



VIEW FROM the hill

Please visit our web site - www.vhna.net

Volume 10, Issue 1

January, 2007

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 South 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.

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

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.

Speaking at Our January Meeting

Plan to attend VHNA's first meeting of 2007, Monday, January 8th (see details at left), when we will hear from CWLP's Public Information Officer Amber Sabin. Amber will present information on the Adopt-a-Street program sponsored by Springfield Green but will also inform us about some of the other events and projects sponsored



by Springfield Green, such as the Yard-to-yard Challenge, the Gateway Green Project and the Spring Tree Planting Program. You can learn more about Springfield Green at www.springfield.il.us/green, where I learned our very own Tony Leone was recognized for outstanding support of SG last year. You may also call (217) 789-2116 ext. 529 for more info.

VHNA Board to Meet

President Mario Ingoglia has called for the first VHNA Board of Directors Meeting to be held, as is customary, immediately prior to the January membership meeting in the same location, Room 201 at LUMC. The meeting will convene promptly at 6:00 pm and a discus-

sion of VHNA's goals and priorities for 2007 is planned. All board members are encouraged to attend and please take some time prior to the meeting to jot down some notes so we can make some recommendations in order to help the new President get off on the right foot.

Why Did We Change the Newsletter? by Bill Castor

Our long-time newsletter editor, Job Conger has resigned. Please join me in a big "Thank You" for his years of service to our association. As Secretary, the responsibilities for minutes and official publications is now mine, and with no volunteer forthcoming, I decided to take on the task of editor myself. The new format is largely a reflection of my publishing software being incompatible with the old one, but I must confess, as this newsletter came together, I rather enjoyed developing the new look. I hope you like it. I used the graphic arts work

Sharon Hewitt developed in order to further propagate our "brand recognition". We now have the same graphics on our signs, web site, letterhead and newsletter. A small change on the surface, but I think it helps project a more professional image. And yes, some of our "regular" content is missing, but I hope to add it again soon. We may also drop regular advertising, since the cost of additional pages for the ads may exceed the related revenue. If you have suggestions for our new "view" please email wm.castor@yahoo.com. Thank you.

December Membership Meeting Minutes

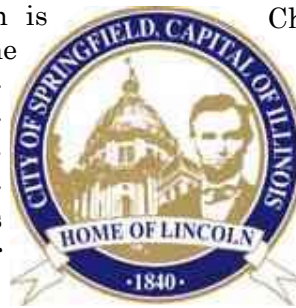
President, Bill Castor called the meeting to order at 7pm. Vice-president, Bob Croteau briefly spoke to the members apologizing for his not being able to stay for the meeting, but stating, if re-elected, he will serve again in 2007. Bob Bartnick, Ward 5 aldermanic candidate, spoke briefly introducing himself and stating he looked forward to "not being a stranger" at our meetings. When asked if he would write a regular column for our newsletter, if elected, he said he would "certainly give it a try." November meeting minutes were approved by voice vote. Treasurer's report - Judy Ingham noted a balance of \$1,172. Job Conger made a motion for VHNA to officially commend the Springfield Streets Department supervisors and crews for their dedicated efforts in clearing branches from the streets following the December 1st ice storm and blizzard. The motion carried. Sam Cahnman announced his candidacy for Ward 6 Alderman in the upcoming election. He also reported next year's Sangamon County budget includes a reduction in the real property tax rate. Elections- Nominations were made for three Board vacancies. Job Conger, Paul Duiker and Jim Hill were nominated. Bill Castor and Mario Ingoglia were nominated for President, Bob Croteau for Vice-president and Judy Ingham for Treasurer. No one was nominated for Secretary. It was suggested



the Presidential candidate receiving fewest votes serve as Secretary. Both candidates agreed. The election was held by secret ballot. Votes were counted by Dennis Rogers and Cathy Twyman. As ballots were counted, Leadership Springfield representative Matt Heyen updated members on the LS team's service project for VHNA. He explained aerial photographs of VHNA territory were reproduced and 10 sections of the association area were identified for recording property use. Volunteers were asked to document information regarding property use on the photos by visual observation of things such as multiple mailboxes for multi-family homes and signage and parking lots to indicate businesses use. Stand-alone parking lots and vacant lots will also be documented. Several VHNA members signed-up to help. Election Results Mario Ingoglia was announced the winner as President, Bill Castor, Secretary and all others were confirmed in the positions as nominated. Refreshments for January were volunteered by Bill Castor and Cathy Twyman. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. A Holiday party followed the meeting with piano and guitar music complements of Alice Hill and Job Conger. Editor's note: Thank you to all who provided refreshments and entertainment for the party. I hope everyone has a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

City of Springfield's Neighborhood News Letter

The City of Springfield has issued its *Springfield Neighborhood News* for January-February 2007. The bi-monthly newsletter information is provided as a public service by the Springfield Office of Public Works. Articles in the current issue include: information about Springfield's Curbside Recycling Program, which now accepts additional plastic items; drop-off locations for recycling of computers and other



electronics equipment as well as holiday gift wrap paper and boxes and old phone books; curbside Christmas tree collection dates (January 1st - 13th); and other helpful information. The newsletter is available on our web site www.vhna.net or you may pick-up a copy at VHNA's monthly meeting, at 7pm, on the second Monday of each month, in room 201, at Laurel United Methodist Church, located at Walnut & So. Grand.

On Pothole Patrol? - Please Report Your Favorite Crater Today

During severe winter weather, potholes can be created in even the best of streets. The City of Springfield, Office of Public Works wants to stay on top of repairing these bone-jarring craters. You may call (217)789-2255, or visit the city's online "Report a Pothole" page at http://www.springfield.il.us/CITY_GOV/WORKS/Report.htm.



A motorist stopped recently on Walnut Street to examine a pothole.

This online form was created to help you let our Public Works Department know where potholes can be found. While they have crews watching for potholes, not all are noticed. This is your opportunity to help identify the ones that are overlooked. When reporting, please be sure to provide location information that is as accurate and complete as possible to help ensure the fastest possible response time.

County Board Report

By Tim Moore, District 22 Representative
 Timothy@co.sangamon.il.us — Work Phone (217) 525-9255

Happy New Year VHNA members & friends! As we begin 2007, there are many projects ongoing with the County. I'll do my best to keep you current. In future columns, I'll profile various departments and services you may want to know more about. You are always welcome to call or email. See my contact information above. I travel a lot in my job, so sometimes it may take a day or so to reply. The County's web site (www.co.sangamon.il.us) offers a wealth of information you may find helpful, from job openings and the County's Discount Drug Program (<http://co.sangamon.il.us/Events/SangamoScripts.htm>) to a complete phone directory, and various filing dates for the courts and zoning. Following are some of the issues to be addressed in 2007. **In the Health Department:** A bid process is underway to construct a location for the County Health Department. By federal mandate, the building must be located in the "medically underserved" area of the center of population. Roughly, this area would extend from 9th St, to Dirksen Pkwy, and from Stevenson Dr, to Clear Lake Av. It's not an perfect square, but the map is avail-



able if you'd like more details. Ideally, the facility will be in an area easy to access by car, bus, foot, bike, etc. And with a new building, we can offer accessible facilities with the latest technology. As a member of this building committee, and of the Health, Safety & Zoning committee, this process will be taking up a great deal of my time and holding my interest in the first six months of this year.

Regarding the Upcoming Elections: The City Elections will soon be upon us, with the primaries on February 27th and the City/Consolidated Election on April 17th. Please take the time to make sure you are registered 30 days prior to the election. If you are not sure where to vote, go to: <http://co.sangamon.il.us/election/WhereDoIVote.htm> and enter your address. Many of you voted on the new voting machines in the recent elections. The comments you've passed along to me indicated that most of you were pleased with how easy the machines are to use. For those who did not get to vote on the machines, below is a link that will take you to the voting demo web site. It's worth the 3 or 4 minutes of your time: www.votingdemo.com.



Join or renew for 2007 Today!

You DO NOT need to live in VHNA's territory to join. Membership is open to all who understand and support the purpose and goals of our Association.

You can join online at: www.vhna.net, but must still mail a check or attend a meeting to pay dues.

You can also fill out the form at right to join and mail it with your \$10 dues payment check to:

VHNA
P.O. Box 1026
Springfield, IL 62705

Please do not mail cash. Thank You!

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)

VINEGAR HILL
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.
POST OFFICE BOX 1026
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62705

www.vhna.net



January 2007 - Point O' Pride

Our Point 'O' Pride this month is a very unique and interesting small art deco style office building located at 1028 S. Walnut St. I'm sure you've noticed and appreciated the great remodeling work done recently on this

building. Well, I'm very pleased to announce the new owner-occupant is also our newest VHNA member! Dick Van Dyke, CSA, is a Registered Investment advisor, who for over 30 years owned and operated Dick Van Dyke

Appliance World. Dick told me he chose this location for it's central location in a nice residential and small office area and said he has always liked the art deco architecture of the building. Well, Dick, we couldn't agree more. You have a very nice new location. Welcome to the neighborhood and also as a member of VHNA.. We're pleased to see another smart investor who has recognized the great value of locating in the Vinegar Hill Area. We look forward to seeing you at our VHNA meetings and getting to know you.



**Never be a cynic,
even a gentle one.
Never help out a sneer,
even at the devil.**

- Vachel Lindsay