



VINEGAR HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



VIEW FROM the hill

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

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View in color on line at : www.vhna.net

April 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.

Jim Johnston of Sustainable Springfield is Featured Speaker for April

Jim Johnston, founder of Sustainable Springfield, is an architect who has recognized the importance of designing the built world in ways that don't use up the Earth's resources faster than it can replenish them. But this goes beyond building, it also encompasses the way we live in general that affects our planet. Come and hear Jim's perspective and vision and hear what so many others are doing to reduce their impact on the Earth.

Sustainable Springfield holds periodic seminars and talks by experts in various areas of sustainability. Be sure to visit their website at



www.sustainablespringfield.org for a schedule of events and tips on helping you to make your lifestyle one that is more likely to insure future generations will enjoy the beauty we do now.

Special EARTH Edition

“Stepping Lightly on the Earth” by Bob Croteau

April 22, 1970 was the first Earth Day. It sprang out of the growing awareness by an ever increasing number of people who began to see that we were causing serious harm to our planetary home. This new perspective came from many sources like the landmark environmental book Silent Spring by Rachael Carlson who documented how pesticides were poisoning our food supply and even killing off our national symbol, the bald eagle. But it also emerged from the stunning photos of Earth taken by the Apollo mission astronauts from the moon. They revealed a very thin and fragile cover of life clinging to a massive ball of rock floating in a vast and unforgiving universe. This was it. This was our only home. It was this beautiful image and scary realization that led so many to realize we couldn't sit by and watch our ignorance punch a hole in our bubble of life. The only life for billions and quadrillions of miles; or maybe we were it, alone, by ourselves with no one else able to come to our rescue if we failed to take care of our “spaceship earth.” Ultimately the Earth will survive, but will it be a lifeless ball of rock like all the others? The garden is still here. Our everyday actions have an impact on the Earth's ultimate ability to sustain the life we know. Small actions magnified by billions of people add up to enormous impacts. Let's resolve to make them positive ones.

VHNA March '09 Meeting Minutes and Corrections

The March meeting opened at 7:10 with the Pledge. Our featured speaker Paula Zink told us the way it is in the world of housing violations and compliance. She and her other four inspectors work hard to insure we have a safe environment to live in. They issued 9,000 violations last year for a wide variety of offences from garbage, solid waste, tall weeds, unmowed yards, abandoned vehicles, and unsafe structures. These blights, if left unattended to, make our neighborhoods less desirable to live in and at-

tract negative elements who sense that no one cares about this area. Housing violations can be reported to the number added to our mini directory of services on page 3.

Treasurer Kathy Twyman reported a balance of \$831 plus \$80 for three renewals and a donation less \$68 in bills.

Trolley Guy “gets on Board”

Dear Neighbors, I'd like to introduce myself as **Christopher Riess** your new VHNA vice-president. Some of you may know me as "the trolley guy", and I have committed myself to becoming more involved in our neighborhood association. To give you a brief history of myself I was born and raised in Springfield and have been back for 10 years now and I love our city and my job. I spent several years in the Army back in the early 1980's then moved to Florida where I was in public works for almost 10 years. When I got divorced I moved back to Springfield and went to work for SMTD as a driver. Upon my grandmother's death, I moved out to my grandfather's farm in Curran to be his caretaker for the next year. Upon his passing I wasn't sure what I wanted to do but I saw an ad for the trolley and have been doing it ever since, and as of last year I took over the daily operations.

One of my primary concerns in our neighborhoods is the decline I have witnessed over the last few years such as the illegal activities, the unkempt or empty properties, the LOUD car stereos, and young people walking down the middle of the street, slow to move for traffic as if they owned it for themselves. This behavior needs to be addressed. It is not acceptable and we shouldn't have to tolerate bad neighbors. Vinegar Hill is my home and I plan on living here a long time. In closing I am looking forward to the new year and the challenges that lie ahead, and it is time for changes in our neighborhood. I am dedicated to making our Vinegar Hill a place we can all be proud to call home, with your help it will happen.



The Gardens are Alive Again!

I walked away bleeding from my pruning encounter with the overgrown rose bushes. The city picked up the trimmings and the tenders of the gardens went to work uncovering the bed of weedy overgrowth that had crept in over the late summer and fall. Now the spring bulb flowers have reemerged and the colors are gracing us once more. Thanks to those hardy volunteers, Dee, Betty, Kathy Chris, Bill and daughter who recognize the value of the aesthetics the gardens bring to the VHNA image.

SAHBA “Green Home” and Garden Show

The Springfield Area Homebuilders Association with CWLP is sponsoring a “Green Building” show to help you “go green” with energy efficiency, renewable energy and green building products.

April 24-25

Orr Building State Fairgrounds.

Details at www.springfieldareahba.com/



Emergency 911 - Police & Fire

Police non-emergency 788- 8311
 Drug Unit (3-11pm) 788-8498
 Neighborhood Police Officer
 Dave Barringer cell 652-2255
 Animal Control 535-3065
 Housing Violations 789-2167

Aldermen

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

What does “Being Green” or “Reducing your Carbon Footprint” mean?

“Being Green” You may have heard the term but what does it refer to? The term come from the idea that “green” implies healthy life forms like a garden that is rich in green leafy life. But there are many aspects about sustaining that life other than watering it. Being green means use only what you need, reduce the packaging, buy locally produced materials and food to reduce fuel costs, grow a food garden, use environmentally safe alternative products, recycle an old house, walk buy a high MPG car, buy CFLs, get a **CWLP energy audit at 789-2070** insulate, install solar panels. These are all steps you can take to be “greener” .

What is a “Carbon Footprint” ?

Most of the electricity in the country is produced by burning coal which is mostly carbon. Natural gas used in our furnaces is carbon with some hydrogen as is gasoline. Burning them to make electricity or heat our homes or drive our cars produces carbon dioxide which is the main contributor to global warming.

By reducing our use of electricity, natural gas and gasoline we can reduce the impact on global warming. The less carbon you use the smaller the footprint you make on the planet. See how big your “carbon footprint” is by visiting this site and see all the things you do that by modifying can make a difference at

www.carbonfootprint.com

The City helps the planet by Recycling and Solid Waste Programs.

1. Talk about cleaning up our Earth, you can participate in the Large Item Pickup by calling 522-7797 and have an item per year like appliances, couches, mattresses picked up for free. Don't dump it.
2. Or for any pre 1993 working refrigerator reduce your carbon footprint and let CWLP give you \$50 to haul it away and recycle all the components. 1-866-899-9862. Replace the old inefficient one with a new Energy Star model.
3. Curbside Recycling of paper, plastic, cans and clear glass. Call your hauler.
4. Branch Pickup began April 6th and continues into November. Just put branches between the sidewalk and curb. To see a map of the branch pickup check out <http://www.springfield.il.us/PublicWorks/Branches.htm>

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

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 789-1918

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



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)

April 2009 VHNA
Point Of Pride
Third Planet



Earth Month Calendar

April 18 Sat. 1-4pm Henson Robinson Zoo
Party for the Planet (do it for the children)

April 21 7pm UIS Brookins Cleaning America's Rivers Chad Pregracke. (Tuesday)

Earth Week Environmental Film Fest
April 20 Mon.6pm. Flow (water) Lincoln Library
April 22 Wed.7pm Food Fight

April 26 Hoogland Center for the Arts 3rd floor
5pm Greening the Southie \$5
7pm Battle in Seattle \$5

April 24-25 Fri-Sat SAHBA Green Home and
Garden Show Orr Building State Fair Grounds

Coming May 29-30 The 16th Springfield Area
Earth Awareness Fair. PCCC