

# Rountree Neighborhood News

January 2012

## Chair's corner — Brian Ash

Welcome Neighbors.

It's been a great year being Chair of the neighborhood where I grew up. It's time for us to elect a new slate of officers and thankfully all of our existing officers have agreed to serve another term. That means the officers you see in the box below will continue in those same positions in 2012.

The main reason I wanted to serve another term is because so many Rountree neighbors go the extra mile to pitch in. There is strength in numbers, so when the Block Captains cover their area and others volunteer to spearhead events like our Neighborhood Cleanup (see update on Page 2) it makes my job that much easier and allows us to accomplish more and continue improving the best neighborhood in town. You can do your part by getting involved.

Please visit [www.RountreeNews.org](http://www.RountreeNews.org) to see how you can join our Rountree Google group. Join our Rountree Neighborhood Association page on Facebook. I know we're all busy, but the more we stay connected and get to know our neighbors better, the stronger and safer our neighborhood will be.

Keep up the good work.

### RNA Board

<b>Chairman</b>	Brian Ash	brianbambino@gmail.com	417-655-7487
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Ken Reese	kreese311@gmail.com	417-869-6049
<b>Secretary</b>	Nancy Chikaraishi	nchikaraishi@drury.edu	417-869-5774
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sara Hollis	sashollis@aol.com	417-818-8179
<b>NW Captain</b>	John Melton	vespacian@sbcglobal.net	417-831-0233

### Members At Large

Joanie & Troy Meinhardt	peter12003@yahoo.com	417-459-9578
Bob Keyes	rvkeyes@mchsi.com	417-773-5175

### Rountree Council Members

Tommy Bieker	Tom@ThomasBieker.com	417-569-6252
Cindy Rushefsky	cindy4zone2@yahoo.com	417-862-9614

### Websites

[www.RountreeNews.org](http://www.RountreeNews.org) - Official RNA Website  
Rountree Neighborhood Association on Facebook

## What makes Rountree a Great Place To Live?

- *A wonderful neighborhood school*
- *Great Neighbors*
- *Homes with unique charm and character*
- *Beautiful tree-lined streets*
- *Proximity to the university and downtown*
- *A strong neighborhood association*

**Thank You  
Springfield Blueprint  
for continuing to  
support the Rountree  
Neighborhood by  
providing printing  
for the Rountree  
Neighborhood News!**

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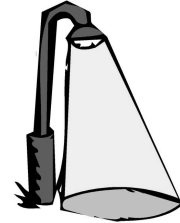
**Next General Membership Meeting  
April 17th @ 7pm - Rountree Library**

## Neighborhood News

**Penny Power** - Several neighbors have inquired about the distribution of Penny Power in the neighborhood because so many never get read and end up being discarded out on our sidewalks, driveways and yards. Penny Power is distributed by the News Leader and you can choose to remove your home from their list by calling (417) 836-1100 and selecting option 3. If you consider this a nuisance, please help reduce litter in our neighborhood by opting out of receiving Penny Power.



**Streetlights** - The City has recently installed additional streetlights in the alleys behind these homes on Pickwick (619, 713, 731 and 749) and Weller (701, 737, 811, 900 and 962). If you feel like your home is too dark and needs a streetlight, please get in touch with our Neighborhood Watch Captain John Melton (see front page for contact details).



**Pickwick Place** - As part of the street improvements that the City installed at Cherry and Pickwick a few years ago, the Rountree Neighborhood Association agreed to maintain the landscaping for this area. It's been awhile since we've given it any attention and so we are looking for volunteers to help with some weeding, spreading mulch and installing some plants. RNA will pay for all the materials. We're looking for help with the labor.



Not only is John Melton our Neighborhood Watch Chair, but he also does landscaping and yard work for several homes in the Rountree area, so he's agreed to spearhead this effort. If you'd be interested in helping work on that corner, please get in touch with John (see front page for contact details).

## Rountree Neighborhood Cleanup Update

The Rountree Neighborhood Cleanup effort sponsored by the City of Springfield in conjunction with Community Partnership on November 5th was a great success! Thanks to Gary Koepp for spearheading this event as our cleanup coordinator and for all who came out to volunteer as well as those Rountree homes who made the effort to get rid of unsightly items and yard waste. A big thanks to University Heights Baptist church for the use of their parking lot and providing volunteers.



All told, 14 people gave a total of 70 volunteer hours from the area, which helped to dispose of 8.72 tons of waste, two large yard waste dumpsters, and nearly a ton of scrap metal from the neighborhood. Over 68 households responded to a short survey while dropping off unwanted items, and over 17 households took advantage of curbside pickup at their residence. Donations were accepted and contributed to the Rountree Neighborhood Association for directed memberships and operating expenses. Should Rountree be accepted for future cleanup efforts, we'll continue to improve the process and hopefully exceed our 2011 efforts.

## Rountree's Neighborhood Arborist

The Rountree neighborhood has always been known for having some of the most beautiful, largest, and oldest trees in Springfield. Homeowners in the Rountree area are also well known for loving their trees, and taking very good care of them. During the ice storms of 2007 and 2008, the Rountree neighborhood lost a very large number of valuable trees; some which were obviously ruined by the ice, and some that may have recovered nicely had they been repaired and left to grow. It is because of this neighborhood's love for its trees that Noel Boyer, owner of All About Trees tree service, moved to the area.



Noel and his wife Myria bought their house on Meadowmere Street four years ago, partially because of the huge trees that surround the house. Their daughters, Mary and Lily, go to school at Rountree, and Noel and Myria are very involved in the school PTA. All About Trees does volunteer tree work for Rountree School, with the next planned work day coming up sometime in the Spring.

All About Trees is a different kind of tree care company. Noel is the only Board Certified Master Arborist in Springfield. This is the highest credential an Arborist can earn through the International Society of Arboriculture, the organization that tests and certifies arborists worldwide.

Noel employs six arborists, and four of them are ISA Certified Arborists. This means that you get career tree care professionals doing the work on your trees, instead of "tree cutters" that might not know how to do the tree work properly or safely.

Noel and his crew take time each year to go to educational seminars and classes about proper tree care, but the trips they look forward to the most are to the tree climbing competitions. Noel has won the Midwest Tree Climbing Championship six times, earning him the chance to compete at the International level each time.

Noel's crew members are avid tree climbers, students, and trainers. Because of their knowledge and training, you will never see the All About Trees crew working without the appropriate safety equipment, using spikes on their boots to climb trees (unless it is a removal, where damaging the trunk doesn't matter), or being overly aggressive when pruning mature trees.

All About Trees works for dozens of customers in the Rountree Neighborhood, doing everything tree related: pruning, removals, stump grinding, consultation, fertilization, and planting. When you call the office at All About Trees, you will speak with Teri Manning, another Rountree resident, and mother of Rountree Elementary students. All About Trees recycles all of its wood waste, with the chips being donated to various tree nurseries and garden centers, and all the logs are either used for firewood or ground into mulch.

For further information, visit their website at [www.AllAboutTrees.net](http://www.AllAboutTrees.net), or Like their Facebook page: [facebook.com/AllAboutTreesMO](https://facebook.com/AllAboutTreesMO).



## The Wilhoit-Bay House

This historic house at 903 S Weller has belonged to two major families in Springfield history. The Wilhoit family built it in 1914 and the house remains fairly close to what it was like in that year. Edward M. Wilhoit, recognized as “the Oil King of the Ozarks” and his wife Della C. had the house built by well-known local architect George F. Reed.



Wilhoit also developed the Wilhoit building in downtown Springfield and served as President of the Springfield Laundry Company. He died in 1921 and is buried in Maplepark Cemetery. His daughter sold the house to C. Arch Bay in 1960.

Bay lived in the house from 1960-1993, and his wife Virginia, until her death in 2001. He was a very successful real estate developer in Springfield and long-time postmaster. He played a key role in bringing many jobs to the city by helping attract Kraft, Lilly Tulip, St John’s Hospital, and others. He was well known in the neighborhood for walking his dog and being very friendly to the neighbors. He loved the Rountree neighborhood.

The house sold to the Baird family in 2003, but Bay’s granddaughter, Terry Reynolds, told them she wanted first shot at the house if they sold it. Terry lived at 734 S Weller with her sons Bart and Sam for many years and always felt the same about the area as her grandfather.

But when she remarried, the couple built a new home East of Springfield. She soon missed the neighborhood and when the Bairds decided to downsize, she had the chance to purchase the house. She hasn’t regretted it and we’re glad to have her back.

The house is on the National Register of Historic Places, where more details about the house and early Springfield history can be found at: [www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/nps-nr/04001384.pdf](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/nps-nr/04001384.pdf).



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Rountree Neighborhood membership funds go to support neighborhood efforts such as the newsletter, trash pick-up and social events. We are hoping that everyone eligible for RNA membership will join.

### **YOUR SUPPORT WILL MAKE THIS GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD EVEN BETTER!**

SEND BOTTOM PORTION WITH PAYMENT

#### ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS: Individual--\$5, Family--\$10, Business--\$25

MAIL TO: Sara Hollis, 1326 E. Delmar St., Springfield, MO 65804

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION