

The Benjamin Hills/Pleasant Valley

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

MAY/JUNE 2017

Shop the Great Garage Sale

The neighborhood Great Garage Sale Weekend is set for June 1-3. If you would like to hold a sale, call John VanWalleghen at 316-838-5730 to register. Please leave name, address, and which days of the sale you will be participating (Thurs, Fri, or Sat). Donations of \$10 to defray advertising costs are requested, but not required.

Maps of the sale can be picked up at 2524 Hyacinth. A sale at that location will be run by members of Pleasant Valley UMC choir, with proceeds going to the Strong Foundation Fund for building repair.



They cleaned up

Thanks for the more than 20 volunteers who gave up a Saturday morning to make our neighborhood look a little nicer. The tire truck picked up 1.1 tons of old tires!



Take a walk in the neighborhood

Get to know your neighbors and your neighborhood by delivering this newsletter one hour every other month. High schoolers – get volunteer credit for an easy job! Contact John at 838-5730.

Open delivery routes:

Hyacinth from Benjamin north to dead end	38
Coolidge from 21st to 25th	49
Wilson from Bullinger to Manhattan	46
North side of 29th, west of Meridian	6
Meridian & McLean	8
Amidon from 25th to 29th	40
Amidon apartments and businesses	15

Thanks to all of our 45 faithful newsletter carriers!

Upcoming events:

General Meeting- 6:30 p.m. Tues, May 2 at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 25th & Hyacinth. Speaker Brandon Findley, District VI community organizer with the City of Wichita will explain current initiatives by our city leaders to connect better with those of us out here at the “grass roots” level. Come with your questions. Community police and firefighters are also scheduled to give updates and hear your concerns.

Free swim weekend- 1-8 p.m. Memorial Day weekend May 27-29. 60th anniversary open house at Twin River Club, 2248 N. Sweetbriar (see coupon below and info on pg. 6).

Great Garage Sale- June 1-3.

6th Annual Redskin Roundup 6-11 p.m. Indian Hills Swim Club, 1158 N. Meridian Ave (see insert for details)

Synchro Show at Twin River Club- 9 p.m. June 23 & 24.

Inside: Supporter Spotlight on Bob Bowe, owner of The Spice Merchant, page 5
Find our neighborhood’s “hidden gem,” page 6

Mission:

The mission of the Association and the purpose for which it is organized shall be: In all its activities and relationships to seek to enhance the quality of life of the residents and to improve the appearance and safety of the neighborhood.

The COOL place to be Memorial Day Weekend-

Your neighborhood pool awaits!

Bring this pass May 27-29 for **FREE** admission to the pool (up to 5 people). Hours are 1 to 8 p.m. For more information, see page 6, call 316-409-0069 or visit twinriverclub.org.



**60th anniversary
open house**

2248 N. Sweetbriar

Benjamin Hills/Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Association Highlights

By Jeanette Shepler, secretary

At our March 7 meeting, a fair marshal talked about safety precautions. Tim Devine, President, introduced Luke and Kathryn, owners of the Farm Shop at 11th and Bitting. Luke spoke about the latest methods in irrigation, soil biology, and homemade pesticides.

Rogers outlines work for Veto Session

By Lynn Rogers, Kansas State Senator

In May we head back for the last portion of the Legislative session, the Veto Session. Normally during this time, the Legislature simply responds to the Governor's vetoes and puts finishing touches on minor bills.

This year, because so little work was done on major issues during the first 75 days, we must still address three major topics: next year's budget, a fair tax structure and the school funding formula. I expect this to take much longer than 15 days, and I promise I will continue to look out for the best interests of our District, regardless of the time it requires.

Please email me with your thoughts and concerns. Watch my Facebook page for updates. Much is decided quickly in these last days. Your emails reach me while I'm on the floor and can provide information that is useful. Your knowledge of issues broadens my perspective. Going forward, because of the way bills can be combined at the last minute, each bill has to be monitored closely so that bad policy doesn't outweigh good intent.

Listen to the House or Senate debate with the audio link at kslegislature.org.



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Board Shorts

A brief glance at the activities of your neighborhood association and its board



Snyder named to District Advisory Board

Lorenza Snyder, who has been a member of the BHPV association board since 2015, has been named to replace Carmen Gard on the District Advisory Board.

Snyder has lived in the neighborhood since 1998. She says she enjoys helping people, especially neighbors in need.

She participates in association activities. "I like to be involved in the decisions that affect my community," she says.

Snyder became a U. S. citizen in 2004 and has worked for the federal government since 2009. She says she is proud of being a public servant.

"My mother, a retired elementary school teacher, was my inspiration to go back to school," she says. Snyder plans to graduate with a Master's degree in public administration from Wichita State University this coming May.

Snyder says that the things she's learned throughout her program, such as zoning regulations, public finance management, and economic development, will help her be a contributing member of the District VI advisory board.

"I am excited with the opportunity of serving on the advisory board and supporting Janet Miller," she says.



Lorenza Snyder

Wichita's Original Gourmet Coffee Roaster

We are located just four blocks east of Old Town at Cleveland and Douglas, in the historic Mentholatum Building.

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Northridge Friends joins new organization helping homeless families

By Karen Franklin, editor

Family Promise of Greater Wichita started helping homeless families in this city in November of 2016. Members of Northridge Friends Church were instrumental in bringing this successful national program to Wichita, and they have partnered with more than a dozen other churches committed to providing shelter and assistance to families who need help.

In the program, host churches take turns providing food and lodging for up to four families each week in their facilities, four times each year.

Manny Garcia, lead pastor of Northridge Friends since July 2015, explained why his congregation wanted to get involved.

“When the idea of a ministry effort that combined the resources and gifts of our city’s churches to respond the homeless family issue in Wichita, we had to say yes,” Manny says. “This is what the Body of Christ is all about, God’s people working together to serve others.”

Manny says people often want to help, but don’t know where to start. “Our congregation has always been full of willing people, ready to serve,” he says. “What Family Promise of Greater Wichita has done is give us a regular outlet for the very loving and giving people in our church and city to be able to use their time and talents to love people in the name of Christ.”

Northridge Friends Church is located at 2655 N. Bullinger. For more information see northridgefriends.org and familypromisewichita.org



Manny Garcia (far right) is the lead pastor of Northridge Friends. He and his wife, Jenalee (center) have four children: Ciela, 7, Elena, 10, Chasley, 13, and Syler, 16. The couple are from Hutchinson, Kansas. They spent six years pastoring in Iowa before returning to Kansas.

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Free swim weekend- 1-8 p.m. Memorial Day weekend May 27-29. 60th anniversary open house at Twin River Club, 2248 N. Sweetbriar (see coupon on front page and info on pg. 6).

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Supporter Spotlight

Bob Bowe, owner The Spice Merchant & Company

By Karen Franklin, editor

As Bob Bowe walks between two racks displaying kitchen gadgets, he spots a discarded sample cup. Automatically, he swipes it up and deposits it in a nearby trash can without stopping his conversation. On our way to the adjoining tea area, he straightens a display of teapots without breaking stride. He greets a customer who says he is looking for some tea. Bob gleefully responds, “We have a victim!”

Bob seems to be everywhere as he walks through The Spice Merchant & Company, asking a quick question to an employee here, answering a question there. But it’s no wonder he’s at home. He’s been doing this for 37 years.



In 1994 The Spice Merchant expanded into the former Mentholatum Company building.

Bob started his career working in social services, but quickly tired of programs being left unfunded as political winds changed. While living in St. Louis for graduate school, he and his wife, Sue, had loved visiting small ethnic grocery stores like ones in the Italian community “The Hill” where patrons could buy just a little bit of a special spice if they were wanting to try a new dish. They had also enjoyed the historic Souldard Farmer’s Market. They thought Wichitans might like the concept as well.

So in 1980, Bob and Sue opened The Spice Merchant & Company, selling coffee, tea, and spices in a tiny space at the northwest corner of Grove and Douglas, near East High School. After six months, business was going so well that they moved to a larger space at the front of the store and added coffee and tea accessories and some gourmet foods.

In 1984 the business moved a few blocks west, to a former upholstery shop. In 1985 Bob purchased his first coffee roaster, so he would be able to offer more varieties of coffee and have total control over the product he was selling. They brought in deli meats and served a light lunch.

The next main expansion happened in 1994 when they purchased the adjacent building, the much-larger former home of the Mentholatum Company. Bob purchased a new coffee roaster that could sit on the sales floor. Coffee sales—

both in person and online—make up 45 percent of total sales. The extra space was quickly filled with more varieties of gift items, kitchen gadgets, and more gourmet foods.

The most recent major renovation came in 2012 when Bob decided to dedicate the entire east store (the former upholstery shop) to tea, and created The Spice Merchant’s Eli and Alan Teas for all Tastes division. Marisa Smith, who was hired eight years ago while she was still studying art at the Wichita State University, has become a certified tea expert. She has attended the World Tea Expo and met with growers and suppliers in Taiwan. Aside from the travel, Marisa says one of the best parts of her job is sampling all of the new products and teas. She also is on hand to educate customers and correct misinformation. (Sorry to say, green tea may NOT induce rapid weight loss).

Although The Spice Merchant has 150 teas in bulk, there is still room for tea accessories, especially beautiful, functional, and whimsical tea pots. “You’re not going to find this variety in department stores,” Bob says. They also carry miniature tea sets in wicker cases perfect for children’s tea parties.

Bob intentionally supports the local community in his advertising. The Spice Merchant is a long-time supporter of KMWU, Wichita’s local National Public Radio station. Bob also is a long-time advertiser in this newsletter and resident in our association area. He and Sue have lived on the west edge of the river near 29th and Porter for more than a dozen years. He provided tea and coffee at a BHPV association meeting, and often volunteers for tea and coffee talks for other organizations. He also has a woman on staff who creates beautiful gift baskets for donating to different fundraising events.

Bob says his best advertising comes from his customers who appreciate this fun, unique and aromatic shopping experience. “They bring their out-of-town friends,” he says.

Marisa (the tea expert) says The Spice Merchant is a fun place to work, and she appreciates the opportunities it has brought her. She also appreciates her boss. “Bob’s great. Definitely the nicest boss I’ve ever worked for,” she says.



Bob Bowe, who lives in the Pleasant Valley area, started The Spice Merchant in 1980.



Marisa is ready to help customers find the perfect cup of tea.

There's a pool back there!

Many Twin River Club members refer to their pool as a "hidden gem" because so many people don't know it exists.

Even people who live in the Benjamin Hills/Pleasant Valley area may not know a 25-meter pool sits back on the northwest corner of 21st and Amidon, behind Sutherland's and Burger King, with only the high dive peeking over the wooden fence.

That's why Twin River Club is inviting the neighborhood to come to its 60th anniversary open house and have some fun **this Memorial Day weekend**. The coupon on the front of this newsletter is a **FREE** ticket for you and your family to come swim from 1-8 p.m. on May 27, 28 or 29.

Once you get your feet wet, they are betting you'll want to dive on in and join them for the rest of the summer.

To kick off its 60th season, TRC is offering new affordable memberships, like a \$339 three-person membership, **with swimming lessons included!** Other amenities:

- Competitive swim team (for extra charge)
- Synchronized swimming with fun Synchro Show
- Wading pool for toddlers, swing-set and play equipment in children's area
- High and low diving boards for big kids and adults
- Sports center with basketball and sand volleyball
- Shelter house, gas grills, and picnic tables for cookouts
- Theme parties, family nights with movies under the stars

For more info. call 316-409-0069 or visit twinriverclub.org.




Here it is!- The Twin River Club's entrance is at 2248 N. Sweetbriar, across from Trinity Presbyterian Church. The club is hosting an open house for the neighborhood over Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29.

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Area news-

Churches provide food for people in need

By Tim Devine, neighborhood association president

Several neighborhood association area churches provide groceries for those in need in our community.

St. Andrew's Lutheran, (2255 Hyacinth) and **Trinity Presbyterian** (2258 Marigold) members contribute to small, mostly non-perishable grocery pantries in the churches.

St. Jude Catholic Church (3030 N. Amidon) members, working in partnership with the Kansas Food Bank, distribute non-perishable and frozen items to 100-150 families each Monday morning.

Pleasant Valley United Methodist (1600 W. 27th St. N.) members, in conjunction with the Kansas Food Bank, have recently begun a "food share" two hour, second and fourth Friday evening program, distributing fresh fruits, vegetables and bread. The church also distributes Dillon's gift cards if need requests are made at other times.

To participate, contribute, or for more info, contact the office at any of these churches Monday thru Friday.



Find us on Facebook!

Benjamin Hills/Pleasant Valley
Neighborhood page.



Rebecca Melton
Independent Sales Director

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Lorenza Snyder	316-992-1673
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Benjamin Hills/Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Association
2020 W. 21st. North PMB 201, Wichita, KS 67203-2107 (*Donated by the Mail Room*)

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<http://bhpvna.wix.com/bhpnva>

Sandi Erwin, website administrator

To be included on neighborhood-wide email alerts, send your address to: bhpnva@gmail.com

Facebook: Benjamin Hills/Pleasant Valley Neighborhood
Karen Franklin, editor franklin.k.e@cox.net 838-3672

Helpful Numbers

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Council Districts 5 and 6:

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Veronica Ibarra, aide	vibarra@wichita.gov	303-8042
Janet Miller	JLMiller@wichita.gov	268-4331

Community Policing Patrols (our area is divided into two)

North (for residents north of 29th Street) **Beat 49**

Officer Juan Atondo jatondo@wichita.gov
3015 E. 21st, Wichita, KS 67214 350-3400


West (for residents south of 29th Street) **Beat 11**

Officer Mike Johnson MJOHNSON@wichita.gov
661 N. Elder, Wichita, KS 67212 350-3460

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Moving Sale at this location April 27, 28, and 29 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Great Garage Sale Weekend- Neighborhood-wide garage sales held June 1-3. **call John VanWalleghen at 316-838-5730 to register. Please leave name, address, and which days of the sale you will be participating (Thurs, Fri, or Sat)**

To advertise in this newsletter, contact Karen Franklin, 838-3672 or franklin.k.e@cox.net. Business card ads-\$30 per issue, classifieds-\$15. Mail payment before June 5 for the July/Aug 2017 issue to: BHPV Neighborhood Assoc., 2020 W 21st N, PMB 201, Wichita KS 67203.