



# VIEW FROM the hill

Neighbors in harmony improving, preserving & protecting - [www.vhna.net](http://www.vhna.net)

Volume 12, Issue 2

February, 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](http://www.vhna.net)

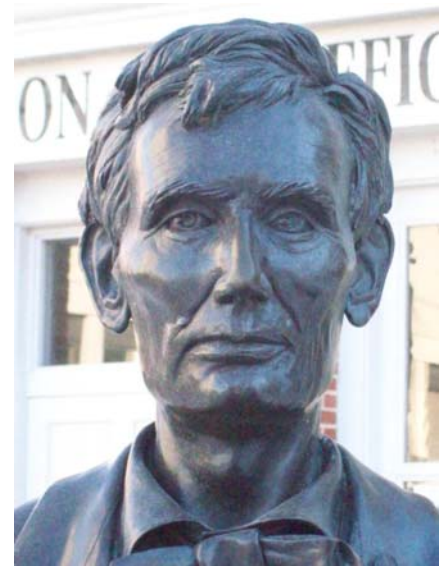
Our MEETINGS are held on the second Monday of each month from 7 to 9 pm in room 201, at Laurel United Methodist Church located at Walnut and South Grand.

## Happy 200th Birthday Abe !

Abraham Lincoln would be 200 years old this month. If only he could have lived that long to see the influence his service has made in this country, which in part, made the results of the latest Presidential election possible.

When I was a paperboy I remembered a headline about the last Civil War veteran passing away at 117 years of age. I did the math and realized he was just a boy like me when the Civil War broke out. It made me think of how scary and difficult a time it must have been for the whole country to be at war on our own soil. But I was also reading headlines of the Viet Nam war breaking out too and I worried how it may impact my life. War is an unfortunate element of the human condition, but it can be

mitigated by wise leadership that considers that we are all in need and everyone should be heard. Let this year of Abe's 200th birthday be a celebration of a new spirit of inclusion and peace. By Bob Croteau

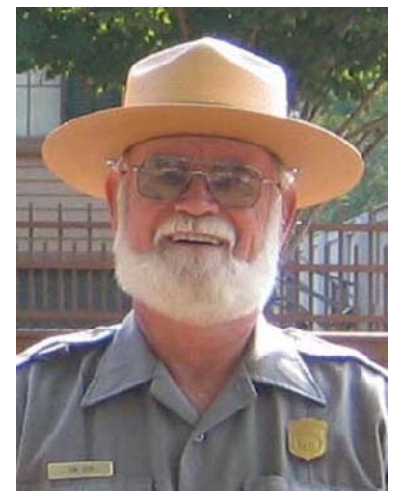


## Jim Cox is February Speaker of the Month

Maybe you've seen him with his full white beard glowing in the sun. **Jim Cox** is a National Park Service Guide for the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. He was born and raised in Springfield as was his wife, Pat, and both of their parents. He is a Griffin HS grad, Navy veteran, ATT retiree and Boy Scout volunteer.

Jim said "My dad and his family lived just a block from the Lincoln Home on 9th street. He used to tell me stories about how he and some of the other neighborhood boys, when they were younger, would tip over the outhouse behind Lincoln's Home on Halloween. I feel like I'm paying penance for his mischief. An aunt sold lemonade on the Lincoln Home corner when she was little."

Come and hear Jim's experiences and perspective in working around our most famous President's home.



## CWLP will pay you \$50 for your old Refrigerator

### The CWLP Great Refrigerator Roundup

See if you qualify for a \$50 reward for turning in your working refrigerator or freezer manufactured before 1993.

Many people purchase a new refrigerator but rather than getting rid of the old inefficient one they move it to the garage as a second refrigerator to keep a six-pack of beer or a few liters of beverages cold. However taking an already inefficient unit and putting it into a hot garage in the summer time only makes it use much more electricity to do the job.

New refrigerators can be twice as efficient as some of these older models, and CWLP wants to encourage its customers to move the old ones out, by offering a \$50 bounty on the old one. Or, if your primary unit is also pre 1993, you can use the \$50 as a down payment on a new efficient model.

CWLP has contracted with ARCA to pick up your old **working refrigerator or freezer** and recycle all the components in an environmentally safe way, including the refrigerant, metal and even the foam insulation.

You can call them at 1-866-899-9862 to schedule your pickup of up to two units of 10-27 cu.ft. each. Or visit [www.arcaincutility.com](http://www.arcaincutility.com).



### View From the Hill under new Editorship

You may have noticed the different look to The View this month after its absence last month from your door steps. With the election of new officers for 2009, I agreed to take on the new role as Secretary, and with it publishing the newsletter. I was on vacation for the first two weeks of January so that is why you didn't see one last month.

So this is my first attempt at it, and at using MS Publisher, so I beg your patience while I get up to full speed. It does take some effort, commitment and consistency, the last of which is my shortest attribute. I am not a writer but more of a science geek but I am going to give it my best, so feel free to use your red pencil there at home to make all those grammar and punctuation corrections.

I want to send a special thanks to our previous "earnest editor" **Job Conger** who tirelessly put out a first rate publication month after month, consistently even when he had no consistent contributions from the membership to help fill the pages. I hope he will feel free to add his two or three cents once in a while, spiced with a bit of his subtle humor again. Thanks also to **Bill Castor** who also filled in intermittently to get the job done.

I threw this together at the last minute so I didn't have time to ask around for help, but for all you other part and full time contributors, please feel free to keep up the good work and know that your efforts will be greatly appreciated. Next month maybe we can get our history lesson from **Dee Nelson** and some updates from our fine Aldermen too. Thanks for your patience. Bob Croteau



## Gardens in Need of Attention

It is always difficult to keep up with our own regular busy lives let alone volunteer time to devote to other projects outside the home.

Our VHNA gardens at Lawrence and Cook Streets are evidence of this fact. I know I had a very busy summer and fall and then the holidays came around and whoosh, now it's February.

Well, soon it will be spring and we need to prune the rosebushes before the sap begins to flow back from the roots, so we can see who put up the signs and the beautiful artwork that went into them. I included our logo above that is on the signs. The graphic was donated by local artist and member Bill Crook.

If you have pruning skills please volunteer to help out to uncover these works of art.



### Neighborhood Police Officer

Dave Barringer — Cell: 652-2255 — **Emergency: 911**

Police Drug Unit — 788-8498 — 3 to 11 pm

### 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



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](http://www.vhna.net), but must 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**

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)

February 2009 VHNA Point Of Pride

Is there any more appropriate choice for this month's Point of Pride than **Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln's** home? Springfield's most famous home has drawn many thousands of visitors from around the world to see and experience the place where this great visionary formed many of his thoughts. Even though it is not directly in the VHNA territory it's influence greatly envelops our area. This is not a wealthy mansion, but rather a modest prairie home of a size and function close to the needs of its inhabitants, much like our own homes. It's federal style architecture is evident in many homes in our territory, demonstrating the fact that our area was growing up along side of Lincoln's neighborhood.

This architecture, as well as the later Italianate, Queen Ann and Craftsman Styles, make interesting pieces of our historical quilt that are well worth pre-

serving for our domestic and international visitors to enjoy.

