



Hawthorne Place
Neighborhood Association
September 1, 2010

Life in Historic Hawthorne



You may have to look twice at this birds-eye view (circa 1968) of Springfield. But what you should see is Blessed Sacrament at the bottom of the photograph, the capital city's downtown district at the top, and Hawthorne Place somewhere in the middle. There is no question that Blessed Sacrament has been an anchor, a stabilizing influence, for our older neighborhoods. This year marks the 85th anniversary of Blessed Sacrament school. That story begins on page 4.

National Night Out

Linda Riebling and Tony Chen entertained about eighty of our Hawthorne neighbors for the annual National Night Out celebration on Tuesday, August 3. Donald Bevins, our neighborhood officer, was there. A fire engine was Station 7 also put in an appearance. Cookies, ice cream and drinks were served. It was particularly gratifying to see one of the bigger turnouts for this event on an especially hot and humid evening.

Yard Waste

The city of Springfield typically announces details for city leaf pickup in October. Last year the free pickup was scheduled for the month of November. The city requires that leaves be placed in paper yard waste bags or marked garbage cans and placed at curbside. There should be details for the program next month in the local paper and on the city's webpage. You can also call Waste & Recycling at 789-2327. But you might also recycle the leaves by composting them and using them for mulch next year.



HPNA Meeting

Our neighborhood association is once again facing a volunteer crisis after going through this situation two years ago. At that time residents didn't want the organization to die and volunteerism increased for a while. Our association simply cannot exist without volunteers. A meeting has been planned to chart the future of HPNA. It's at the Vandiver home (1528 Whittier) on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:00 PM.



"Big Ten" Neighborhood Picnic (Saturday, September 11 from 3-7 PM)

Ten central Springfield neighborhood associations have gotten together to plan a multi-neighborhood picnic. The program will include a BMX bicycle exhibition, live music, a potluck, and an evening bonfire. There will be a bounce house and face painting for the entertainment of young children. This event is scheduled on the school grounds of Harvard Park (11th and Oberlin). Smoking and alcoholic beverages will not be allowed. Participants are asked to bring a potluck dish. Fried chicken, hot dogs, iced tea and tableware will be provided.

Seven local businesses have contributed to make this event a success. They are listed on the flyer that will be left at each household. Be sure to patronize these sponsors and thank them for their support. Thanks also to Hawthorne's Marty Vandiver and Chris Oliver who have represented our neighborhood in planning this event.

Return of the Ruby Slippers (*Wizard of Oz* screening – Saturday, September 18, 7:45 PM)



Mark Mahoney has planned a movie night for Hawthorne Place on September 18 at 7:45. The evening will include some shorts preceding a showing of *The Wizard of Oz*. Bring blankets and/or lawn chairs. Popcorn, hotdogs and drinks will be provided. The location will be the midsection of the Lowell boulevard between Cedar and Laurel. This event is just for Hawthorne neighbors.



The Yellow Wallpaper in A Doll's House

Two of our Hawthorne thespians provided the best possible reasons to patronize local theater. Aasne Vigesaa revived her acclaimed one-woman show of *The Yellow Wallpaper* at the Vachel Lindsay home this past summer. Then, in August, Aasne and her husband, James Daniels, gave memorable, moving interpretations of Nora and Krogstad in a staging of Ibsen's *A Doll's House* at the Hoogland Center. Both productions were sold out. Bravo to these fine actors.

Springfield in Bloom

On August 10, Mayor Tim Davlin, Sharon Whalen, publisher of the *Illinois Times*, and the sponsors of Springfield Green gathered for the sixth annual Springfield in Bloom awards ceremony. Seventy-six projects were entered in the competition. There were ten entries for neighborhood group projects and Hawthorne Place was recognized with a third place award. It was a humbling honor because it was difficult to maintain our gardens with so few volunteers from the neighborhood. For next year, one thought is to not enter another contest but encourage each block to maintain its public areas – and see how it goes.



Ann Vandiver pruning and weeding a Hawthorne flower bed.

Passages

Agnes Ann Hembreiker (December 4, 1919 –June 5, 2010)

Agnes Ann was born in Springfield to a family in the floral trade. She would always love flowers and gardening. She was in the first class at Blessed Sacrament when the school opened in 1925. She graduated from Springfield High School in 1937 and earned an associate's degree from Springfield College in 1939. Agnes Ann retired from Franklin Life Insurance after 43 years of service. She was devoted to the Blessed Sacrament parish and was always involved in volunteer work. Her humor, her memory and her conversational gifts were attributes of this remarkable lady. She loved her apartment at 627 W. Cedar.

John Rutkowski (August 12, 1926-April 29, 2010)

John was born in Lomza, Poland. He was a child when World War II started. He served in the Polish underground and he lived through many changes in his home country. John moved to the United States, becoming a resident of Springfield in 1955. He married Betty Johnson in 1957 and they became the parents of two daughters. He retired from Fiat-Allis after thirty years as a welder. He took great care of his home on Lowell and, like Agnes Ann Hembreiker, John had a passion for flowers and gardening. He opened up his garden for one of the first garden tours of Hawthorne Place. (1419 Lowell)

Sherry Seed-Walker (d. June 11, 2010)

Sherry wanted to live in Hawthorne Place and always took great pride in the neighborhood. She could often be seen walking along the east side of Lowell with her poodle, Baby Girl. It was also an opportunity to talk with the residents of the block. She resided at 1500 Lowell for the past three years and, recently, she and another tenant began adding flowers to the front of their apartment building. Sherry was 46.



1925: an architectural drawing of the future Blessed Sacrament school

Blessed Sacrament School 85 Years

The late Agnes Ann Hembreiker, a born storyteller, had a vivid memory of her first day at Blessed Sacrament. It was the very day the school opened in 1925. Her mother wanted her to make the journey on her own. She walked the few blocks from South Grand to Laurel, but when she encountered a dog by the front door she returned home. Her mother sent her right back to school. Out of that initial awkward moment grew a life-long devotion to the Blessed Sacrament school and church. It's a sentiment shared by many.

Eighty-six years ago the grounds of Blessed Sacrament were an open field. The property had been acquired by Bishop James Griffin who realized that the city was expanding to the south and to the west. Blessed Sacrament parish was established in August of 1924, and Father Michael Tarrent was named its pastor. An outdoor mass was held there, a wide open and empty space, on September 4, 1924. In the next several years these empty grounds would be filled with a soaring church, a convent, and a much-admired new school.

Father Tarrent had already taken a parish census. He had personally walked the neighborhood, visiting his parishioners to get better acquainted. He recorded that there were some 300 children of school age in that area of Springfield. He and his advisory committee unanimously agreed that the school should be built first, before the church, and they gave themselves a deadline of one year to completion. The design for the school was by Aschauer and Waggoner. The construction contract was awarded to J. Clyde Evans. The estimated cost was



A contemporary view of the school. The east and west wings were part of the 1934 addition.

\$100,000. Like clockwork, the new building, a two-story brick structure, was completed, furnished, and ready for opening day on August 31, 1925.

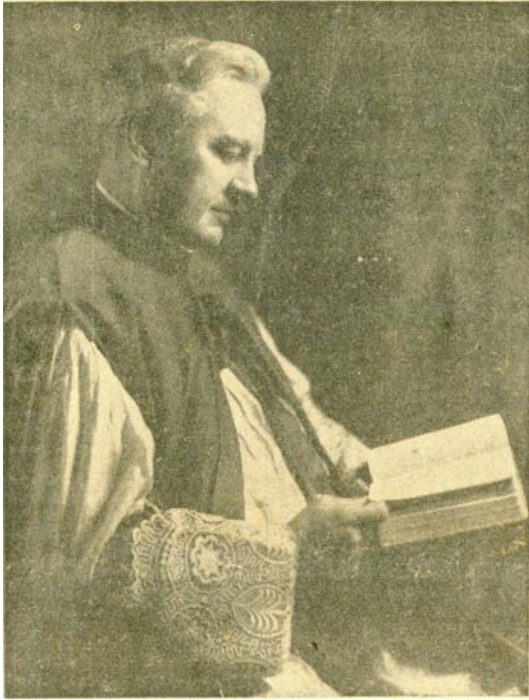
Agnes Ann Hembreiker (class of 1933) was there that first day along with Tiss Cullen (class of 1932), who still resides in Hawthorne Place. The school had an enrollment of 265 children and a faculty of six Ursuline nuns. But by the end of the first week the enrollment increased to about 300.

It is worth mentioning that within three years of the school's opening, all the bills for its construction were paid. The entire cost of the building was pledged and almost every adult in the parish subscribed. Even the cost of the site had been donated by one couple who were members of the parish.

Father Tarrent announced plans for the new church in October of 1928, and only after the last payment for the school was finalized.

Father Tarrent and the members of his congregation had a talent for fundraising. The famous garden parties of Blessed Sacrament date from this early period of the parish. They originated on the spacious lawn of John Kohlbecker who lived on Outer Park Drive. They were held at that residence for many years until the event became so big that it was moved to the school grounds.

Growth for the Blessed Sacred was rapid. Within nine years the enrollment had exceeded 500 students. There was more faculty for the growing student body. A convent was needed. Once again there was fundraising and once again Ashauer and Waggoner drew up plans for the additions which would cost nearly \$94,000.



Msgr. Michael A. Tarrent (1879-1957), a Springfield native, founded Blessed Sacrament church in 1924 and became its first pastor. He remained pastor until his death.

The *Illinois State Journal* listed the new accommodations in a story printed on April 23, 1934:

“...eight extra classrooms, a sister’s residence with, individual rooms on the second floor with parlors, music rooms, dining room and kitchen on the first floor, the playroom which is divided one-half for the boys and the other for girls, convertible into a gymnasium or auditorium. A small stage at the south end will permit the staging of a small play and novelty dance. Rooms for a cafeteria also have been provided on the south side of the quadrangular building. The central court provided space for recreational purposes. Attached to the school is more than a city block of land which is used for baseball purposes, and preliminary football training.”

Blessed Sacrament Church



The temporary church was dedicated on September 14, 1924. It was located on the corner of Holmes and Laurel.

A prefabricated building was erected at the corner of Holmes and Laurel. It was used as a church until a new church could be constructed. The parishioners often referred to the building as the “little cardboard church” or the “Sears Roebuck church.” It would later be used by the church ladies for meetings and to offer a lunch of soup and sandwiches to school children for a nickel. Older parishioners would also remember the proximity of the interurban which traveled the tracks between Holmes and Walnut and then onto Laurel before reaching downtown Springfield. Its loud toot would frequently sound in the middle of a service.



The new church was dedicated on November 27, 1930. It was Thanksgiving Day.

Blessed Sacrament continued to grow. There was always a need for more space. By 1949, there were 658 children attending the school. By 1957, the enrollment was more than 900 pupils with a staff of twenty. There had been lengthy consideration of another school location on the west side. Again the parishioners responded generously. As a consequence, Christ the King was constructed on Barberry Drive. When that school was opened in 1958, it relieved some of the demands placed on Blessed Sacrament.

This year marks another expansion of the school, its first substantial addition since 1934. The groundbreaking ceremonies took place on March 18. Another 22,000 square-feet will be added.

Over the years, as the pre-school program has grown, many of the traditional spaces – for kindergarten, the library, the music room – were relocated or converted to other purposes. The lack of a gym space was keenly felt by students and their parents. There had not been a home game in a long time. The planned facilities for the new addition will include a library and media center, a wing for pre-school, office and meeting rooms, a redesigned cafeteria, and a new gymnasium. The projected cost is \$5.3 million and Blessed Sacrament intends to raise these funds through committed pledges. Much of it is already covered. The parish had already raised \$2.5 million for the 2005 restoration of the Blessed Sacrament Church.

This generosity, a multigenerational commitment, is extraordinary. It undoubtedly strengthens the ties between a revered institution and the neighborhoods it serves.

Blessed Sacrament graduates have contributed their recollections of Blessed Sacrament on the school's webpage. They remember flag football on Saturdays, buttercake from Rechner's Bakery on Fridays, garden parties in June, roller skating parties in the inner court, organ lessons with Raymond Keldermans, dance lessons in the gym, kite flying in the ball field. But, fundamentally, there is a shared gratitude for the education they received, the quality of the instruction, the dedication of the teachers and staff, the preparation for a life beyond the schoolroom.



Groundbreaking ceremony – March 18, 2010



Current construction – from the school's webpage

Thomas O'Brien, class of 1952, wrote:

"I spent all my grade school years at Blessed Sacrament, starting with Mother Anastasia in kindergarten ... and thought it was so cool when we moved upstairs for 3rd grade with Mother Hortense. Wonderful Mother Joseph Marie, my fifth grade teacher, became principal just after that year... I'll never forget them, their patience and kindnesses,"

"Those were very good years, and I'm happy to see so many schoolmates in the Blessed Sacrament community express their fondness for the school and church where we were knit together by so many good people – including our parents who built it from the beginning. I hope they're proud as they look down upon it."

Happy 85th Birthday to Blessed Sacrament

1629 Holmes

Many current residents may not know that for thirty years Blessed Sacrament owned a property in Hawthorne Place. One of the first projects, once the parish was established, was to find a rectory, a home, for Father Tarrent. "The Friends of Father Tarrent" was formed. It was a group of men who pooled their resources and acquired a house at the northwest corner of Holmes and Laurel. The house was a mere block from the school and immediately across the street from the temporary church. It was, of course, the ladies of the parish who provided the furnishings for the two-story structure, making it livable and comfortable. Other priests would also lodge at 1629 Holmes. Neighborhood children would often be recruited to help with the chores. It was only after Father Tarrent died, in 1957, that the parish sold the home.



A current photo of 1629 Holmes

Harlington Wood, Jr.

Harlington Wood, Jr., who lived on Whittier for many years, always seemed to carry a camera. He took many photos even in the earliest years of his life in Hawthorne Place. He attended Lawrence School and he graduated from Springfield High School. It appears he was allowed to bring his camera into the classroom.



Springfield High School – 1938

The photo above was taken in Mr. Simpson's economics class in 1938, the year that Wood graduated from Springfield High School. He noted that the head on the left belonged to Pete Milligan (Tiss Cullen's brother). The one on the far right belonged to Payne Thomas.

Forty-seven years later, Judge Harlington Wood, Jr., was asked to be the speaker at the 1985 Golden Laurel banquet which honors academic achievement. He encouraged his young audience to prepare, always prepare, for life's adventures. He acknowledged his own debt to the schools he attended and to his many teachers. But he also asked these students to remember those who weren't invited to the banquet.

"...before the race is over some might likely surprise you by pulling out and moving up on the outside and joining the front runners. The honors of those other classmates of yours may come in other ways and at other times. They are not second-class school colleagues of yours."

That voice of inclusion is just one of many reasons why Wood was a universally admired jurist.

Harlington Wood, Jr. will be featured in our next Hawthorne Place newsletter.

Brave New Worlds

You see them each weekday morning. They may be carrying books, backpacks, or shoulder bags. Many are walking. Some are riding bikes or pushing scooters. Several gather at street corners, waiting for a bus. Our youngest neighbors are on their way to school, from pre-school to college. Many are enrolled at Blessed Sacrament. But they also attend Butler, Iles, Franklin, Southeast, SHG, and Capital College Preparatory Academy. Their new year has begun. These photographs were taken during the first week of school in late August of 2010. These are just some of the many young students of Hawthorne Place.



Cameron, Mallary & Clayton Lemme



Willa Daniels, Sam & Ben Yoder



Peter & Henry Clines



Joe, Virginia, John Paul, Maria, Jim & Joshua Moore

An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest. – attributed to Benjamin Franklin



Quinn Manthei-Jurgens



Harrison Newbold



Emily & Addison Eades, Emma Kelly



Jonah Parkes & Caleb Rutherford



Augie Antonacci & his mother, Melissa



Grace, Hannah & Caroline Lambert

America's future walks through the doors of our schools each day. – Mary Jean Le Tendre

A WORD OF THANKS

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

- Brian Barstead of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
- Capitol Blue Print, Inc.
- FRIDAY'Z
- Tim Healy of Edward Jones
- Holley, Rosen & Beard
- Paris Dry Cleaners
- Don Springer of Edward Jones
- Ann Vandiver - Tupperware
- Mark Yeates of Dick's Shoe Repair

Please remember to patronize our sponsors! Thank them for their support of our newsletter.

AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.
Dream > Plan > Track[®]
 A unique and collaborative approach to financial planning.
 Brian Barstead, CFP[®], ChFC[®], CLU[®], MBA
 Senior Financial Advisor
 700 South Grand Avenue West
 Springfield, IL 62704
 (217) 789-2974 x 12
ameripriseadvisors.com/brian.x.barstead

The Personal Advisors of
Ameriprise
 Financial

CAPITOL BLUEPRINT, INC.
Serving Springfield and the Surrounding Areas Since 1954

Digital Printing Services	1313 S. First Street
Blueprinting Services	Springfield, IL 62704
Color Printing Services	(1 Block South of South Grand on First Street)
Xerox Printing Services	Phone: 217-523-1003 or 217-523-9743
Sign and Poster Services	Fax: 217-523-7770
Finishing Services	Email: jobs@capitolblueprint.com
	Web Site: http://www.capitolblueprint.com



FRIDAY'Z
 Gift Shoppe & Florist

Jennifer Friday
 owner/designer

1326 S. State St.
 Springfield, IL 62704

217-527-9980

fridayz@att.net
fridayzflowershop.com

Tim Healy, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



1818 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704-4030
Bus. 217-528-2827 TF. 877-528-2827
Fax 866-462-6855
tim.healy@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

Don Springer
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Don Springer Business Center
600 South Grand Avenue West
Springfield, IL 62704
Ofc. 217-789-7878 800-441-4208
Fax 217-789-0211
www.edwardjones.com

**HOLLEY
ROSEN &
BEARD**
ATTORNEYS
AT LAW

Steven J. Rosen

440 West South Grand Avenue, Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone (217) 544-3368 Fax (217) 544-5262
sjr@holleyrosenbeard.com

TUPPERWARE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS

ANN VANDIVER
TUPPERWARE CONSULTANT



217 523-3544
www.my.tupperware.com/annvandiver



parisdrycleaners.com

HOURS
M-F 7:30-5:30
Sat 9:00-1:00

MARK YEATES, PROP.

DICK'S SHOE REPAIR



314 West Laurel
Springfield, IL 62704

Telephone
523-5233

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), or regular mail (1520 Lowell).

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 president of the Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association is Travis Lobmaster – 1425 Whittier (753-3012)

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.