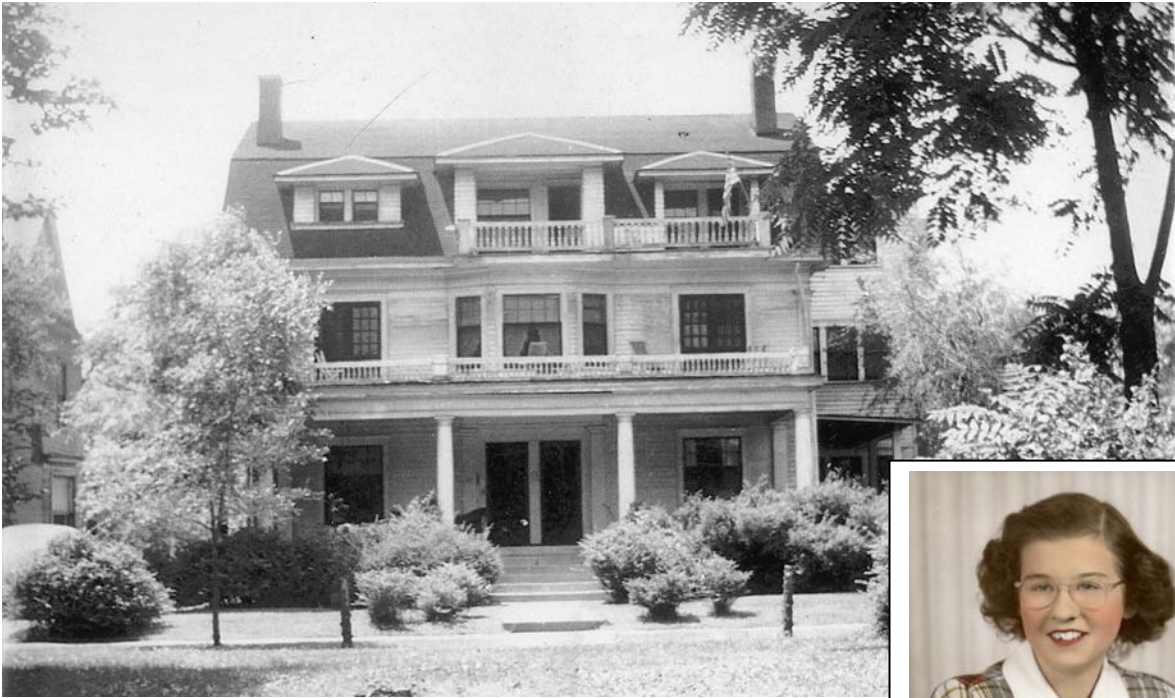




*Hawthorne Place  
Neighborhood Association*

March 1, 2013

Life in Historic Hawthorne



1501 Lowell



**The Way It Was  
Memories of a Remarkable House**

The building may not look familiar. It's been transformed. But the city was ready to take it down twenty-seven years ago after it was damaged in a fire. Some memories are shared and discovered of a stately home that became an apartment complex very early in its history. The photo above was taken by Betty Etherton (insert) in 1946 when she was thirteen years-old. She lived at 1501 in her early years and at a time when the building was owned by her grandmother. Betty shares her memory of the home and the neighborhood on page 4.



## Y'all Come

This page is a “shout out” for some of the events scheduled in Hawthorne during the next three months. A flyer will be distributed later with more details.

### HPNA Annual Meeting

(Wednesday, March 20 – 6 PM,  
at Laurel Methodist Church)

The annual neighborhood association meeting is, first of all, an opportunity for neighbors to get together and visit. A light supper will be provided. Also, babysitting will be available courtesy of the HPNA. This year some of the nearby businesses are being asked to join us for the evening. They may have tables set up so we may learn more about them.

The annual meeting is also a time to renew association membership, contribute to boulevard mowing, and learn of neighborhood plans for the coming year.



Saturday, March 23

### Easter Egg Hunt for Hawthorne Youngsters

(Saturday, March 23 : 10:30 AM – Noon)

Once again Beth Faulkner is organizing this popular event for our youngest residents. Thank-you Beth. Call her (744-0295) if you can help. Donations of candy will be welcome. Look for a future flyer with more details.



## Spring Clean Up

(Saturday, April 20 : 9:00 AM – Noon)

The spring clean-up is scheduled each year to help make our neighborhood look its best for The Big Event. It's work that needs to be done. Groups gather to rake leaves and sweet gum balls, trim branches, pick up trash, unblock street drains, and prepare the flower beds in the public garden areas. A lot needs to be done and volunteers are essential.

Of course, every homeowner is also encouraged to tend to their front yards that day and add to the curb appeal.

It would be wonderful to see a community effort throughout the day, one that can be seen on all six blocks of Hawthorne Place. It's “the Spring Clean Up.”



## The Big Event

(Saturday, May 4 : 8:00 AM – Noon)

The ambition of the neighborhood-wide garage sale is to showcase all of Hawthorne Place. (Older homes are a good investment and older neighborhoods are a welcoming community.) Consider having a sale with a neighbor if you do not have enough items for your own sale. The HPNA will have tables on the boulevard with food and plants to raise funds for the association. Please donate to these fundraisers. The board will be checking on the possibility of having a Salvation Army truck available in the early afternoon to take away unwanted (unsold) merchandise. More details will be forthcoming.

## First Night

Did you get to First Night on December 31? You may have noticed that our neighborhood was well-represented. You could start the evening at the Vachel Lindsay Home where Aasne Vigesaa (1319 Whittier) offered her one-woman show "Sonnets from an Ungrafted Tree," the poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay. At 8, a program for "Watch Night: Freedom's Coming" was presented at Westminster Presbyterian Church with Dale Rogers (1412 Whittier) as choral director. And at 10, Tom Irwin (1608 Holmes) performed at the Lincoln Home Center.

### We Remember



Donald Donner Springer (1938-2013)

Don Springer died at the age of 74 on January 24. While he was not a resident of Hawthorne, the Don Springer Investment Center was located here at the corner of South Grand and Holmes. Don Springer was a proud Marine, serving from 1957-1963. He enjoyed outdoor activities and world travel. (He and his wife, Karen, visited 87 countries on seven continents.) He was an active member in many local organizations and always supportive of our neighborhood association in Hawthorne. His middle name is a reminder that he was a sixth generation descendent of the famous 1846 Donner party.



Alderman Cory Jobe introduced the 2013 Ward 6 Rehabilitation Revitalization Fund at Laurel Methodist Church on January 16. Alderman Jobe donates half his aldermanic salary to the fund. The fund is also dependent on fundraising activities and contributions from businesses and individuals who want to support the goals of the fund.

This year there are two categories for fund allocation:

#### Take Pride in Your Block

This grant is intended for not-for-profits or neighborhood associations. Six grants will be awarded not to exceed \$500 per application.

#### Neighborhood Pride Home Ownership

These grants are for home improvements. A maximum of twenty grants of \$500 each will be awarded to homeowners who own and occupy their home and need financial assistance in making improvements visible from the street.

The guidelines for the grants as well as fact sheets and application forms can be read or downloaded from [www.jobeward6.com](http://www.jobeward6.com).

The deadline to apply is Monday, April 1, 2013. Applications must be postmarked by that date and received by 5:30 PM.

## Trivia Night

A trivia game night is being planned as a fundraiser for the Ward 6 Fund. It will probably be scheduled for April. Details should be available at the annual meeting. Let's plan to organize at least a couple of tables filled with Hawthorne residents at this event. It's a most worthwhile project which benefits the neighborhoods in our ward.

## The House at 1501 Lowell

My grandparents bought and moved into the house at 1501 Lowell sometime before 1930. I stayed with my grandmother, Edna Holben, a lot. In fact, I lived with her from 1940-1948 and again for a short time in 1953. We lived in the first floor south apartment. There were two apartments on the first, second, and third floors. All were large and had front porches facing the east. Those on the second and third floors had white wood railings around them. There was a large swing on the first floor porch. I remember the two iron hitching posts in the front just off Lowell. As you entered the apartment we occupied there was a large beveled mirror about six feet by six feet. Also, a large pocket double door between the two front rooms. There was a small apartment in the basement. In the backyard was a concrete planter for flowers. It was all concrete, a pedestal about three feet tall with a large bowl for flowers, maybe two feet across. Also on the west side of the lot was a long narrow garage for seven or eight cars which was entered from the alley.

It was a great place to grow up. I had lots of friends in the neighborhood. We all walked to school together. I went to Blessed Sacrament. Also many nice people lived in the apartments.

I babysat in several homes in the neighborhood including the house my daughter, Ann Fescura, lives in at 517 West Cedar.

In 1957, my grandmother was no longer able to manage the apartments. She moved in with my husband and me. We turned the management of the house over to the First National Bank and sold it shortly after that. I look at it fondly every time I am at Ann's.

By Betty Etherton



Raymond and Edna Holben  
around the time of their marriage in 1902.



Betty Etherton  
photographed  
when she was  
living at 1501  
Lowell. She  
would graduate  
valedictorian of  
her high school,  
an accomplish-  
ment that she  
credits to her  
early education  
at Blessed  
Sacrament.



Betty Etherton today with her daughter, Ann  
Fescura. They are standing in front of Ann's  
house at 517 West Cedar with a clear view of  
1501 Lowell, the home of Betty's youth.



## More on 1501



“There was a ballroom on the third floor.” That’s what people would say who had heard it from others. It’s part of the legacy of 1501 Lowell. While there is no apparent documentation to support the claim, it does suggest the grandeur of the once private residence. And, in its first twenty years, 1501 Lowell was often the site of many parties, civic gatherings, and music programs.

The first occupants, in 1904, were Doctor R. E. McClelland (1850-1924), his wife, Susan, and their three offspring: Pearl, Ila, and Raymond. There was also a granddaughter, Laura Jones. They had come to Springfield from Williamsville. Ila was a music teacher in Springfield for twenty-five years and there were many music recitals given in the home. Robert Fitzgerald, future poet laureate and first cousin to our neighbor Mary Sellers, was in a music program at the house in 1920. Ila’s niece, pictured above, was written-up in the local paper when she performed in Chicago in 1922.

Mrs. McClelland died in 1915. Doctor McClelland died in 1924. It’s apparent that the house had many renters in the Twenties. It was probably in that decade that the house was divided into six apartments. Ila McClelland and her sister, Pearl Jones, sold the property to Doctor Raymond Holben and his wife, Edna, in 1929. The Holben family

lived on the site and managed the property for the next thirty years.

Jack and Elizabeth Holben turned the management of the apartment building over to First National Bank in 1959 and then sold it to John and Myrtle Gatschenberger in 1961.

Carolyn Daniels, who moved next door, to 1505 Lowell, in 1965, remembers that the building looked great and that there were long-term renters. However, in time, the property was not maintained and there were frequent changes in occupancy. 1501 was later used for Chapter 8 housing. There was termite damage that was not addressed. And, finally, with a fire, in the mid-1980s – probably caused by too many appliances attached to old knob and tube wiring – the health department closed the building. The city was ready to tear it down.

Brian Smith was looking for a rental unit as an investment when he came across 1501. In his words, he could not restore it. He could not save it historically. He bought it and “rebuilt it.” That was twenty-seven years ago. It was a costly undertaking and Brian says he even sold the two hitching posts that were out front to raise money.



1501 Lowell in 1907

1501 looks different now. But you might imagine a horse and buggy at the hitching posts – seen above – a hundred years ago. Imagine also, a young couple approaching that elegant front porch, perhaps arriving for a dance up on the third floor of the McClelland home.

Reading the Past:  
*The Illinois State Journal*  
January 21, 1902

In January 1902, 111 years ago, the city council was considering a proposal for the extension of rail lines for city streetcars. The ordinance would allow for the laying of tracks “west in Cedar street through the middle of the new addition known as Hawthorne Place.” There was a “heated argument” before the ordinance passed by unanimous vote. The cost would be \$1600. \$600 would be paid by the city and the remaining \$1000 by those who would benefit from an opening of Cedar. The promoters of the newly platted Hawthorne, and who paid the bill, were William Conkling, Loren Wheeler, and John Pierik.

But the newspaper began its report with the headline, “They Enjoyed the Snow,” and this paragraph:

“After working for an hour and a half over weighty municipal affairs, the members of the city council adjourned last night to engage in a snowballing contest near the city hall. Aldermen were rolled in the snow, their faces were ruthlessly scrubbed and they were pelted with snow balls. The younger members of the body found much sport in the contest, to the consternation of the older aldermen. Alderman Thomas White took refuge in the big building.”

## Art & Hawthorne

Anyone was fortunate to have made their way to the January exhibit at the Springfield Art Association. The show ran from January 5 – 25, and was titled “The Stories Behind the Faces.” It featured historic portraiture from the Association’s permanent collection as well as examples of modern studies by local artists. Looking around the room, you would have seen three individuals – in portraiture – who have been our neighbors. Over a seventy year period they resided within a half-block of one another.



Quinn Manthei-Jurgens (2010)

Paul Jurgens exhibited three portraits of his daughter, Quinn. The one above dates from 2010. The Manthei-Jurgens family lived at 1532 Lowell.



Arvid Hammers with portrait (1993)

Arvid Hammers lived at 1421 Lowell for nearly twenty years. He has a major collection of the art of William Crook, Jr. In 1993, Bill Crook drew the portrait of Arvid that was on display at the Art Association. Arvid said that the portrait was done the morning after the two of them had attended a Grateful Dead concert.

Ninety years ago, a portrait-artist, Henry Salem Hubbell, was in Springfield with an exhibit of his work at the Art Association. Hubbell and his wife lived in Springfield between 1922 and 1924. In 1922, he painted a portrait of George Stadden who lived at 1421 Lowell. That portrait went to Franklin Life, where Stadden was the president, and it was not on view for this show. However, in 1923, Hubbell painted this portrait of Doctor George Palmer who resided at 1525 Lowell. Palmer’s

widow, Maude, presented the portrait to the Art Association in 1955, and it was on display at the January exhibit.



George T. Palmer (1923)

Henry Salem Hubbell (1869-1949) began his studies at the Art Institute of Chicago when he was seventeen. In France, in 1890, he studied with Whistler. Ten years later, he was part of the American art colony at Giverny. His reputation rests largely on his abilities as a portrait painter. Hubbell and his family came to Springfield in 1922 for an exhibit of his portraits at the Springfield Art Association and their visit ended up as a two-year sojourn. Hubbell was in demand and he may have used Springfield as a base to fulfill commissions throughout the midwest. Hubbell even painted set designs for the community players of which Doctor Palmer (above) was a member. Maude Palmer wrote that Hubbell had "a studio in the old Little house on South Sixth Street," where the Bucari building now stands.

In 1924, the Hubbells relocated to Miami Beach, Florida. In the following years, President Herbert Hoover, Interior Secretary Harold Ickes, and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt would sit to have their portraits painted by Henry Salem Hubbell.



Statue of Governor Palmer (1923)

The Hubbell portrait of George Palmer was unveiled in 1923 – ninety years ago. It was also in 1923 that a statue was dedicated in honor of George Palmer's grandfather. John Palmer was a Civil War general, governor of the state of Illinois and a US senator. The contract for the statue was awarded in 1920 to Leonard Crunelle of Chicago. Crunelle (1872-1944) was born in France and immigrated to this country with his family when he was ten years of age. His talent for sculpture was brought to the attention of Lorado Taft who encouraged the youth to attend the Art Institute of Chicago. Taft would be a life-long mentor. (In 1918, the two of them appeared for a demonstration-lecture at Springfield High School.)

Among Crunelle's many commissions was a bronze statuette of Lincoln that can be seen at the Lincoln tomb in Springfield.

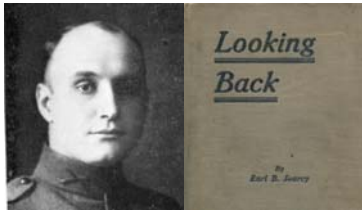
The Palmer statue was unveiled on the State Capitol grounds on October 16, 1923. Governor Palmer had two grandsons living in Hawthorne at the time. They were both long-term residents: Doctor George T. Palmer (1875-1943) of 1525 Lowell and Perry Jayne (1879-1955) of 1500 Whitter.

According to Robert Twombly, author of *Louis Sullivan: His Life and Work*, the granite base of the Palmer statue was designed by Louis Sullivan (1856-1924), and it was among his last commissions.

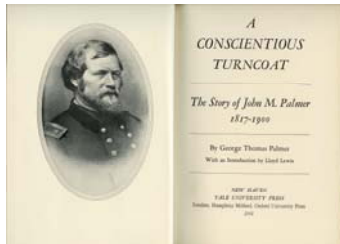
The Palmer statue is located in the southeast lawn of the state capitol.

## Literary Hawthorne

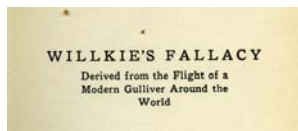
Hawthorne Place was named at the turn of the last century for eminent American writers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: Nathaniel Hawthorne, John Greenleaf Whittier, James Russell Lowell, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. Over the past century, the neighborhood has produced a number of fine authors. Here is just a sampling:



Earl Searcy (1889-1955), of 1330 Lowell, shared his experiences as a soldier in World War I in *Looking Back* which was published in 1921.



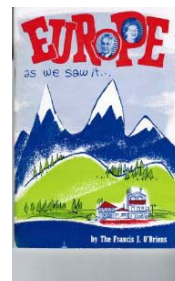
George T. Palmer (1875-1943), of 1525 Lowell, was a grandson of John M. Palmer who was a friend of Lincoln, a Republican Governor of Illinois, a Democratic US Senator, and a Presidential candidate of the National Democratic Party. George Palmer wrote the biography of his grandfather and titled it: *A Conscientious Turncoat*. It was published by Yale University Press in 1941.



In 1943, George Gillespie (1863-1944), of 1421 Lowell, wrote *Willkie's Fallacy: Derived From the Flight of a Modern Gulliver Around*

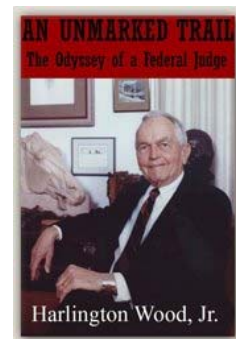
*the World*. After Wendell Willkie, a Republican, lost the 1940 election to FDR, he circulated the globe as an ambassador for Roosevelt. He traveled in an old army bomber named *The Gulliver* and brought home a vision of One World. Gillespie, a life-long Republican, was not impressed.

James Edward Day (1914-1996) grew up at 1420 Lowell and graduated from Springfield High School. He wrote two books in 1965. *My Appointed Round* was an overview of his time as Postmaster General in the Kennedy administration. Day was a popular speaker and his other book that year was titled *Humor in Public Speaking: A Guide to Providing an Occasional Oasis in the Desert of Dreary Speeches and Clumsily-Handled Speaking Programs*.

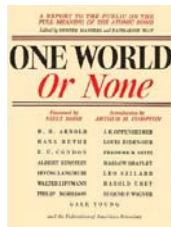


Francis O'Brien (1903-2001) came to Springfield to work for Franklin Life. In those early years his family lived at 1317 Whittier. In 1972, he wrote the story of his employer in *The Fabulous Franklin Story*. Earlier, in 1963, Francis and his wife wrote of their adventures abroad in *Europe As We Saw It*.

Harlington Wood, Jr. (1920-2008) grew up at 1404 Whittier and graduated from Springfield High School. He had an extraordinary life as a jurist and world adventurer. His biography, from 2008, is titled *An Unmarked Trail*.

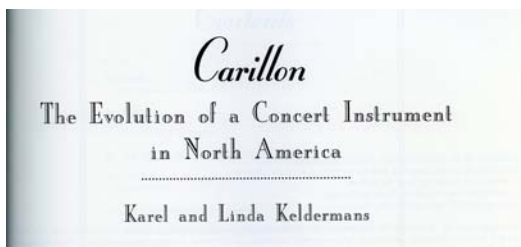
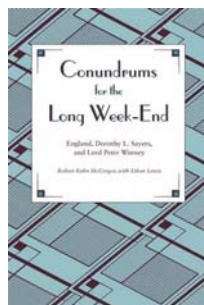






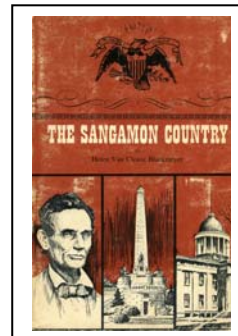
Dexter Masters ((1909-1989) lived only for a brief time in his childhood at 1401 Lowell. (His grandparents lived on Holmes for twenty years.) In 1946, just months after atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, Masters edited a seminal work, a collection of essays by eminent scientists sharing their concerns about the nuclear age. It is titled *One World or None*. In 1955, Masters wrote a novel, *The Accident*, about a scientist exposed to radiation at Los Alamos.

Ethan Lewis, of 1612 Lowell, is the co-author with Robert McGregor, of *Conundrums for a Long Week-End* which was published in 2000. It's a study of the mystery writer Dorothy Sayers and her fictional detective Peter Wimsey. It's set in the context of rapid social changes in early 20<sup>th</sup>-century England.

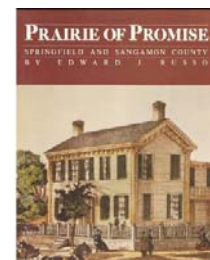
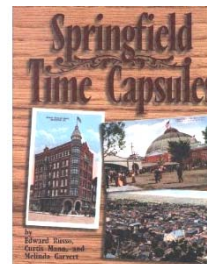


The Keldermans family moved to 1625 Holmes in 1961. The father, Raymond, was appointed the city carillonneur. His son, Karel, was the city carillonneur from 1976-2012. In 1996, Karel and his wife, Linda, wrote a major study of the instrument which they titled *Carillon: the Evolution of the Concert Instrument in North America*.

Robert Larson (1921-2007) lived at 1409 Whittier from 1963-1983. He wrote a ten-volume series of memoirs including *Life in the House at 1409 Whittier: Hawthorne Place*.



Helen Van Cleave Blankmeyer (1885-1955) resided at 1425 Whittier for thirty years. Although she came from Chicago, she had a deep interest in Springfield and was active in many civic organizations. Her 1935 book, *The Sangamon Country*, was used for many years by both public and parochial schools.

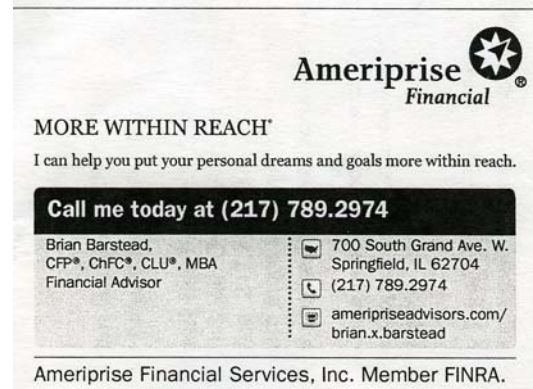


Edward Russo now lives in Indianapolis. But he had a thirty year history with Hawthorne, living at three different addresses in the neighborhood. He was also the city historian. Over a thirty-five year period he authored many books on Springfield history beginning with his student days when he wrote *Helmle & Helmle* (1974), a profile of the local architecture firm. Along with Melinda Garvert and Curtis Mann as co-authors, there were also books on Oakridge Cemetery and the Illinois State Fair. For the G. Bradley publications, there were four pictorial volumes of local history which focused on businesses, entertainment, home and family life, and community service. These books are indispensable for anyone doing research or have any interest in the history of the city of Springfield.

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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](mailto: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](mailto:cory@jobeward6.com)). His webpage is [www.jobeward6.com](http://www.jobeward6.com).

**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! The rate for a business card space for four issues is \$40 per year.

**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)  
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)  
Linda is the treasurer of the HPNA.

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

Volunteer. Get involved.  
Your neighborhood needs you.