

August 2015

# the CROSSWALK



## September Means Golf!

Look inside for an interview with **Eddy Saylor**, Broker/Owner of **RE/MAX Innovations**. Saylor is justifiably proud of his company's second annual "Red, White & Blue" Golf Tournament, September 11, 2015. This well-run event honors our nation's military and veterans and benefits Benilde Hall. The contact person for "Red, White & Blue" is RE/MAX Innovations' own **Carol Lalumondier** at 816 777 3259.

Two weeks later, on September 25, Benilde Hall's golfing friends will assemble at Blue Springs Country Club for the Hall's **Sixth Annual Tournament**. Registration forms are available at the Hall now. Why wait? Call **Sylvia Hoover** at 816 842 5836 to request an entry form or to register a team. Golfers in groups of less than four will be scheduled into foursomes.)

Both attractions offer prizes, contests, raffles, and best-ball formats. Hearty lunches will be served! All levels of players can enjoy the courses and good company. Play one event for sure, both if possible!



## Kent Jewell Open Letter

Dear Friends of Benilde Hall:

We have men in our current population who are clean and sober and have a steady income but who are not yet ready to move out of the Hall and not yet ready to move into a home of their own. So, when you hear or read about some program somewhere that takes homeless people right off the streets and puts them into their own apartments, quick as a wink, think about brothers and sisters who are not yet ready to live solo . . . even after months and months (even years) of being clean and sober. My point is that a variety of programs are needed to address the difficult needs of homeless folks in our communities. In dealing with the down and out, one size does not fit all. That's how I see this issue.

Concern for the down and out is part of our culture and heritage. Men and women who work with the homeless have their various fields of interest. There are addiction counselors, psychologists, social workers, and others. All of them have their different skill sets, and no one of them has magic to apply by herself or by himself. A roof is not magic, and putting a using addict in his own home without social support doesn't usually solve anything. On the other hand, allowing a man to continue in addiction treatment forever is not productive either.

I am always interested in hearing from Benilde Hall's friends. Thank you for your support.

Kent Jewell, Executive Director



## Homeless News Items

**Big Cities:** *The Huffington Post* (July 16, 2015) reported that Washington DC is at the forefront of the nation's large cities in current efforts to house homeless veterans. As this year began, capital city officials identified 1,300 homeless veterans in the District. So far this year, the monthly average for veterans placed in housing is 61. According to the article, the VA and other involved agencies think that no more than 30 percent of the homeless population needs continuing support after move-in. Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser is identified as being fully committed to the effort to get veterans off the nation's capitol's streets.

**IDs and Birth Certificates:** As of July 1, 2015, a homeless person born in California can get his or her birth certificate free. In addition, after the first of next year, a homeless person will be able to get a free photo ID from the California Department of Motor Vehicles. This is how California is addressing a real sore spot for the

homeless. Lost or stolen identification presents real problems for many who have been homeless. There is still paper-work to get identification, of course, but now there is no direct expense. Those interested in working for similar legislation elsewhere see California Assembly Bill 733.

<http://sandiegofreepress.org>. (July 20, 2015)

**Young and Homeless:** Writing for *RollingStone* (September 3, 2014), Alex Morris describes a phenomenon probably not unique to our time and place but certainly a more frequent occurrence now than in the past – LGBTQ teens who come out as such to their parents and families . . . and then find themselves ostracized and homeless. Before our present era, maybe not all that long ago, “closeting” was prevalent. It was not unusual for a man or woman to attempt to hide sexual identity from parents and siblings. (And parents and siblings pretended not to know the truth.)

Today's teens announce themselves with the hope that they will be accepted by their families. It doesn't always happen that way. Morris tells the story of Jackie, a female college sophomore from Idaho, a top student and a versatile athlete, who was shunned and cut off by her parents after announcing her perceived lesbianism. Jackie went from living in a college sorority house to homelessness . . . in the just a few weeks. Her story is probably not unique. There are dozens of ways to become homeless, but only a few ways to escape its heavy load.

[www.rollingstone.com/culture/features](http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/features). (July 15, 2015)



## Interview with Eddy Saylor, RE/MAX Innovations

**Editor:** *RE/MAX Innovations is the largest company affiliate in the Kansas City area. Eddy Saylor, Innovations' Broker/Owner, recently met with Benilde Hall's Chaplain Stephen King. They talked about the second annual RE/MAX Innovations' Red, White, and Blue Golf Tournament. As in 2014, all 2015 Tournament proceeds go to benefit Benilde Hall.*

**Chap.:** Before we talk golf, let's talk about your company. You said that RE/MAX Innovations is the largest RE/MAX office in the Kansas City area. Correct?

**Saylor:** It is, both by agent count and sales volume. Right now, there are 97 agents. Many of our most successful agents are long-term with us. This is the second largest RE/MAX office in the mid-states region, so we still have some work to do.

**Chap.:** Is your business all residential?

**Saylor:** About 95% residential. We're located in the heart of Clay County, so we're part of the "Northland," the fastest growing part of the city. We're optimistic about our potential.

**Chap.:** Please tell our readers about your second-annual Red, White, and Blue Golf Tournament. Back to Staley Farms Golf Club's difficult but beautiful layout, right?

**Saylor:** Right. We had a good time last year, and we are determined to host an even better event this year. We are humbled and proud to do our part to respect our nation's veterans. Everyone in our office supports this effort, and everyone likes the fact that the men and women who benefit are local, from the Kansas City area. Carol Lalumondier, General Manager of operations here, coordinates our effort, and we are signing up teams and sponsors right now. September 11 is not all that far away.

**Chap.:** The appraisers and lenders and inspectors, etc., you work with, are they also "on board" with this effort?

**Saylor:** You bet, even more this year than last! Without them, we couldn't do this. Many of the sponsors that the agents recruited last year had never heard of Benilde Hall, but through the help of one of the agents we were able to get in touch with Roy Riffle who shared information with us about a hometown operation benefiting homeless veterans. Roy described some of what the Hall does for men in its care. The Hall really shouldn't be "the best kept secret in town." We're going to help Benilde Hall escape that label. As we spread the news around about what the Hall does for vets, we're building awareness for the Hall and encouraging continuing friendships throughout the community.

We know there are "cuddlier causes," children with needs and the like, and we do help Children's Mercy Hospital and the Children's Miracle Network. Through the year, we support those cuddlier causes too, but this golf tournament, well, it's exclusively for vets with needs.

**Chap.:** You chose the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on our country for the Tournament. It's an easy date to remember.

**Saylor:** And "Red, White, and Blue" are easy to remember too, the colors of the flag and RE/MAX logo colors too. That's not a coincidence by the way. That's who we are. Everyone in our office knows that we owe our way of life to the honor and valor and courage of veterans, men and women too. We enjoy our freedoms because of them. We're glad to help honor those who have given so much.

**Chap.:** Thank you, Eddy. See you early September 11.

**Saylor:** You're welcome. Bring a team and have some fun.





## 2015 Wish List

**Linens** – Sheets (singles), towels and washcloths! Primarily for Safe Haven, any color, but no cartoon characters, please!

**Volunteer webmaster** (part-time)—He or she must be curious by nature, willing to visit with staff to ask what's going on, eager and able to report current events on websites.

**A commercial clothes dryer** – Men and women coming “inside” after having lived “outside,” sometimes bring bedbugs with them. (*Last issue, we said “insects” rather than “bedbugs.” Readers asked what we were talking about. Moral: be direct.*) We wash what new clients bring in, but washing does not kill bedbugs. If staff had a commercial dryer, free-riding beasts would die . . . and this would be a better place to live and work!

**Dry weather and sunny skies** – All the Kansas City rain this spring and summer has made it hard to find a time to mow. You know that's true, but consider the problem on the scale of the Benilde Hall Services mowing crew. The crew has a 2015 contract to mow approximately 600 lawns and lots. The crew works when the sun shines. Now, if it were not so darn hot and humid.

**Awareness** of divine bounty! The Almighty is perfectly generous and good. God's bounty is everywhere, and all of us are beneficiaries!

\*Some of these items have appeared here before; others are making their debuts with this issue. Gentle reader, pick a favorite; better yet, pick two!

## Short Takes: Clients' Comments (edited)

“I'm an old homeless man. If I were younger, this situation might not be so bad. But now I'm over 60. No one should be this old and homeless. I remember way, way back. I was in a doc's office. He wrote a script for amphetamines and handed it to me. I was afraid of drugs. I asked if the drug he was giving me would be habit-forming. The doc made fun of my question. “Nonsense,” he said. “These aren't habit-forming. I've been taking them for 25 years.” *I should have run!* Instead, I got hooked. The high turned out to be everything I wanted. My addictions broke me . . . in more ways than one. This is not the first place I've been where people tried to help me. I've stayed this time and done the hard work. I'm staying until my Benilde Hall counselor discharges me. I'm blessed. I have hope today.” *Client name withheld.*

“Strange as it may sound, my drug of choice is adrenaline. The “high” happens for me when I get away with something. That high has motivated me for as long as I can remember, from early adolescence on. My second drug of choice is alcohol. So, sober or not sober, I steal. Over the years, I have stolen things – shop lifting in all kinds of stores – jewelry, electronics, you name it. Really nice things too! This is more than a habit. It's an addiction. Then, for no reason, I stole from my employer – the company that gave me work when I came in from being homeless. Do you see the idiocy in what I'm saying? I do. Let me say that it's really important for me to see and admit the addiction and the unmanageability. It's more important for me to understand myself than for anyone else to understand me. I have to be careful for the rest of my life, be attentive to my moods, stay on my prescribed drugs, and avoid alcohol and recreational drugs. That's my only chance.” *Client name withheld.*

### BENILDE HALL

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**Benilde Hall's mission is to promote balanced and responsible independent living by preventing the relapse of chemically dependent homeless men through housing and substance treatment so they can work and live without the havoc and chaos caused by addiction and homelessness.**

the CROSSWALK is a monthly newsletter, Sylvia Hoover, editor. To subscribe for electronic publication, write to [shoover@mail.benildehall.org](mailto:shoover@mail.benildehall.org).