



*Hawthorne Place*  
*Neighborhood Association*  
March 1, 2011

### Life in Historic Hawthorne



### ICON and Its Efforts to Preserve Our Older Neighborhoods

The photograph above was taken on the evening of January 31. It was an evening of sleet and the eve of a major winter storm. These individuals left a budgetary meeting at City Hall for an ICON meeting at St. John's Hospital. They were joined by three mayoral candidates, three current alderman, three aldermanic candidates and many others. It was one more fortuitous sign that ICON is getting the attention of elected officials. Pictured above are some of ICON's leadership: Polly Poskin, Karen Jacobs, Michelle Higginbotham, Chris Spinner, Carol Kneedler, Marty Vandiver, Carrie Becker and Steve Combs. Read about ICON beginning on page 6.

Remember to vote. City elections are scheduled for Tuesday, April 5.

## Winter Fest



Santa at Lowell and Cedar



Augie Antonacci, Cian Mahoney, and Ari Antonacci enjoying a carriage ride.

The second annual Winter Fest took place on Sunday, December 5. Neighbors gathered at the north end of the Lowell Avenue where a bonfire burned through the afternoon. Cheryl Jyawook (1321 Lowell) and Kent DeLay and Randy Stieren (1330 Lowell) opened their homes as warming shelters and refreshment centers. Santa made an appearance to the delight of kids of all ages and everyone – along with Santa – enjoyed the horse-drawn carriage rides through Hawthorne Place. Once again, our neighborhood is indebted to the Mark Mahoney family for organizing this event.

Another feature of Winter Fest is the recognition of homes that have been decorated for the holidays. This year the judges included Santa along with Chris and Michelle Oliver. Our judges cited 1512 Holmes (Reimers) with first place, 1525 Lowell (Lambert) with second, and 1428 Whittier (Cain) with third. A winner for each street. Honorable mentions went to 1409 Lowell (Eades), 1413 Holmes (Rutherford), 1520

Lowell (Mahoney), 1616 Whittier (Leddell), and 1513 Whittier. Baskin & Robbins and Dublin Pub generously provided prizes for our award winners.

## Thanks to Mark Mahoney

Mark Mahoney has been the alderman for Ward 6 for the past eight years. He and his family also became our neighbors in Hawthorne Place. As alderman, Mark was a strong advocate for repairing the city's infrastructure and for changing the city's garbage system. He has been a loyal friend to our city's older neighborhoods and always available to his constituents. Mark decided not to run in 2011. His dedication and his leadership at City Hall will be much missed.

In 2010, Mark and Grainne became the parents of a baby girl whom they named Orlaith. Her siblings are Niamh, Eamon and Cian

## Meaghan Lloyd, Architect

Meaghan Lloyd graduated with a masters degree in architecture from Yale in 2000. She was immediately hired by Frank Gehry, one of the great architects of our time. Meaghan is now his chief of staff. In a recent interview she remarked on her upbringing at 1525 Lowell and praised the older planned neighborhood that she knew as Hawthorne Place. "You can't beat it," she said, for its balance of parks, landscape and parkways. (See *SJ-R*, January 2, 2011, page 9.)



Sisters Bronwyn and Meaghan and their mother, Pat Lloyd, at 1525 Lowell, the family home for more than thirty years. (Photo: Spring 2000)

## Spring Schedule in Hawthorne

**Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 23: 6-8 PM**

This year the annual meeting will include a potluck and a home improvement vendor fair. There will be tables for membership renewal and sign-up sheets for neighborhood programs. We will meet at Laurel Methodist Church.

### Membership

A membership form is enclosed with the quarterly newsletter. Please return this form at the annual meeting or deliver it to Burnell Heinecke (1604 Lowell).

**Spring Clean-Up**  
**Saturday, April 9: 9 AM to Noon**

It would be wonderful to see all Hawthorne residents participate in the annual spring clean-up. It would be encouraging just to see more neighbors outside tending to their own properties. But many are also needed to clean the boulevard in anticipation of the Easter program and The Big Event.

**An Easter Egg Hunt for Our Young**  
**Hawthorne Residents**  
**Saturday, April 16**

This holiday event remains the most popular Hawthorne activity for our youngest residents. Again, there will be treats and games and entertainment. Times and location will be announced.

**The Big Event**  
**Saturday, May 7: 8 AM – 1 PM**

The “big event” is the annual Hawthorne Place garage sale. The more the merrier. It would be ideal to have residential yard sales on each block of Hawthorne on May 7. Neighbors who haven’t enough to sell might pool their resources with another neighbor. This event is one of the best opportunities for Hawthorne to show its spirit and the attractions of one of Springfield’s historic

neighborhoods. We want to look our best to our many potential visitors.



### Boulevard Mowing (throughout the summer)

The HPNA board is planning to budget for the mowing of the boulevard for 2011. But sufficient paying participation is absolutely necessary to provide this service. (See enclosed form.) Mike Trojahn has once again agreed to put his equipment to work. It is always important for neighbors to clear the area of the boulevard that fronts their property of debris and limbs which could impair Mike’s ability to do his job or endanger his safety.



### Some Budget Expenses for 2011

The Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association board has come up with a working budget for this fiscal year. Among the targeted expenses are the following:

Annual Meeting	\$ 50.
Beautification	\$250.
The Big Event	\$150.
Easter Egg Hunt	\$150.
Luminaria	\$ 25.
Meeting Room Use	\$100.
National Night Out	\$ 50.
Printing Costs	\$100.
Sign Post Replacement	\$ 75.
Touch-up Painting	\$ 50.
Winter Fest	\$100.





Hawthorne sign at Lowell & Laurel



Eades – 1409 Lowell

## Luminaria

Several of our Hawthorne neighbors volunteered to hang greens and lighting around our large signs. These good people included Tony Chen, Susan Crowe, Chelsy Hopper, Chris and Michelle Oliver, Linda Riebling, and Marty Vandiver. They then placed luminarias at each end of the boulevard for Christmas Eve. It added so much to the holiday spirit. Many homes were decorated in December. Whether it was a simple string of lights, a wreath on a door, or a candle in a window, every effort was a contribution to the festive season. These small black and white photos (from December 24) do not do justice to each colorful display, but they are a reminder of this past December in Hawthorne Place.



Morris – 1327 Whittier



Heinecke – 1604 Lowell



Mahoney – 1520 Lowell



Perkins – 1408 Whittier



Lambert – 1525 Lowell



Antonacci – 1516 Holmes



Cain – 1428 Whittier



Haasis – 1415 Lowell



Anderson – 1330 Whittier

# ICON and NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Steve Combs, president of the Enos Park Neighborhood Association and ICON, wrote a timely Guestwork column for the *Illinois Times* last December. (See *IT*, December 16-22, 2010, page 3.) It was titled “In Search of Six Votes for Neighborhoods” and it was written with an eye on the approaching city elections. Steve began his column by naming three communities (Rock Island, Peoria and Decatur) where city departments and divisions are identified *by name* as neighborhood-oriented and with a long-standing commitment to preserving historic residential areas. So, why not here?

Springfield development has continually expanded away from the city center and older neighborhoods, particularly those closest to the downtown, share a history of abandonment. A *State Journal-Register* editorial (August 3, 2008) stated: “The signs of decline are clear. Roads and streets go unfixed, family homes turn into rentals or, worse, are cut up into apartments owned by absent landlords. Crime increases. Rental property falls into disrepair.” The title for the editorial was “City Must Have Plan for Older Parts of the City.”

Two years later, another *SJR* editorial (June 30, 2010) disparaged the lack of progress on sidewalk repair. They wrote: “Anyone who walks or attempts to walk sidewalks in the older parts of the city knows they are a mess. How many times have you witnessed a person in a motorized wheelchair moving down a city street because the sidewalks are too decrepit to navigate or simply don’t exist. It’s an embarrassment.”

There has been no lack of talk or print on what needs to be done with the infrastructure at the city core. This topic has been debated for decades as the problem grows further beyond those neighborhoods closest to the downtown area.



But now there is another approaching storm: the whistle and rumble of multiple freight trains moving right through the center of Springfield. The city has long put off the expensive decisions necessary to consolidate and relocate rail traffic to the perimeter of Springfield. And now this matter is at the critical stage. Union Pacific intends to increase its number of freight trains. High speed passenger travel, if approved for the Chicago-St. Louis corridor, will add to that number. There could be forty trains a day running along Third Street and the tracks may be doubled. An endless moving wall to divide the city, this rail corridor will cause major disruption along Enos Park, the medical district, the downtown, Aristocracy Hill and Near South. Overpasses – a potential nine of them – would be a blight and could cause damage to the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Dana-Thomas house. It goes without saying that these areas would not be an attractive investment for anyone seeking an older home in an historic neighborhood, or for any home buyer or business concern. The late Mayor Tim Davlin summed up how the proposal would transform Springfield. Said he: “The whole city would look like crap.”

The trains are coming. That’s a certainty. This issue was the galvanizing force in the creation of ICON, an organization comprised of associations representing some of the older neighborhoods throughout Springfield. It was clear that an action group needed to be formed to gain the attention of our elected officials. Among the organizers of ICON were Steve Combs of Enos Park, Bill Castor of Vinegar Hill, Polly Poskin of Harvard Park, realtor Michelle Higginbotham and Alderman Mark Mahoney. The acronym simply stands for “inner city older neighborhoods.” The group has expanded to include more than twenty neighborhoods. (Marty Vandiver has been the representative from Hawthorne Place.) This activism helped spur an environmental impact study which many hope will recommend a consolidation of rail traffic to the 10<sup>th</sup> Street corridor.



ICON, in a short amount of time, has become well organized and focused. They have reached out to current elected officials and to all the candidates seeking office in the February 22 primary and the April 5 election. At a recent (February 15) political forum sponsored by the NAACP, an event that was attended by six of the seven mayoral candidates, all six candidates in attendance stated their preference for rail consolidation on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. They promoted the needs of neighborhood restoration and the development of green space, bicycle paths and parks where railroad tracks would be removed. But the candidates reiterated that it would not be easy. These are expensive projects. There is still much work to do.

Numerous candidates at the February 15 forum acknowledged the presence of Steve Combs as they discussed some of the issues facing older neighborhoods. It is clear that ICON, in its brief existence, has made a case. The mission of ICON is simple: “to find six votes to resolve common problems in Springfield neighborhoods.” (Six votes would be a majority at the city council.) ICON’s strategy is also basic: “to educate and motivate all who are willing to proactively protect the quality of life in their neighborhood.”



The important sign in this picture is the one on the left.

The concerns of ICON go beyond railroad relocation. Once organized the group recognized that it needed to work for the myriad of issues facing older neighborhoods. Polly Poskin, president of the Harvard Park Neighborhood Association, expressed these

frequent concerns: problem properties, police coverage, and waste management: “We need better streets. We need improved sidewalks. We need curbs on streets that don’t have curbs – all the infrastructure improvements that a city should be able to provide.” One of Polly’s major concerns is the city’s lack of an effective program for waste hauling. “On any given day you can have four different companies in the alleys and not a lot to show for it.”

Every neighborhood faces unique challenges. There may be high incidence of crime. There may be boarded up properties. There may be fly dumping of garbage or uncollected garbage. Hawthorne Place, in many ways, has been somewhat isolated from the day-to-day challenges in neighborhoods older than ours or closer to downtown. For over a hundred years it has tranquilly kept up the appearance of a planned subdivision from 1902. Not a lot has changed. It’s substantially intact. But look at the sidewalks, the curbs, some neglected rental property, market values, the incidence of crime in Hawthorne and *all* older neighborhoods become one.

In his Guestwork column for the *Illinois Times*, Steve Combs presents a strong case for a city’s obligation to its older neighborhoods. All visitors to the capitol city must pass through these neighborhoods to reach downtown and its many Lincoln sites. Any image of inner city decay leaves a lasting impression on tourists. Maintenance of these neighborhoods is more economical than their neglect and the “draining effect of blight.” Enforcing laws, including the fines and fees for boarded and abandoned properties, is paramount. What stimulus will attract home-buyers back to the city center rather than the city fringes or its nearby bedroom communities? It is fundamental that an investment in all our neighborhoods will make Springfield a better place to live.

Steve concluded his column with an inquiry. “What ICON wants to know, is there a mayor and city council in our future who will set their priorities by looking first to the older neighborhoods? Will the next administration make revitalization of the heart of our city a priority?”

It takes six votes.



A welcoming sign and period lighting at the gateway to Enos Park.

## Enos Park

More than any other neighborhood in Springfield, Enos Park has set the standard for all to follow. It has also faced many of the most daunting restoration challenges in the city.

The history of Enos Park can be traced back to the 1830s. The name comes from Pascal Enos, one of the first settlers in Springfield. But its neighborhood identity was firmly established in a fifty year period from 1860 to 1910 with the construction of many prominent homes, offering an elegance that would earn the area the sobriquet, “The Jewel of Springfield.”

The next one hundred years were less kind. The post-WWII era brought an extended period of instability. Grand old homes were divided into multi-unit rental properties. Many were neglected and abandoned and boarded.

In 1989, the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association (EPNIA) was initiated. At that same time a group of urban pioneers began the slow but determined process of acquiring old properties and restoring them to their former glory. Two of these leaders, Fletcher Farrar and Owen Anderson, have given more than twenty years to these preservation efforts. Farrar is the president of Old Neighborhood Rehab, Inc., a non-profit group that has been restoring properties in Enos Park. It has already renovated ten buildings and is currently working on an eleventh. These properties are



A common site in Enos Park is the rehab of old houses. It is often the work of Old Neighborhood Rehab, Inc. This one is at Miller & N. 5<sup>th</sup>.



then sold to buyers who will occupy them. An owner-occupied home helps the neighborhood.

By all standards EPNIA is a very active and committed association. There are monthly neighborhood meetings. There are monthly newsletters. Each year, EPNIA hosts a tour of historic and restored buildings in Enos Park. Their annual Thanksgiving pie sale is a major fundraiser for their association.

EPNIA has established a TIF district for its neighborhood. It is also a 501(c)3 entity which gives it federal recognition as a not-for-profit organization. One of the benefits of the TIF designation was the installation of period street and sidewalk lighting on North Fifth and North Sixth Streets. Last September they installed a new children’s playground at Gehrmann Park. One of the first neighborhood police officers (NPOs) was assigned to Enos Park, and, in a time of city budget reductions, the neighborhood has actively campaigned for the retention of the NPO program.

For all the progress in Enos Park, there remain a large number of boarded, vacant and



distressed properties. EPNIA has argued that until there is a consistent and proactive effort to enforce city fines and fees on these properties the problem of blight will prevail. The association has identified 35 such properties in various states of deterioration. They have even listed some of them with photos on their webpage. It remains one of their major battles with city hall and it is an issue that effects neighborhoods well beyond Enos Park.

In 2010, EPNIA hired Mansur Real Estate Service from Indianapolis and the Lakota Group from Chicago to develop a Master Plan for the revitalization of its neighborhood.

Is it any wonder that much of the leadership of ICON is also the leadership from Enos Park? All of us need to help by joining ICON (see the information in the right column) and by getting more involved in the revitalization of our own neighborhoods.



The EPNIA webpage offers many examples of older home restoration. These before and after photos are of 901 North Fifth Street.



## **Springfield ICON Membership Fees**

**\$20 individual membership**

**\$30 family membership**

**\$200 life membership**

**Mail to:**

**Bill Castor**

**ICON Treasurer**

**600 E Adams**

**Springfield, IL 62701**

**Over 20 neighborhoods have  
participated in ICON events to  
date.**

**[www.springfieldicon.org](http://www.springfieldicon.org)**



**Remember to vote on April 5.**

**And remember:**

**“It only takes six votes.”**


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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. Donald Bevins, our Neighborhood Police Officer, can be reached at 741-0988. If there is an emergency situation call 911.

**Alderman** – Hawthorne Place is in Ward 6. Our alderman is Mark Mahoney. He can be reached by phone (544-7944), email ([mmahoney67@hotmail.com](mailto:mmahoney67@hotmail.com)), or regular mail (1520 Lowell).

**Webpage** – [www.hawthorneplace.us](http://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)

S. Holmes

Chelsy Hopper – 1620 Holmes (528-7110)

N. Lowell

Beth & Mike Trojahn – 1314 Lowell  
(744-7303)

N. Whittier

Lindsey Trojahn – 1317 Whittier (789-1315)

S. Whittier

Linda Riebling – 1500 Whittier (523-1450)  
Marty Vandiver – 1528 Whittier  
(523-3544)

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

Volunteer. Get involved.  
Your neighborhood needs you.