



VINEGAR HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



VIEW FROM the hill

Neighbors in harmony improving, preserving & protecting - www.vhna.net

Volume 12, Issue 3

March, 2009

The **PURPOSE** of VHNA is to improve the quality of life of residents & preserve property value. Our goals include encouraging improvement of properties, protecting the health and welfare of residents, promoting interaction among neighbors, encouraging participation in government and fostering pride in our homes and neighborhoods.

Our **TERRITORY** extends from the south side of Jefferson St to the north side of So. Grand Av, and from the east side of Walnut St up to but excluding Second St. Membership is not limited to residents or property owners in that area.

MEMBERSHIP is open to all who support our purpose and goals. Dues are \$10 per year. You may join via US mail, at a membership meeting or online at: www.vhna.net

Our **MEETINGS** are held on the second Monday of each month from 7 to 9 pm in room 201, at Laurel United Methodist Church located at Walnut and South Grand.

Featured Speaker for March

City Housing Inspector, **Paula Zink**, will speak at our March meeting. Paula has been with the city for just over a year working to address housing violations including nuisance properties.

Her husband's family is in the advertising business in Springfield but she grew up in a very large old home in Petersburg, a town which sports some of the finest in residential architecture, so she appreciates the fine homes in our area.

The seasons are changing and people will start getting outside more, including the belligerent ones who can quickly chase away our good neighbors.

Paula will talk with us about how we



can work together to resolve the problem of nuisance renters and the landlords who allow them.

In her words, "I feel very passionate about maintaining this wonderful city. With help from caring citizens like you we can preserve and maintain nice neighborhoods like yours. I look forward to working with you in these efforts."

"Mail Box Mishap"

Did you send in your dues and get them returned to you?

NEW MAILING ADDRESS: With no effective notice, the USPS closed our PO Box and returned mail received over the last 40 days to senders. We apologize to anyone who was affected by this. We have decided paying a \$60 fee for the inconvenience of picking-up mail at the post office no longer suits our needs, especially in light of the poor customer service we received. So please resend those dues to our new address to help us pay for printing these newsletters. (And if you forgot, then this is a good excuse to send in that \$10.) Future mail should be addressed to:

Vinegar Hill Neighborhood Association (or just)

VHNA

c/o ESP, LLP

600 E Adams St

Springfield, IL 62701-1624

VHNA February'09 Meeting Minutes and Corrections

The January meeting was cancelled so members could attend the School District's meeting to discuss facility planning which included Springfield High School's long range plan. December minutes were lost to excessive partying

Correction to the February View from the Hill, Treasurer listing wasn't changed from last year. Apologies and thanks to Cathy Twyman who is this year's Treasurer.

The "pledge" opened the February meeting at 7:05 .

Treasurer's Report: Cathy reported a January balance of \$815.50 and the February newsletter printing cost was \$55.39. No new dues were received due to a problem with the Post Office Box.

Officer Dave Barringer reported on a number of items happening in the neighborhood and asked for us to keep our eyes open for problems to help them serve us. A significant discussion focused on problem tenants and absent landlords. Dave reminded us that it takes three incidents within a six month period to activate the Nuisance Landlord Ordinance. Bob said that it helped with a property on Edwards and that the landlord got rid of some trouble tenants and is making repairs. Art discussed the long time required to evict a nuisance tenant and suggested we see if someone from the City could talk more about the problem property issue.

President's Report by Bill Castor This year promises to be a productive time for Vinegar Hill Neighborhood Association.

We have new contacts with the city to help us monitor and report problems, whether the problems relate to property maintenance issues or disruptive or illegal tenant activities. Our speaker this month will help us by providing the answers to the questions who, what, when, where and how to deal with these issues. (We already know why.)

We look forward to cooperation with the other central Springfield neighborhood associations. Several such groups have expressed interest in banding together to lobby to protect the interests of our older neighborhoods. We have six central Springfield neighborhood associations committed to supporting an August 30, 2009, "Music in the Park" program at Iles Park. They are Harvard Park, Historic Westside, Iles Park, Near South, Hawthorne Place, and Vinegar Hill. Please pencil this in on your calendar and plan to meet some new folks who have similar interests to our own at this social activity.

In the upcoming year, we hope you will become a new member of our association. If you are already a member, please pay your dues and return to further the progress in our neighborhood. There are little things you can do to help VHNA in a big way. We hope to see you at our next meeting. We value your membership.

CWLP offers free Low Cost / No Cost Weatherization Workshop

Tuesday March 10th 7PM at Lincoln Library.

Learn how to save money on your utility bill by applying some simple weatherizing techniques to your home. CWLP Energy Experts will guide you through a hands-on set of techniques so you can see how easy it is to save a significant amount of money for very little effort. You even receive a free "starter kit" of materials for attending, including caulk, caulking gun, CFLs, window insulator kit, rope caulk, foam electrical outlet gaskets and weather-stripping tape. **Pre-register at 789-2070.**

CWLP seeks your advice at their



**Wednesday March 11th 6PM
UIS Public Affairs Center - Room G.**

CWLP is interested in your input in helping to plan new energy efficiency programs and how to enhance current ones. Take this opportunity to let them know what you think will benefit your community.



Emergency 911 - Police & Fire

Police non-emergency 788- 8311
 Neighborhood Police Officer
 Dave Barringer Cell 652-2255
 Drug Unit (3-11pm) 788-8498

Aldermen

Ward 5: Sam Cahnman - 528-0311
 Ward 6: Mark Mahoney - 544-7944

VHNA VOLUNTEERS

Greeting / Condolence Cards

Betty Green 522-2690

Newsletter Editor

Bob Croteau 753-3449

bobcroteau@sbcglobal.net

Block Stewards

Allen Street - 400 block

Mona Colburn 522-1702

Allen Street - 500 block

Louise Hodge 528-9768

Canedy Street

Jo Johnson 528-4367

Chenery Street

Pat Geary 299-7534

College Street

George Tinkham 753-2737

Cook & Edwards Sts.

Bob Croteau 753-3449

Fayette Avenue

Bill Vickers 789-1732

First Street

Cathy Twyman 528-1918

Henrietta Street

Dee Nelson 528-7702

Jackson Parkway

Tom Cullen 744-2511

Pasfield Street

Ron Kuethe 744-0118

Spring Street

John McBride 971-3313

Vine Street

George Bastin 971-5760

Walnut St (north of Lawrence)

Dennis Rogers 522-4279

Walnut St (south of Lawrence)

Bill Castor 416-1212

Williams Street

Charles Hudson 747-0338

Daylight Savings Time History by Dee Nelson

It's very likely that you might be reading this newsletter on **March 8, the first day of Daylight Saving Time in 2009.**

I was surprised a few weeks ago to discover Daylight Saving Time would be starting so early. I was more surprised, on perusing the calendar, to discover Daylight Saving Time would end on October 31, 2009 and most surprised to realize that we live on DST roughly 8 months compared to 4 months of CST and, (although the Uniform Time Act of 1966 provided standardization in the dates of daylight time in the U.S.) that's the way it's been since 2007.

It was in Paris, 1784 that American delegate Benjamin Franklin, wrote a humorous essay, *An Economical Project*, for the editor of the Journal of Paris, which was subsequently published on April 26, 1784. It had been a few nights previous that Mr. Franklin had been "in a grand company" where a new oil lamp was introduced and admired. After going to bed "three or four hours after midnight" Mr. Franklin was suddenly wakened about six in the morning to discover that not

only had the sun risen above the horizon, it was also shining. Realizing that had he not been wakened so early, he would have slept six hours longer by the light of the sun and in exchange, lived six hours the following night by candle-light, a much more expensive light than that of the sun, he presented a detailed accounting of the cost of candlelight for the

city of Paris from March to September totaling 96,075,000 livres (a former French coin with an original value of a pound of silver). The essay continues to list the steps by which the citizens of Paris be "reformed" to rise at four in the morning and be willingly in bed at eight in the evening which will not only save

96,075,000 livres, but an "immense stock of wax and tallow left unconsumed during the summer, will probably make candles much cheaper for the ensuing winter, and continue them cheaper as long as the proposed reformation shall be supported".

Although Britain passed a "Summer Time" act on May 17, 1916, Benjamin Franklin can be considered the originator of Daylight Saving Time.





Officers

Bill Castor, President — 416 - 1212
Chris Riess, Vice-president — 553-4793
Cathy Twyman, Treasurer — 789-1918
Bob Croteau, Secretary — 753 - 3449

Please join today! You need not be a resident or property owner in our association area to join, as long as you support our mission. You can join online at: www.vhna.net, but must mail a check or attend a meeting to pay dues. Or fill out the form at right to join and mail it with your \$10 dues payment check to:

VHNA c/o ESP, LLP
600 E Adams St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1624

Membership Form

Name *

Street address *

City * State * Zip *

email address (if you wish to receive more timely information)

Phone *

Cell phone (* denotes required item)

May we list your contact information in the VHNA directory to be distributed only to members? (circle one)

YES / NO

Please suggest issues VHNA should address or activities you think will help better our association: (attach sheet if needed)

March 2009 VHNA Point Of Pride

John and Pam Jones are lucky enough to live in this classic Queen Ann style house at **620 W. Edwards**. It sports original details like the wrap-around porch with original porch railing balustrades, fancy gable woodwork and oval leaded glass window. It was built by a Mr. Sutherland in the late 1800's. He had stables with horses and carriages for rent. In about 1930 Albert New bought the house. He was an Engineer for the City and **New Street** was named after him. The New's had two daughters and he finished the 3rd floor of the house so that the girls could have a place to play. The door knobs were placed low so that the girls could reach them and he also added 2 extra bathrooms to the house so the girls would have their own.

Howard and Bea Jones bought the house from the New's in 1958. For a



number of years Bea rented out the upstairs rooms as sleeping rooms. It served as her own Social Security income. When Bea's husband died in about 1980, her mother came to live with her. Later in the 1980's, Bea bought a smaller more manageable house across the street for them to live in which allowed her son John and his family to live in a larger home.

Bea still maintains the family garden in the backyard tirelessly growing vegetables and flowers alike as well as attending to the complimentary landscaping around the home.

Thanks to Bea, John and Pam for keeping up such a fine example of the homes that made this neighborhood a very desirable place to live.

Thanks to Nancy Januswesky for photo and story.