



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

May 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.

Police Chief Ralph Caldwell is Featured Speaker

May 11th 7PM at Laurel United Methodist Church

VHNA residents have been dealing with a number of properties occupied by individuals displaying anti social behaviors. These include fighting, drug activity, domestic abuse, loud mufflers or audio car systems, theft, harassment of neighbors, littering and loitering or walking in the middle of the street without concern for holding up traffic. These properties are also the ones that go uncared for by absentee landlords and as such they attract more of this type of occupant. As summer approaches, the problem always gets worse.

Chief Caldwell will address what the police department is doing to help make our neighborhood safe and how we can assist

them to get the job done.

There are ways to minimize this activity by directly reporting the activity as it happens, thus building up a record of history of this activity that can initiate a "nuisance landlord" complaint. This requires the landlord to resolve the problems or face mounting fines.

Sometimes the landlord has a property manager who is not doing their job letting these problems persist. Once the landlord is notified and made aware of the problem resolution is frequently at hand. Such was the case for a problem, Edwards Street property that VHNA took action on. The elderly owner was not aware of the situation and hired a new property manager who has evicted the bad residents, cleaned out and around the building and is in the process of painting this civil war era prize. See this month's Point of Pride on back page.

Neighborhood Cleanup set for May 30

It's that time again for us to clear out all that stuff we've been tripping over for the last year, and taking up the space our new stuff needs to grow into. Set items at the curb by Friday night. If you can, take time to walk down your alley to see if there are any abandoned or dumped items that you can also drag to the curb.

We will meet at 7AM at the traditional place at 436-8 W. Vine where juice, coffee and pastries will be waiting for us to charge us up with sugar and caffeine to assist us in our task ahead.

Bring a hat, gloves, water bottle and good walking shoes and suntan lotion if this will be your first serious exposure to summer sun..

Anything goes EXCEPT: regular garbage, hazardous waste like household chemicals and paints, tires, branches and other yard waste, or refrigerators. Refrigerators can be picked up by the city by appointment see page 3.

VHNA April '09 Meeting Minutes and Corrections

The special Earth Edition April meeting opened at 7:00 with the Pledge. Our featured speaker was Jim Johnston of Sustainable Springfield who explained the concept of sustainability and its benefit to Springfield's environment and economy. He described a variety of activities happening around town to celebrate Earth Week.



Treasurer Kathy Twyman reported a balance of \$757 plus \$10 for a new membership by Harvey Hall who is the new precinct #65 committeeman serving the SE corner of our

territory. Welcome Harvey.

Pat Geary made the generous offer to provide something tasty every meeting if each month, someone else would volunteer to bring something to drink. Thanks so much Pat for your commitment to community. OK folks, get in line to volunteer to help out. Chris Riess is bringing drinks for May.

A comment was received and heard in response to the Special Earth Edition about printing the View on recycled paper. I was taken back that I wasn't already doing that and I appreciated the reminder. Capitol Blueprint said they only have colors as 30% recycled but we could order the white and they are checking on the price increase. I may absorb that if it isn't too much.

City Joins National "America in Bloom" Competition

The City of Springfield has entered the National America in Bloom competition and is enlisting the assistance of all neighborhoods. VHNA can help by preparing their area, documenting this and sending the documentation to Springfield in Bloom. Springfield will be preparing a book and a few slide shows for the judges who will be in Springfield July 20 and 21. Thanks to Dee Nelson and Betty Green for attending the info meeting on this fine event.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

See www.AmericanBloom.org or info@Springfieldinbloom.org.

1. Floral Displays and Landscaping - Planting front yard gardens, especially with red plants, since the Mayor has publicized this event as "Plant the Town Red"
2. Tidiness - Clean up of sidewalks, boulevards, streets and alleys with special attention to weeds, debris, clutter and graffiti - Help with the VHNA neighborhood clean up. The date will be in a future Newsletter.
3. Be Involved - Join and attend the Vinegar Hills Neighborhood meetings to find out what is being planned and then participate. Help with the Vinegar Hill gardens is always appreciated.
4. Document your activities and coordinate with VHNA on submitting your success.



Earth Awareness Fair May 30th 10am-4pm at PCCC

After the Neighborhood cleanup which finishes at noon, go downtown for this celebration of the Earth. For 16 years this event has been held during Earth Week to help the public recognize the importance of good stewardship of the Earth. This year's greatly expanded fair is being held later at the end of May and in a much larger venue at the Prairie Capitol Convention Center..

Come out and participate in numerous activities for all ages. See live birds of prey, solar exhibits, environmental displays and eat good healthy food. Numerous kid's activities will take place in the lower level.

Friday May 29th a series of Green Business workshops will be held throughout the day.

Contact Wynne Coplea at wynne.coplea@cwlp.com or 789-2343.



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
 Appliance/furniture pickup 522-7797

Aldermen

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

Gardening Opportunities Abound

VHNA Cook and Lawrence Street Gardens. Thanks to the mulchers who spread mulch over the gardens to control weeds and preserve the moisture. The gardens look great again as they cycle through their parade of colors. Volunteer to help weed and water and join the fun.

Wildflower Plant Sale May 16&17 at Lincoln Memorial Garden.

Color your yard with the flowers that evolved here and are climate adapted to survive here with little effort from you.

Saturday May 16th 9-4pm and Sunday May 17th 1-4pm.

Water Garden Class Tuesday May 12 1pm & Thursday May 14 at 7pm

Learn how to construct and care for the right water garden for you. \$5

U of I Extension Building #30 at the State Fairgrounds

Register at www.extension.uiuc.edu/sangamonmenard

Plastic Pot Recycling #2,5&6 Saturday, May 23, from 9-12 Hundman Lumber, 2994 J. David Jones Pkwy. across from the airport entrance.

Helpful Services

Large Item Pickup: call 522-7797 and have an item per year like refrigerators, appliances, couches, mattresses picked up for free. Don't dump it.

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.

Curbside Recycling of paper, plastic, cans and clear glass. Call your hauler.

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
426 & 428 West Edwards

This Civil War Era building was The worst one on the block with disruptive tenants who were driving away good tenants from this and neighboring apartments. VHNA took action and called every time there was a disturbance. The elderly owner was notified and a new property manager was hired who evicted the problem tenants, cleaned up the property, fixed the broken windows and doors and is in the process of finishing up the new paint job. It has now regained the status it once held as a desirable place to live. The building is again attractive to State workers who can walk to work and downtown entertainment.



Our thanks go out to the owner and new building manager who have put much effort into this fine building that can once again stand proudly with its extended family of Springfield's fine historic buildings. If you know someone looking for a classy place, give them a call, the sign is in the front yard. There are two units left.