



Ball State group helps neighborhoods

Neighborhood Action Committee, a consortium of historic Lafayette neighborhood associations including Historic Centennial Neighborhood, has contracted with a group at Ball State University to develop resources for preserving the character of their communities.

Community Based Projects, a group from Ball State University's College of Architecture and Planning, is developing a set of Historic Neighborhood Design Resources for the Historic Centennial Neighborhood, Ellsworth-Romig, Downtown Lafayette, and the north end of Historic Ninth Street—the four groups comprising the NAC. The plan is scheduled for completion by May 10.

According to Michael Hunt, HCNA board member, "The goal of the project is to preserve and enhance the unique streetscapes of these historic neighborhoods. Information developed will assist property owners in the maintenance, renovation, restoration and modification of residential and commercial buildings in the neighborhoods." The plan will also provide assistance regarding the design of new buildings that would complement their historic buildings.

In addition to developing the design resources, the Ball State group plans to help present the ideas in educational sessions. The project is being funded by a grant from Lafayette Community Foundation and Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association.

Left to right: Elmer, Dorothy, Phyllis, Leon Long-time residents celebrate same birthday

March 4 was a red-letter day for two of Historic Centennial Neighborhood's senior statesmen.

Elmer Dickman, long-time owner of a furniture business in the neighborhood was honored at a surprise party for his 85th birthday. He and his long-time companion, **Dorothy Hovey**, live at 422 North 7th Street. Around 1975 they restored their 1856 vernacular Federal style townhouse and remain active in the neighborhood.

Elmer began his career as a firefighter in Crawfordsville. After four years in the Navy during World War II, he returned to the fire department, where he was later named Chief. In 1965 he started his furniture business in Lafayette at the Monon Depot as Downtown Auction Co. In 1971 he moved to the current location of 3rd and Brown Streets, and changed the name to Elmer's Auction. In the early 1990s he discontinued the weekly auction to concentrate on appraisals and retail sales of new and used furniture. Elmer continues to stop by daily to oversee the business.

Leon Thorpe, who shares the same birthday with Mr. Dickman, has lived in Historic Centennial Neighborhood for at least 30 years. A retired Purdue laboratory technician, Leon actively participates in all HCNA activities. Recently he has been especially helpful in representing the neighborhood in open meetings before the city administration, and telephoning members with reminders and announcements.

**Allan R. Young reminisces about home,
neighborhood, 635 N. 4th St.**

As far as I can recall my mother purchased this home around the time of the depression. I have the original title in a safe deposit box. I have lived here off and on for around 60 years. I moved back home when my mother died in the early 1980s. When I was small we had no furnace, and no hot water. My mother would heat water on a big iron stove in the kitchen, and pour it in a tub for my bath. I would dress behind a big pot-belly stove in another room.

We put an ice card in the window when we needed ice for the ice box, and milk bottles on the front porch when we needed milk. When we were sick, I remember the doctor would come to the house. His name was Dr. Klepinger. The gas company was directly across the street from where I live. It had two big gas tanks, one on each side of the street that runs between 4th Street and 3rd Street. At night you could hear them squeak as they moved up and down when filling or draining as the case may be.

Down the street on the same side was a brewery where they made Ye Tavern beer. Down the street further on the same side was the old ice house. Across the street from The Pub tavern, where apartments are now, was the old Sunshine Farms dairy. My dad once worked there when he was laid off at Monon Shops.

(to be continued in next issue)

Neighborhood Summit March 31

The third annual Neighborhood Summit will take place March 31 at Jefferson High School.

Sponsored by Greater Lafayette Area Plan Commission, Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services, Community and Redevelopment Offices of West Lafayette and Lafayette and Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association, this year's meetings will provide hands-on demonstrations of restoration and decorating techniques, displays of home repair products and tools, training for volunteer

organizations and recognition for youth leaders in the community.

Robert Kriebel, a noted local historian, will be the keynote speaker.

The cost of the event, which includes breakfast and lunch, is \$5.00. Checks are payable to LUEA at 337 Columbia Street, Lafayette, IN 47902-0277. For further information, call 742-1984.

Church, resident recognized in press

One of Lafayette's oldest churches and one of Historic Centennial Neighborhood's newest residents were recently recognized in the Journal and Courier.

The **Bethel AME Church**, located in the 800 block on Ferry Street, was discussed in Bob Kriebel's March 4 "Old Lafayette" column as a pre-civil-war center for African-American cultural, educational and political activity.

Jeanne Romero-Severson, the first resident in the new rowhouses on N. 5th Street and a new forestry professor at Purdue, was featured the same day for her efforts to breed disease-resistant hardwood trees.

Town-gown initiative includes HCNA

Efforts by Purdue University's new president to increase dialog between the educational institution and the community have extended over the Wabash to include Lafayette's downtown neighborhoods.

President Martin Jischke, in cooperation with Mayor Sonya Margerum, originally called for a study to address the impact of the university on West Lafayette. When some residents of Lafayette's older neighborhoods attended the first open meeting and suggested that the university's influence is felt in residential areas beyond West Lafayette, the study was broadened to include the downtown neighborhoods.

The study, which is intended to identify problems and potential solutions in the areas of housing, neighborhood issues and communications, is scheduled for completion by April 23.

City sponsors "Clean Sweep"

Saturday, April 7 is the day appointed for Lafayette City's annual outside cleanup.

The kick-off for the city-wide "Clean Sweep" will be at 8:30 a.m. at Reihle Plaza, where volunteers will receive free donuts and coffee. From there, participants gather at Centennial Park at 9 to receive a free T-shirt and an assignment for a trash pick-up area.

Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association president Phyllis Hunt urged members of the neighborhood to be vigilant about trash, on April 7 as well as the rest of the year. "Beyond the once-a-year clean sweep, think how nice it could be if we all were attentive to picking up trash daily on and around our properties," she said. "The trash may belong to you, or it may have blown onto your property from elsewhere; but it becomes the responsibility of each of us. And please, don't forget to check the curbs! Curbs are dandy for collecting all sorts of trash and drinking containers. Every small piece of trash disposed of properly can make a big difference in the attractiveness of our neighborhood."

Several historic homes for sale

Board member Todd Helfter reports that there are several vintage homes for sale in the Historic Centennial Neighborhood:

- Three of the four townhouses in the historic "Handley House" at 612-614 Ferry Street.
- A bungalow-style home at 648 North 8th Street.
- A Queen-Anne-style home at 508 North 6th Street, recognized by the Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation as the "Folckemer-Valentine" house.
- An 1860s Italianate brick house at 524 North 5th Street.

New rowhouse resident returning home

The newest resident of a 5th Street rowhouse is returning to the neighborhood where she grew up.

Martha Settles bought the house at 622 North 5th Street shortly after attending Historical Centennial's October 8 street party, which was

organized to draw attention to the newly constructed rowhouses and brownstones. She moved in about two months ago.

Born in Morganfield, Kentucky, Martha grew up on North 4th Street, in a home that was demolished to make room for an approach to the Harrison Bridge. As a child, she attended the old Washington School and Trinity United Methodist Church.

She has three sons. David lives in Springboro, Ohio, and Jeff and Dustin live with her. She says she is especially delighted with her 22-month-old grandson, Braydin.

Martha, who works at Kirby Risk on McCarty Lane, says she is looking forward to nicer weather so that she can have a chance to be outside and meet her new neighbors.

Vision 2020 Seeks Your Input

Do you want to have a say in what Greater Lafayette will look like in 20 years? Here's your chance!

A community-wide visioning process is underway. The following community issues have been identified: economy, education/learning, environment, future leadership, government, growth and quality of life. A process is underway for interested citizens to develop vision, objectives and action steps for each of the community issues. You are invited to make your thoughts and opinions known. You can reach Vision 2020 by:

Web: ourvision2020.com,

Phone: 742-4041 ext. 226

Email: vision2020@lafayettechamber.com

Last Train through town

On Friday, April 6th, the last train through town will leave the 6th St. crossing at 3:53 pm. with dignitaries aboard. The train will stop briefly at the Ferry St. crossing at 4:15 pm. where members of Perrin, Historic Jefferson and **Historic Centennial** neighborhoods will celebrate the last train crossing of Ferry St. The train will proceed to Market Square for the public celebration of the completion of Railroad Relocation from 4:30 to 6 pm. Join the festivities at Ferry St. and Market Square.

HISTORIC CENTENNIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Winter
2001

Appreciation is given to the following members for their financial support by joining the Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association. It is their believing in the

future of the neighborhood, and the efforts currently underway for neighborhood revitalization that makes this so wonderful.

Chris Agnew
Rev. Tim Alkire, St. Boniface Church
Bundy McNear Insurance Agency
Dennis Carson, Lafayette Urban
Enterprise Association
Barbara and Paul Dixon
First Christian Church
Shirley and Jack Gerhart
Anne and Todd Helfter
K.J. Nutt & Friends Hair Salon
Dorothy Hovey and Elmer Dickman

Phyllis and Michael Hunt
Joan and Bob McIlwain
Gretchen Mehring
Bob Mertz
Joe Micon, Lafayette Urban Ministries
Midwest Party Rentals
Elizabeth Mork
Dick Nagel
Will Carter
Van and Linda Phillips
Reiss Johnson Properties

Mark Scharer, Paradigm Development
St. Johns Episcopal Church
Leon Thorpe
Trinity United Methodist Church
Thomas Wang
Rob Reason
YWCA
Jane's Gourmet Deli & Catering
Ed and Nancy Wagoner
Dave and Lynda Raymer
Jim Brown

If you paid membership dues and your name is not on this list, please contact Dick Nagel, HCNA Treasurer, at 420-7737.

**HISTORIC CENTENNIAL IS A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD THAT IS ON THE MOVE.
WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER AND BE A PART OF THE ACTION!**

Membership Dues paid now will be effective through December 31, 2001

Yearly Dues: \$20 Additional donations graciously accepted.
____ Resident/Owner
____ Friends of Centennial Neighborhood
____ Business/Organization/Landlord

 \$10 Additional donations graciously accepted.
____ Tenant/Renter

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Address(es) of property owned in Centennial:

Phone (Home) _____ (Office) _____

E-mail _____

I am interested in becoming involved as:

Block Captain _____ Officer in the Association _____ Helper _____

Other (explain) _____

Mail check and application form to Dick Nagel, Loeb House Inn, 708 Cincinnati St. 47901