



*Hawthorne Place
Neighborhood Association*

June 1, 2012

Life in Historic Hawthorne



HPNA President Beth Trojahn & Ward 6 Alderman Cory Jobe

The Ward 6 Revitalization and Rehabilitation Fund

Alderman Cory Jobe established a fund for beautification projects in Ward 6 last year. It was a commitment he made when he ran for office. On Sunday, May 6, eight neighborhoods received grants of \$1000 each for improvement projects within the ward. In the photo above, Beth Trojahn receives one of these checks for Hawthorne Place. The Hawthorne project is already underway. Read about it on page 2.

Ward 6 Fund



Justin Mitts & Superior Lawn Design began work on the Hawthorne boulevard on May 8.

The Ward 6 Revitalization and Rehabilitation Fund was officially inaugurated in December. Application forms with criteria were distributed for the fund and they were reviewed at that initial meeting. (The forms were also available online.) In Hawthorne Place, neighbors were encouraged to attend monthly HPNA board meetings and share their thoughts. Potential projects were also discussed at the annual neighborhood meeting in March.

Three proposals were eventually under consideration: installation of lighting for the HP signs at each end of the boulevard, participation in the city's Sweet Gum removal program, and landscaping at the south end of the boulevard where the weed problem was out of control. The last project was the one that had been discussed the longest time, especially with the infestation of poison ivy, and that was the project that was submitted.

Each neighborhood in Ward 6 could submit one proposal for work to be done on public property. Each proposal had to meet a list of criteria for approval. As it turned out, every one of eight neighborhood submissions was approved. Each neighborhood received a \$1000 grant.

Superior Lawn Design was awarded the contract for the work to be done on the Hawthorne boulevard and work began immediately. The weeds and bushes in the 1600 area of the boulevard were cut, a Bobcat was used to plow the area, and the roots were extracted and raked.



south end of the boulevard cleared of all weeds

Two weeks later, Superior plowed and leveled the area in front of the Hawthorne sign at Lowell and Laurel. That area was laid with sod. The larger area to the north was seeded and covered with straw.

Superior's work was completed by May 22. The neighborhood is now responsible for watering these areas. Mike Trojahn has set up a watering system using the city's fire hydrant. HPNA will be charged for the city water. In the hot days to follow the watering will be crucial. Please call Mike if you can help. This project will take time.

With thanks to Justin Mitts and Superior Lawn Design for their great work. Most of all, a sincere thank-you to Alderman Cory Jobe and the sponsors of the Ward 6 Fund. Alderman Jobe has contributed half of his aldermanic salary to make this fund viable.



Superior's crew laid sod at the south end of the boulevard on May 22.

Some Past Events

Annual Meeting

The HPNA meeting took place at Laurel United Methodist Church on Wednesday, March 21. It was a relaxing evening beginning with a potluck dinner. Following the dinner, there were presentations by Alderman Cory Jobe and Director of Public Works Mark Mahoney who discussed current city issues and programs. The evening concluded as Mike Trojahn led a discussion on possible projects for the Ward 6 Fund.

The annual meeting is also an opportunity for neighbors to renew their HPNA membership, contribute to the boulevard mowing, and volunteer for a variety of activities scheduled for the year ahead.

Easter Egg Hunt

Beth Faulkner and Karmen Goodrich organized this year's Easter Egg Hunt for our youngest neighbors. It was scheduled for Saturday, March 31, with perhaps as many as 75 kids attending.

Eloise Baird (The Balloon Lady) provided entertainment and she stayed much longer than planned so that every child received a balloon.

Neighborhood Cleanup

It was a great day for the cleanup which took place on Saturday, April 21. The weather was perfect – cool and dry.

Seventeen of our neighbors showed up with rakes and brooms and pruning tools. Who were they? Thanks to Riita Anderson, Stan Black, Tony Chen, Chelsy Hopper, Jim Huston, Andy & Theresa Lambert, Mark & Grainne Mahoney, Chris Oliver, Bob Ralph, Linda Riebling, Gene Smith, John Simpson, Mike Trojahn, Marty Vandiver and Deb Yoder.

Two people, Darrell & Sharon Riffey, from the Historic West Side Neighborhood Association came to Hawthorne to help us with our cleanup. There were four volunteers from Adult Probation. Doug Reynolds brought the Community Tool Wagon from the Springfield Parks Foundation. Public Works and Brown's Storm Service provided free mulch for the flowerbeds. Mark Mitchell had already raked at the northwest end of Lowell which saved our volunteers a lot of time. Chris Oliver's truck and Mike Trojahn's trailer were invaluable in transporting heavy loads. And Mark Mahoney and Public Works saw to it that the yard waste bags were all picked up immediately in the next week.

Finally, all our gratitude goes to Marty Vandiver who organized this year's cleanup.

The Big Event

The neighborhood cleanup is organized each year so that Hawthorne can look its best for The Big Event. Rain was in the forecast for Saturday, May 5, but, again, the weather couldn't have been more accommodating. Yard sales were organized on all the six blocks of Hawthorne which encouraged visitors to walk throughout the neighborhood. It is always hoped that these visitors will find value in our older homes and the friendliness of those who live here. (Maybe they'll invest in a property.)

This year, both the plant and the food fundraisers were placed on the boulevard, just north of Cedar. (In the past, both had been set up on west Cedar and the street had to be closed.) The new arrangement worked better for the traffic flow while also providing a more reliable source of shade.

Linda Riebling was in charge of the plant tables and she was assisted by Riita Anderson and Tony Chen. Karmen Goodrich was in charge of the food court and she was helped by Chelsy Hopper and a group of student volunteers from Southeast High School. Ben & Mike Trojahn provided a trailer to transport items throughout the day. Mark Mahoney and Jim Huston set up a display of

old photographs and related Hawthorne history in the wee hours of the morning.

It all worked out perfectly. With thanks to Beth Trojahn who organized this year's yard sale, Hawthorne's Big Event.



A Few Words About the Budget

Among the annual costs for the HPNA are the programs that are sponsored each year. These include the annual meeting, the children's Easter Egg Hunt, the spring cleanup (and there may be a fall cleanup), The Big Event, National Night Out, Winter Fest, and the Luminary display on Christmas Eve.

In addition, \$120 was spent for the 108 red geraniums planted at each end of the boulevard.

The Association also added \$100 to the \$1000 that was received from the Ward 6 Fund. (Neighborhood associations must provide ten percent of the amount they request.) There will be bills from the city for the watering of the new sod and grass at the south end of the boulevard.

Every membership is a vital contribution for the costs assumed by the Association.

Membership

As of late May, there are 81 memberships for the calendar year 2012. That raised \$950. About half of the residents of Hawthorne have contributed to the Association by renewing their membership.

If you would like to become an HPNA member, please send your membership check to Burnell Heinecke at 1604 Lowell.

Boulevard Mowing

One of the great advantages of Hawthorne is that there is a neighbor-volunteer who is willing to mow the boulevard for a very modest cost. Again, contributions are sought from those who live on Lowell to pay for this service. So far, 35 Lowell Avenue residents have contributed to this fund. Their commitment helped raise \$723. We need \$800. That amount will pay for uniform mowing on the boulevard from spring through summer.

If you can help, again, please contact Burnell Heinecke at 1604 Lowell. Each resident is asked to contribute \$20 to the mowing fund.



Beautification

Volunteers also try to maintain the numerous public flower beds in Hawthorne. They work for free. There are few volunteers but many plantings in public spaces. It has been suggested in the past, and even recently, that flower beds also be placed at the four corners of Whittier and Cedar. It can only be done with more people willing to help. There are flower beds at each end of the boulevard and at each end of Holmes and Whittier. There are six flower beds at the intersection of Lowell and Cedar. And there is the Daylily Walk, stretching the length of Laurel in Hawthorne.

These plantings add so much to the appeal of Hawthorne Place, especially if these garden plots are maintained. But they can only be managed with volunteer help.

Branch Pickup

Public Works crews provide free branch collection for fallen branches and brush from April through November. Branches must be placed in front of the home in the city right-of-way and not in the alley or the boulevard.

In the News

Mark Yeates



Mark Yeates with the original sign for
Dick's Shoe Repair

Mark Yeates, owner of Dick's Shoe Repair (314 W. Laurel), was featured on the front page story of the *State Journal-Register* (March 5, 2012). The clever title of the story by Natalie Morris was "Sole Savivors." It's a feature about those with the special skills of repairing our footwear. These shops and craftsmen are increasingly rare. There are now only two in Springfield.

Mark shares some of the history of the family business. Dick's Shoe Repair was originally located downtown at Fifth and Jefferson. As a kid, Mark would shine shoes and plug parking meters for customers.

By 1992, when the business had moved to Laurel, Mark was ready to manage the store. He acquired it from his father and this year marks his 20th year as the proprietor.

Mark Yeates has been a sponsor of the HPNA newsletter longer than anyone.

Congratulations to Mark for his long years in maintaining the family trade. Be sure to patronize Dick's Shoe Repair and all our advertisers. They deserve our business and support.

Ann Frescura

There was a wonderful photo of Ann Frescura (517 Cedar) and Victoria Ringers, of Downtown Springfield, Inc., on the cover of the *Illinois Times* ("Making Downtown Lovable" - May 17, 2012). DSI was one of the sponsors of the recent SDAT (Sustainable Design Assessment Team) study. Seventeen members of the team visited Springfield in early May to consider the city's infrastructure and how to revamp and revitalize the city core. Needless to add, downtown Springfield plays a critical role in sustaining our older neighborhoods which are so close to that city core. Read the SDAT report at www.sdat.springfield.com.

Rich Saal

A bustling downtown can be viewed in a collection of photographs organized by Rich Saal (1605 Lowell). Rich has been researching a collection of 1300 glass plate images from the *Illinois State-Journal*. He has chosen 35 of these images taken by the newspaper's earliest photographers. This superb exhibit is titled "Springfield Photographs: Images from the *Illinois State-Journal* Glass Plates 1929-1935." The exhibit is on view on the second floor at Lincoln Library, the public library of Springfield (326 South Seventh), through August 3. You can also view the images online at www.springfieldphotographs.com.

National Night Out

National Night Out was initiated to promote police-community partnerships. It is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7. Hawthorne Place always participates. You can count on ice cream and lemonade, a fire truck, and a representative from the police department. A flyer this summer will provide more details.

Have You Noticed?

We should all applaud these home improvement projects. Here are just *some* examples of the recent work being done in Hawthorne Place. With thanks to all who take such pride in their homes and our neighborhood.



1421 Lowell

Last year, Gene and Mary Smith bought this signature home in Hawthorne. They have been working on the interior for the past year painting, installing new floors and lighting, replacing the kitchen and much more. It will go on sale this summer.



500-506 South Grand Avenue West

Mark Mitchell bought both properties this spring. He has cleared out the overgrown shrubbery and removed a huge Sweet Gum while also doing work on both the exterior and interior. He was working on opening the back porch when this photo was taken.



1334 Whittier

An exterior fire caused extensive damage to the home of Brian and Rachel Alexander last fall. Today, as the couple pose on their front porch, the repairs are so thorough you would never suspect the trials they faced last year.



1608 Whittier

Clifford and Pamela Hayes now have a livable room in their attic, one with two skylights. This photo was taken on the day of the neighborhood Big Event with family visiting. Clifford is posing with grandson, Jesse.



1417 Holmes

Terry and Claire Martin have returned their home to a single-family dwelling. Their most recent project includes new pillars, railing and floor for their front porch. Claire is in the photo.



1609 Whittier

Ralph and Elaine Sullivan are painting their home just like homeowners did in the days before aluminum and vinyl siding. Bravo to the Sullivans.



1401 Lowell

Chris and Michelle Oliver have done extraordinary work at their home and they have done almost all of it themselves. The most recent projects include a new doorway central to the front steps, the new steps, and planters and landscaping around the new wraparound porch. And the work continues.



1400 Lowell

Stan Black and Keri Lully have new awnings for their home. It's the look of originality with a spot of rich color for Hawthorne.

Our thanks to these great homeowners.

Last Known Address

Cemeteries are not only an oasis for peaceful repose. They are an invaluable source of information. Tombstones may reveal vital dates when birth and death records are otherwise unavailable. Inscriptions may also clarify family relationships.

These photos are only from Oak Ridge Cemetery. It may be a surprise to discover that many Hawthorne neighbors reside again in such proximity. One can only wonder if they knew one another in life and how well.

Oak Ridge, established in 1860, is an outstanding example of the rural cemetery movement of early 19th-century America. In this week of Memorial Day, we visit a few neighbors.



Here lies William J. Conkling (1826-1904). While neither he or his progeny ever lived in Hawthorne, he did own title to the land and his son, William H. Conkling, co-developed the new subdivision in 1902.



This small stone was obscured with grass clippings today but when Joseph Figueira (1873-1953) died he was front page news. He was a star baseball player in his youth, a building contractor, and in 1927, when he lived at 1532 Lowell, he was elected city commissioner.



Perry Jayne (1879-1955) came from a long line of early settlers and local politicians. He was the first resident of 1500 Whittier where he lived from 1910 to 1955. His first cousin, Thomas Palmer, resided just a block away.



Thomas Palmer (1875-1943) and his wife, Maude, moved to 1525 Lowell in the early 1920s. Both Perry Jayne and Thomas Palmer were grandsons of John Palmer, an Illinois governor and U.S. senator. But Thomas Palmer was also known as a public health pioneer and a leader in the treatment of TB.



The family of Richings Shand (1867-1939) were among the first residents of Hawthorne. Shand retired with the rank of brigadier general with the Illinois National Guard. His widow resided at 1409 Whittier for 58 years.



Martin Speulda (1854-1939) came from a family of watchmakers. His father had given Abraham Lincoln a watch which was later returned to the family when Mary Lincoln moved back to Springfield. The Martin Speulda family lived at 1328 Holmes.



George Zwicky (1844-1935), born in Switzerland, was a soap manufacturer. He retired at the age of sixty in 1905. He married, had a child, and built a house at 1513 Lowell. He and his wife are surrounded by family at Oak Ridge.



James A. Day (1869-1968) lived at 1420 Lowell from 1921 until his death in 1968 at the age of ninety-eight. He had practiced medicine for half a century and, beginning in 1900, he spent two years in Europe studying surgery. His son, J. Edward Day, would become Postmaster General in the Kennedy administration.



Laomi Herndon Brown (1852-1939) was the niece of William Herndon, Lincoln's law partner. Her grandfather was one of the legendary Long Nine. She had her home built at 1613 Whittier where she died in 1939.



George B. Gillespie (1863-1944) is listed as the first resident of 1421 Lowell in 1905. He came to Springfield as assistant attorney general and he would be father and grandfather of attorneys. His wife, Mary, preceded him in death and he remarried. But George and Mary are reunited at Oak Ridge.




Herbert Barnes (1867-1955) was born in a log cabin and at ten, when his father died, he was the breadwinner for his family. Without a high school education he tested into college and began a fifty-year teaching career. The first home for he and his wife was 1520 Holmes. In his last year he wrote a memoir in which he encourages the reader to visit Oak Ridge, where he would be buried, "and think about us who were just as real in life as you in later generations. Do come."

And a heart-felt thank-you to all our sponsors:

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


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HAWTHORNE PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

What is it? – The Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association is an organization for residents of Whittier, Lowell and Holmes between South Grand and Laurel – the boundaries of the 1902 Hawthorne Place subdivision. The organization advocates for the neighborhood, sponsors social activities, and is a forum for working on neighborhood issues.

History – The Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association held its first meeting at Laurel Methodist Church on October 27, 1994. The organization grew out of the effort to get a stop sign installed at Holmes and Cedar. Neighbors discovered the benefits of a group effort and a group voice.

How to join – Membership is \$20 per family for a first time membership and \$10 per family for a renewing membership. To join, contact Membership chair Burnell Heinecke (522-3842). Also, let Burnell know if you do not want to be listed in the neighborhood directory.

Directories – Neighborhood directories are available to members. Contact your block captain if you need a directory.

Neighborhood Officer – Hawthorne Place is protected by the Springfield Police Department. Andy Zander, our Neighborhood Police Officer, can be reached at 741-0988. His email is andrew.zander@cwlp.com. If there is an emergency situation call 911.

Alderman – Hawthorne Place is in Ward 6. Our alderman is Cory Jobe. He can be reached by phone (622-9630) or email (cory@jobeward6.com). His webpage is www.jobeward6.com.

Webpage – www.hawthorneplace.us
The webpage is maintained by Chris Oliver.

Newsletter – The neighborhood newsletter is published quarterly. And the newsletter is self-supporting – thanks to our advertisers. Three cheers to them! Rates are \$10 per issue for a business card space or \$40 per year. Interested? Call Marty Vandiver, the HPNA treasurer, at 523-3544.

Block Captains – The neighborhood is divided into six “blocks,” with block captains elected to represent each block on the association board. The blocks consist of the north or south section of a street, separated by Cedar Street. Three block captains are elected each year to a two-year term at the annual meeting in the spring.

The following is a list of the current block captains.

N. Holmes
Beth Faulkner – 1420 Holmes (744-0295)
Karmen Goodrich – 1324 Holmes
(414-0783)
Karmen is the secretary of the HPNA.

S. Holmes
Chelsy Hopper – 1620 Holmes (528-7110)
Chelsy is the vice-president of the HPNA.

N. Lowell
Beth & Mike Trojahn - 1314 Lowell
(744-7303)
Beth is the president of the HPNA.

S. Lowell
Mark Mahoney – 1520 Lowell (544-7944)

N. Whittier
Lindsey Trojahn – 1317 Whittier (789-1315)

S. Whittier
Linda Riebling – 1500 Whittier (523-1450)
Marty Vandiver – 1528 Whittier
(523-3544)
Marty is the treasurer of the HPNA.

Jim Huston – 1524 Lowell (528-5256)
(HPNA newsletter since 2006)

Volunteer. Get involved.
Your neighborhood needs you.