



Neighborhood Bridge

May 2001

ONLY YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS CAN SAVE BLOOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Your attendance is urged at an important meeting this month on an issue which affects the quality of life in Tyler Park. Please plan to attend this informative session on **Saturday, May 19, at 10:00 AM at Atherton High School.**

This meeting is necessary because Jefferson County Public School officials have decided, in secret, to close and abandon the historic Bloom Elementary School on Lucia Avenue in our Tyler Park neighborhood. The May 19th meeting is a crucial first step - showing strength of conviction by attendance - with the goal that neighbors be afforded the courtesy of "a seat at the table" while this vital issue is being decided. We want to keep our neighborhood alive and vibrant!

It is critical to note that Bloom is currently **below** its enrollment limit; yet the district has decided that it should be much larger - therefore too large for its current site. And it believes the only site for a new Bloom School is on the much-admired campus of Atherton High School - 3.5 miles from the Lucia address - a property that school planners admit they favor because the district already controls it.

Bloom **can be renovated** with an addition into the side yard, providing a parking deck and playground above, much like the Belvedere downtown, built atop a multi-story-parking garage. This would allow the school to remain in our area.

The "secret" plan by the district to invade Atherton's campus was leaked only a few months ago, when word reached the president of the two-year-old Upper Highlands Neighborhood Association. Paul Schuhmann shared the news with other neighborhood associations, culminating in the creation of a grassroots coalition of Highlands residents and service organizations, simply named "Citizens Working for Bloom's Future."

You may have read a newspaper article in March, the first public acknowledgment of the district's intentions. State Senator David Karem is a Highlands resident and veteran of "state guidelines" arguments that the district is citing to justify closing Bloom. He urged Schuhmann and others not to accept this rationale, adding that waivers exist for all guidelines, especially given Bloom's unique setting within a residential neighborhood.

The JCPS Local Facility Plan Committee (again, with no public notice or hearing) has reclassified Bloom from "permanent" to "transitional" status. Undoing this action requires a vote by the State Board of Education!

The elected school board representative for the Bloom, Hawthorne and Atherton districts is Stephen Imhoff. He has told concerned citizens that he hasn't heard much comment about the Bloom closing. That's because it's been such a closely guarded secret.... until now.

Contact Mr. Imhoff at 569-2880 or e-mail him at spimhoff@juno.com. Superintendent Stephen Daeschner is the CEO of the public schools. His phone is 485-3011. Fax Mr. Daeschner a comment at 485-3991. Help spread the word community-wide by writing the Courier-Journal Readers' Forum. Fax the paper at 582-4290 or email at cjletter@courier-journal.com. Please send a copy of your correspondence to "Citizens Working for Bloom's Future," 456-0510 (fax) or e-mail at reeves5@earthlink.net.

Please bring a friend to the meeting at Atherton on May 19th - maybe that fellow parent you met at Bloom or Atherton a few years ago! **Your support is needed now to stave off this latest threat to neighborhood schools.**

MAKE PLANS FOR A DIVINE EVENING: FULL ORCHESTRA IN TYLER PARK

An incredible gift awaits music lovers this summer: Mark your calendars now for **Friday evening, July 27**, when the 70-musician-strong Louisville Orchestra will present a diverse program at Tyler Park. This is the **only** park venue scheduled for the orchestra's "European Vacation" summer series.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. Contact a board member listed in this publication and express your interest in helping to make this a memorable experience for all.

The orchestral program is scheduled from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m., but the fun will begin much earlier! The legendary River City Drum Corps will jump-start the evening at 7:30 p.m. Plan to bring a picnic basket or share delights we hope to offer from vendors.

Look for continuing updates in this newsletter. So far, we can share:

- Funding for the \$15,000 concert fee plus \$5,000 for marketing and promotions comes in large part from Third Ward Alderman Bill Allison and the City of Louisville. The Tyler Park Neighborhood Association (TPNA) is also providing financial support, along with Friends of the Iroquois Amphitheater and area businesses. **Additional private support is needed.**
- First District Police, with a new branch in Mid City Mall, will provide security and traffic control.
- There will be street closings - Castlewood Avenue and Tyler Park Drive - from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Residential parking permits will be mailed to affected homes in the vicinity.
- Four TARC trolleys will offer two-way shuttles from off-site parking at the Medical Arts Building on Eastern Parkway. Walking is advised.
- Metro Parks will provide some bleachers and picnic tables, but please bring chairs and blankets.
- TPNA will sell cold beverages. We welcome suggestions on food vendors. Seriously.
- Port-o-pots will be discreetly located in the upper park.

COMING SOON! MOVIES IN TYLER PARK

Stay tuned for further developments. **The movies will be screened in Tyler Park this summer.** Are you a film buff? Want to help choose the lineup? Contact a board member. Or volunteer to join the board today!

THIS NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY:



MAIL BOXES ETC.

1355 BARDSTOWN ROAD
454-9493

IN THE HEART OF THE HIGHLANDS



P.O. Box 4452
Louisville, KY 40204

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit 1549

Steve Thomas or Tyler Park Resident
1281 Eastern Pky
Louisville, KY 40204