would love to hear your ideas about the neighborhood and this newsletter. Successful neighborhood associations emanate from participation by can-do people: people who care and think part of being a good neighbor is participating in the community's betterment.

Queen of Everything!

What would you call someone who shoots straight, treats everyone with kindness, charity and respect, doesn't play the victim even though she's had her share of challenges, has lived in our neighborhood for nearly 50 years and Springfield her whole life, has pinch hit for her parson in sharing The Word, spent 34 years helping many look more beautiful, and was the catalyst that got security lights in L.A. Wise Park? Well, how about Queen, which also happens to be her middle name! Well her full name is Georgia Queen Burton, but those of us who know her affectionately call her Miss Georgia.

Miss Georgia has been associated with the Bissett Neighborhood Association since its inception, and you can always count on her for something good contributed to the pot luck dinners before BNA monthly meetings. That may be on account of her many years in food services at Harry Cooper Supply's employee cafeteria and at Parkview High School. You can also count on her to say something good and kind about somebody or something almost every time you visit with her. Given her faith and facility for speaking, she is our go-to person to say grace before those pot luck dinners. And when BNA has an event, you can usually find her helping out.

Miss Georgia cares about others. In 1970, the first year she moved into the Bissett Neighborhood (in just the third house on a block that was largely vacant land overgrown with weeds and brush at the time), there was a day when her husband, Charles, saw a little girl come running out of L.A. Wise Park scared and crying. The poor little thing apparently had been approached by an unknown man and she wanted no part of that. Well, Charles and Georgia figured some lighting in the park would help and so they got some neighbors together to petition the city for the lights. Then one day, then-City Councilman Wilson McClinton who they knew gave Georgia a call and said the city council would be meeting that night and they should come talk about the need for the lights. So at this last minute, Georgia said to Charles, "Know what you're going to do tonight? You are going to go speak to City Council and tell them we need those lights." Well, Charles did just that and we have that last minute action by him (and Georgia's prodding), plus a good city council vote to thank for the lights. And no, that little girl was not Miss Georgia's, but was a neighbor and that was good enough for her. She isn't one to say, "Not my problem." If she sees a way she can make things better, she steps up.

As for making women look more beautiful, Miss Georgia was a top sales representative for Avon for decades, and even though she's no longer doing that, she still helps some of her former clients get Avon supplies. One doesn't get to be a top sales person by just showing up. We think her kind way of sharing compliments had a lot to do with it. She's made a lot of folks look good and feel good too, and she's pretty good at it.

And the preachers she has known! Miss Georgia used to belong to the historic Benton Avenue AME Church in Midtown where she recounts one of the former pastors being Oliver Brown. He, like Miss Georgia, sought to step up and do something to make things better. So what did Oliver Brown do? Well he was the named plaintiff in the landmark Brown vs Board of Education Supreme Court case that outlawed racial segregation in 1954. At that AME Church, when various preachers were away, Miss Georgia would sometimes be asked to fill in and speak her thoughts on the scriptures. She liked doing it and we think she was (and is) pretty good at it.

So what is the key to Miss Georgia, and the message to all of us about a happy, productive life? She would say, "I love people no matter who they are or what they look like. We need to get along with one another." Faith, hope and charity. Seems like Miss Georgia is living it, and isn't that what we would want in our very own neighborhood Queen?

If you come out to a BNA monthly meeting or an event, seek out Miss Georgia. She'll probably have something nice—and genuine—to say, and that might just brighten your day.



BNA Member and Event Volunteer Georgia Burton



Free Food and Family Fun Right Here in Bissett!

Thursday, August 31, 4:30-7:30 pm,
East Parking Lot of Bissett Elementary School for
Bissett's Annual Neighborhood Night Out.

There will be games for kids, door prizes and much more. This year we are joining with Bissett PTA and Bissett Elementary by co-hosting the event with the Bissett Open House which is scheduled for 6:00-7:30. If you're planning to come to the Open House, come early for the Night Out, bring your kids, and have some fun. And even if you do not have ties to the elementary school come out anyway. There will be educational displays from the Springfield/Greene County Parks, the Springfield police and fire departments with information about safety and security, folks from the Missouri Jobs Center with announcements about free job training and other services, reps from Mercy Hospital and Greene County Health Department, and much more. We'll have free pizza and hot dogs, plus ice cream. This should be a great time for all! C'mon out, meet some neighbors and have some fun!

This event is made possible by co-sponsorship with the Caring Communities Program of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks

Contact Us

You can stay connected with the Bissett Neighborhood Association as follows:

Email us at
BissettNA@yahoo.com

Call Pete Radecki , the
BNA President at
417-988-1257

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