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News and Notes

We had a successful Holiday Home Tour in spite of the nasty cold weather. The houses and decorations were gorgeous. Although some original sites had to cancel at the last minute, Kaylynn Sanders was able to recruit seven wonderful sites for the December 7, 2008 tour. The neighborhood brought in \$1300 from ticket sales and donated \$250 to the Western Indiana Community Action Agency, headquartered at the former Crawford School. Director Paul Kelley generously allows FGHD to meet monthly in his facilities and that agency assists many of our neighbors.

Please note that, while FGHD hasn't moved, we have a new address. Renovation of the Cherry Street post office has resulted in a reduction of the number of post office boxes and assigning new numbers. FGHD's new number is 9281. Along with the new address, we're now using the new logo on the masthead and last page of this newsletter. This "tree" logo was voted on at the August 2008 block party.

Please also note the sample street sign on page four. The neighborhood organization hopes to have new signs made for each of the 63 intersections in the Grove. The signs will be

reflective "historic" brown instead of green, the current color, and will have the Farrington's Grove Historical District logo on them. These signs will distinguish the neighborhood as a historic district and identify its boundaries. At an estimated cost of around \$30 per sign, an intersection would cost \$60. In order to help defray the costs to the organization, we're looking for sponsors who will donate the \$60 to FGHD for an intersection. Let Marie Pontius know if you'd like to sponsor an intersection, then send your check to FGHD, P.O. Box 9281, Terre Haute 47808.

Letter from the president . . .



Greetings neighbors,

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday and is looking forward to a great 2009. Since the last newsletter, people in the neighborhood have been involved in a number of activities. We again had a successful Holiday Home Tour. I would like to thank all the people who so graciously opened their homes to the public for this important fund raising activity. This year we brought in \$1300 minus minimal expenses. We contributed \$250 of that to the Western Indiana Community Action Agency. While money from the tour is nice, it

is also an opportunity to promote the neighborhood to the residents of the city of Terre Haute. Special thanks go to Kaylynn and Dan Sanders for all of their hard work and to all of the volunteers that served as hosts at the homes that were on the tour.

In December, members of the security and crime task force met at the home of Mark Frederick to discuss issues related to their charge. Based on that discussion, a draft document was prepared that outlines ways to reduce the incidence of such activities in FGHD. At the January FGHD board meeting DeVere Woods, a criminal justice professor at Indiana State University, and a resident of the neighborhood,

presented the draft plan. The committee will continue working on this document and present a final report for our consideration in the near future. In addition, DeVere, working with students in one criminal justice class, will be analyzing data on the type and location of incidents that have been reported to the police over the past year. These data hopefully will help us to better understand the nature of the problems facing us and where crimes are most prevalent.

At the January meeting we were all reminded that it is time to pay our membership dues. In this edition of the newsletter will be a section devoted to this important ac-

(see Letter page 2)

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Upcoming Events

FGHD, Inc. board meetings
First Tuesday of every month except December at 7:00 p.m. at the Former Crawford School Park in south lot, come in back door and up to second floor.
Everyone is welcome!

Annual Meeting March 3 at 7:00 pm at the former Crawford School. **All residents.**

Semi-annual Clean-up Day
Saturday May 2, 2009

Neighborhood-wide yard sale
Saturday, June 6, 2009

The American Foursquare House Style

By Tom Balduf, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

The American Foursquare house was one of the most popular residential types in the United States throughout the first three decades of the twentieth century. It enjoyed an impressive number of synonyms, including the Cube House, Two-Story Square House, Cornbelt Cube House, Box, Classic Box, Double Cube or just the Plain House. The Foursquare is a square or rectangular box with two to two and one-half stories usually with a peaked hip roof, sometimes truncated at the top, and often with at least one dormer facing the front of the house. The roof often displays widely overhanging eaves that give the house a Prairie-style appearance, hence causing the style to sometimes be described as Vernacular Prairie. The basement tends to be slightly raised, requiring steps to the front porch, which often extends the full length of the front of the house, with the porch roof supported by three or four posts. The façade of the Foursquare is generally balanced and plain, with brick, clapboard, stucco or even concrete block construction. As the name implies, the basic Foursquare design generally had four rooms on both floors, although this pattern was flexible. By this time (1900-1930) the living room had taken the place of the parlor and separate bedrooms on the second floor were set aside for the chil-

dren of the family. Most mail-order companies that provided house kits or plans advertised several models of the Foursquare. The 1926 Sears catalog of houses included a range of Foursquare-type house kits, with 6 to 9 rooms for single-family houses, and even included a two family duplex with ten rooms in two apartments. The houses were described as cozy, roomy, modern and popular and were touted as avoiding wasted space, allowing all interior space "to be used to the best advantage."

In his book The Comfortable House (1986), art historian Alan Gowans describes the Foursquare house as providing massiveness and stability. These were qualities that American families were seeking in cities, suburbs, and also in rural dwellings. The simple box form lent itself to a wide range of styles and ornamentation and could be as simple or complex as permitted by the desires and budget of the homeowner. Most towns in America even today boast a good selection of Foursquares of different sizes, materials, and styles of ornamentation. Gowans' description of the evolution of the Foursquare is fascinating, and its ancestry can be traced to blocky Georgian style houses, which gradually were modified through other



American Foursquare house at 1123 S. Center

stylistic forms, including the Italianate and Queen Anne, with the addition of fussy ornamentation, towers, and other accessories. Eventually, the simplified Foursquare box emerged in its present form from its (and I enjoy Gowans' allusion here to the emergence of a butterfly) "Picturesque chrysalis" of High Victorian style.

Farrington's Grove boasts a grand assortment of Foursquare houses, with a wide range of façade materials, porch styles, dormers, bay windows and other ornamentation, putting the Historic District solidly within the popular middle-class housing trends of the early twentieth

century. As you travel around the District, these diversely-styled boxes will hopefully be more and more obvious and one also will more easily see the square house shape swathed with Victorian ornamentation that may be lurking just around the corner. Of course, each of the house styles found in the Grove reflect matters of taste contemporary to their time, whether stemming from nineteenth century views or those of today's homeowners. Those massive, solid, homey, and attractive Foursquares, along with our other historical residential styles, help to make Farrington's Grove the wonderfully diverse, dense and comfortable neighborhood that continues to grace southwest Terre Haute.

Letter . . . *Continued from page 1*

tivity. Please make sure that you have your membership up to date. Geoff Wayton will be working closely with Mike Magnin to get out the word and recruit new members. We need to expand our membership and this includes businesses in the area. They, too, are part of the neighborhood and we need their support.

Since the block party last August we have been working on distinctive street signs for the neighborhood. As you will

recall we chose the tree logo that Miller/White had developed for the walking tour brochure. In November, we received full rights to use the logo and I have been working with Brad Miller from the street department on this project. At the January meeting we agreed to move forward with the project and purchase the signs. I encourage everyone to adopt a street intersection. See the list on page 4 for available intersections. After FGHD pays to have the signs made,

the city street department staff will hang them; hopefully by this spring.

According to the bylaws, the first Tuesday in March (March 3rd) is the designated annual meeting of the Farrington's Grove Historical District. We will meet at the former Crawford School at 7:00 pm. All neighborhood residents are urged to attend. One agenda item for this meeting of all neighbors is the election of officers for 2009-2010. At the

February meeting a subcommittee will be formed and charged with preparing a slate of officers for consideration by the board. Additional nominations from the floor will also be welcome.

... Steve Pontius

How to Build Community from Syracuse Cultural Workers, 1998



- Turn off your TV; leave your house.
- Know your neighbors.
- Greet people.
- Look up when you're walking.
- Sit on your stoop.
- Plant flowers.
- Use your library.
- Play together.
- Buy from local merchants.
- Share what you have.
- Help a lost dog.
- Take children to the park.
- Honor elders.
- Support neighborhood schools.
- Fix it even if you didn't break it.
- Have pot lucks.
- Garden together.
- Pick up litter.
- Read stories aloud.
- Dance in the street.
- Talk to the mail carrier.
- Listen to the birds.
- Put up a swing.
- Help carry something heavy.

- Barter for your goods.
- Start a tradition.
- Ask a question..
- Hire young people for odd jobs
- Organize a block party.
- Bake extra and share.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Open your shades.
- Sing together.
- Share your skills.
- Take back the night.
- Turn up the music.
- Turn down the music.
- Listen before you react to anger.
- Mediate a conflict.
- Seek to understand.
- Learn from new and uncomfortable angles.

- Know that no one is silent though many are not heard; work to change this.



Across the Backyard Fence

By Anne Burkett

Long-time 5th Street resident and former ISU professor, Anne Lee, just celebrated her 100th birthday. Her son and daughter, John and Mary, gave her a gala open house at Westminster. Harriet McNeal treated Anne and family also with a birthday dinner. Anne was one of the Founders of FGHD. She was a very active member as well as a former organization President. Happy Birthday, Anne, from all of us.

Welcome to Keri Berg, formerly of Texas, and her fiancé, Bassam Yousiff, of California. They have recently purchased a house at 5th and Deming, and I had the pleasure of entering into their home thru the plastic doorways they were using while scraping paint and wallpaper. She had enjoyed the Holiday Tour so she knew some of her new neighbors. She is in the Language Arts Dept, and he is in the Economics Dept at ISU.

Another welcome goes to John and Pat McIntyre, who

is the Chair in the Music Department at St. Mary of the Woods College. Happy to have you in your home on South 6th St. Your home looks so pretty. I've been to see you several times but December holidays are difficult to find people at home. I'll hope to catch you in February.



Thanks to Kaylynn and Dan Sanders on all the work they did for the Holiday Home Tour. It showed so many of the beautiful homes in our neighborhood. It was well attended and enjoyed by many.

The Welcome Committee consists of Anne Burkett, Colleen Chestnut, Cindy Jenkins, Kaylynn Sanders, Jackie Carrell, Nancy Courtney. Please notify us of new neighbors and interesting happenings.

You can sponsor the two signs for an intersection near you for \$60. Send Marie Pontius an email or give her a call at 478-0686 if you would like one or more intersections. Checks should be made payable to FGHD and sent to PO Box 9281, Terre Haute 47808.



Sample of new street signs for Farrington's Grove neighborhood

Intersection	Sponsor Name
Poplar & S. 5th	
Poplar & S. 6th	
Poplar & S. 7th	
Swan & S. 4th	
Swan & S. 5th	
Swan & S. 6th	
Swan & Center	
Swan & S. 7th	
Oak & S. 4th	
Oak & S. 5th	
Oak & S. 6th	
Oak & Center	
Oak & S. 7th	
Wilson & S. 4th	
Crawford & S. 4th	
Crawford & S. 5th	Tom and Anne Burkett
Crawford & S. 6th	
Crawford & S. 7th	
Deming & S. 4th	
Deming & S. 5th	
Deming & S. 6th	Dan and Kaylynn Sanders
Deming & Center	Charlie Lee
Deming & S. 7th	
Park & S. 4th	
Park & S. 5th	Sandra Brake/Mike Magnin
Park & S. 6th	
Park & Center	
Park & S. 7th (western side)	
Park & S. 7th (eastern side)	Geoff and Jessica Wayton
Farrington & S. 4th	
Farrington & S. 5th	
Farrington & S. 6th	

Farrington & Center	
Farrington & S. 7th	
College & S. 4th	Darrell & Christine Hamilton
College & S. 5th	
College & S. 6th	Steve and Marie Pontius
College & Center	Tom & Eileen Balduf
College & S. 7th	
Cruft & S. 7th	
Franklin & S. 7th	
Washington & S. 4th	
Washington & S. 5th	
Washington & S. 6th	Colleen Chestnut & Jim Silver
Washington & Center	
Washington & S. 7th	
Willow & S. 4th	
Willow & S. 6th	
Harrison & S. 7th	
Putnam & S. 6th	
Putnam & Center	Mark Frederick
Putnam & S. 7th	
Osborne & S. 4th	
Osborne & S. 5th	
Osborne & S. 6th	
Seabury & S. 6th	
Seabury & Center	Dennis & Pricilla Kerns
Seabury & S. 7th	
Hulman & S. 4th	
Hulman & S. 5th	
Hulman & S. 6th	
Hulman & Center	
Hulman & S. 7th (?)	

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

By Barbara Carney

Have you noticed that Spring is in the air? Well, we can always dream, can't we?

Looking outside on these early February days, Spring seems like eons away, but inside the Vigo County Historical Museum, the first exhibit of 2009 actually makes the season come to life. Called "Spring Things", visitors will step through the holidays we enjoy celebrating as the cold begins to fade away. Centering the display is a dining table transformed from its formal Christmas dinner setting to one arranged for afternoon tea. Everything is bright, light and airy!

Around the tea table, are vignettes which highlight the various holidays of the season of Spring. Easter fashions from the 1920s through the '70s stand out among flowers, bunnies, and chicks. Displays commemorating Mother's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and May Day join the parade. The Memorial Day exhibit features the 500 Mile Race with pictures of many Terre Haute attendees from the former Rotogravure Section of the Tribune Star. Beautiful holiday cards and post cards add interest for the viewer. There is much more to see, so "think spring" and make the Museum a part of your agenda.

"Spring Things" will open on Tuesday, February 3rd. The Vigo County Historical Museum welcomes visitors Tuesday through Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Also, it isn't too early to mark your calendar for May 30th. A gala is being planned by the Historical Society, with refreshments, entertainment, and music by the Six Men of Note and Claudia. Guests will be welcome to trip the light fantastic. The location to be one you'll want to visit, so stay tuned! More to follow.



Snow-covered statue behind Vigo County Historical Museum

Members Needed! And Dues are Due

Farrington's Grove Historical District, Inc. is doing a lot of things in the neighborhood. I think we all can see progress being made. But we need the support of members. This newsletter goes out to almost 300 households and costs about \$200 for each edition. That's only one example. We are trying to keep neighbors informed, but not everyone who receives the newsletter pays the annual dues. Dues run from January through December and are only \$20 per year, per family, although we welcome donations of any size. Donations are fully tax-deductible. Please make sure you send in your dues and donations. See the information on the back page of this newsletter for how to contribute.

Contact any of your neighborhood association officers listed below if you have any questions.

Farrington's Grove Historical District, Inc. – Officers

	Name	Email Address	Telephone
President	Steve Pontius	spontius@isuqw.indstate.edu	478-0686
Vice-President	Tom Burkett	moanbeach@yahoo.com	234-2144
Secretary	Christine Hamilton	cham2894@yahoo.com	239-3816
Treasurer	Mike Magnin	mmagnin@boartlongyear.com	238-9865
Membership	Geoff Wayton	geoffwayton@hotmail.com	

**Guiding and Promoting the Preservation
and Restoration of Farrington's Grove**

Farrington's Grove Historical District, Inc.
P.O. Box 9281
Terre Haute, Indiana 47808
www.farringtonsgrove.org
Email: fghd.th@gmail.com



Farrington's Grove Historical District, Inc. 2009 Membership Application

Make checks payable to FGHD, Inc. and mail to FGHD, Inc. P.O. Box 9281, Terre Haute, IN 47808

I have included a tax deductible donation of \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ email: _____

Total amount enclosed: _____

- \$200 Benefactor membership
- \$100 Corporate membership
- \$35 Patron membership
- \$20 Regular membership