

HISTORIC CENTENNIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Summer
2001



You are Invited! August 22, 7:00 p.m.

Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association will meet at Wells Cultural Community Center, 638 North St. Following a brief business meeting with election of officers, our neighborhood patrolman, Officer Brian Baker will be our guest speaker. We will then host a reception for several new residents of our neighborhood. The public is invited to join us for the evening and to help welcome our new neighbors.

Neighbors repair damage from scam

On May 26, several members of Lafayette's Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association spent an afternoon restoring a resident's porch that had been disfigured by an unscrupulous contractor.

Nelva Whiles, 520 North 7th Street, had hired a contractor about a year ago to repair storm damage to the roof and downspouts of her home, paying a sizable amount in advance. In a few hours, a couple of workers demolished parts of her porch that were unrelated to the damage. These so-called "contractors" then abandoned the job, and were never heard from again.

When resident **Todd Helfter** became aware of Nelva's plight, he proposed restoration of the porch as a neighborhood association service project. Before the workers showed up, **Michael Hunt** measured and cut steel plates that Helfter and **Dick Nagel** installed to support the porch in places where it was sagging. Then **Wayne Applegate**, **Paul Dixon**, **Rob Reason** and city councilman **Perry Brown** joined Helfter, Hunt and Nagel to replace beaded boards that had been removed from the perimeter of the inside of the porch. They also reinstalled aluminum coverings that had been removed from the porch.

Hearing that one of Nelva's wishes was to see flowers again on her front porch, a group of neighbors including **Phyllis Hunt**, **Va'Linda McBride**, Va'Linda's daughter **Alessandria**, **K. J. Nutt** and new rowhouse resident **Martha Settles** became a "flower brigade", planting flowers in many empty urns and pots on the porch. The plants were donated by *Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association*.

Local television reporter **Paula Johnson** arrived during the project to videotape and interview workers, and a report of the project aired on WLFJ's news program that evening at both six and eleven.

The project culminated when **Barbara Dixon** arrived with a picnic dinner for everyone involved.

According to Nelva Whiles, "To anyone who has been a victim of such a crime let it be known that there are guardian angels in many forms. No words can accurately describe the joy I experienced when these men and women of the neighborhood came to my rescue. This restoration of my home has sealed a hole in me that was torn that day the damage occurred. God bless them all."

Phyllis Hunt, president of the Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association, summarized the feelings of the participants: "Nelva was greatly appreciative of our efforts, but in turn, the workers were extremely pleased to be able to help a neighbor. We look forward to other 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors' projects in Historic Centennial."

The **Journal and Courier** featured this event with their July 5th "Unsung Heroes" column.

Crowds turn out to YWCA festival

Although weather was threatening on June 2, the neighborhood was still inundated with people attending the YWCA's annual Strawberry Festival. Historic Centennial Neighborhood board members **Todd Helfter** and **Michael Hunt** volunteered to help serve refreshments during the festival.

Phyllis Hunt honored by 9th Street Hill Association

Phyllis J. Hunt, president of Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association, was honored by another historic neighborhood association at the May 20 "Toast to Preservation" for her efforts to enhance an older neighborhood. The annual "Toast to Preservation" is sponsored by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association.

The Historic Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood Association awarded this year's "Spirit of the Hill" award to Hunt. The recognition is given to a person outside the Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood who has improved the quality of life in an older neighborhood of Lafayette. Following are excerpts from the presentation for the "Spirit of the Hill" award to Phyllis:



"Phyllis Hunt led the HCNA in conceptualizing a unique public-private project to build new, appropriately designed, owner-occupied residences on N. 5th Street - the North Fifth Street Brownstones and Rowhouses project. The concept was implemented by Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc., City of Lafayette Community Development Department, Neighborhood Action Committee and Paradigm Development, Inc.

To lessen the potential for inappropriate future development in Historic Centennial, she led the year-long process of the neighborhood rezoning itself under the New Uniform Zoning Ordinance. Under her leadership, the neighborhood accomplished what many originally deemed impossible - to downzone in order to make the area more attractive for owner-occupied residences and lessen the prospect of high-density usage.

Being the neighborhood leader for accomplishing these nontraditional, and to some controversial, activities required her to make numerous appearances

before the Area Plan Commission and Lafayette City Council.... Public officials respect her and acknowledge her as a forceful leader.

Phyllis Hunt has not sought this demanding existence or limelight, but she feels leadership must be provided if the future of the older neighborhoods is to be changed for the better. By example and leadership she is striving to show the greater Lafayette community that Historic Centennial Neighborhood (and other older Lafayette neighborhoods by association) is a destination place to live, work and play."

Imagination Station proposes transportation exhibit

Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association is supporting the Imagination Station, 600 North 4th Street, in its bid for state funding for an exterior exhibit on modes of transportation.

The Imagination Station is a children's museum. According to executive director Barbara Pipher-Doran, bids will soon be awarded for the planning stage of the project, which is intended to call attention to the museum.

McBride resigns from LUEA

Va'Linda McBride, an active facilitator for many neighborhood projects since October 1999, has announced her departure from Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association. Although she will continue to work part-time until a replacement is found, her last day as a full-time employee was June 15.

Ms. McBride has been instrumental in providing Historical Centennial Neighborhood Association with information about funding and other resources for neighborhoods. She attended all HCNA board meetings, and supported neighborhood projects both with her expertise and with her active participation. She was instrumental in organizing Lafayette's annual Neighborhood Summit, and many association picnics.

She intends to stay in the community, working part-time while taking classes at Purdue. She plans eventually to work towards a law degree.

All six rowhouses sold; four brownstones still available

All six of the rowhouses in the six-hundred block of 5th street have now been sold. Four of the eight brownstones in the five-hundred block remain available for sale.

The townhouses and rowhouses were developed by Paradigm Development, Inc., along with Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. and the City of Lafayette Community Development Department as new

housing with appropriate architectural features for historic neighborhoods.



Clean Sweep was a success.

Several Historic Centennial Neighborhood residents participated in Lafayette's annual cleanup event, Operation Clean Sweep, on April 7.

Under the direction of Va'Linda McBride from the Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association, Barbara Dixon, Todd Helfter, and Phyllis and Michael Hunt were teamed up with brothers from **Delta Upsilon Fraternity**.

According to board president Phyllis Hunt, "It was fun for us to have the opportunity to associate with this group of students and hopefully enlighten them a little about the virtues of living in an historic neighborhood."

New neighbors arrive at rowhouses

Beth Brown and her dog **Winston** are the new occupants of a rowhouse on North 5th Street., and have already made an impact on the property's landscaping. Beth planted lilies and shrubs even before closing on the house.

"I discovered the rowhouses in March when I was at my dentist's office directly across the street," said Beth. "After I left his office, I went and looked in the windows and called Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services for an appointment. It was basically love at first sight!"

Beth was born in Bristol, Pennsylvania but considers Michigan City her real home. She moved to Lafayette in January 1998 from Kansas City, Missouri and works at Egyptian Coatings, now called Worwag Coatings since a buyout in December.

"My faithful and constant companion is Winston, an Airedale Terrier," she said. "He confirms my thoughts that the Centennial Neighborhood is the place to be! We

both like the differences in homes and are happy to be out of the 'cookie cutter' type of neighborhood."

Beth reports that they both enjoy gardening and good food, and that she loves downhill skiing while Winston is more of a "couch potato."

At 618 North 5th Street, **Andrea Guerrero** is in her first month as a home owner. "This is my first house and I couldn't be more excited," she said. "I love everything . . . the house, the neighbors, the neighborhood. Everything has far surpassed my expectations." Andrea and her two roommates moved in on June 1. Andrea says, "I don't think I've stopped smiling since."

Andrea has lived with her family in Lafayette since she was two years old. She works full time at Freckles Graphics, a screen printing, embroidery and graphic design company that has been in business for seven years. A couple of evenings a week she also works at Interior Objects in Market Square. Andrea's roommates are **Shawn Lopez**, a full time student from southern Indiana, and **Toby Edmonds**, another student from northern Indiana.

Andrea said she would like to get acquainted with more of her neighbors: "We've got hectic schedules but if you are walking by and see a light on feel free to stop and say 'hi.'"

HCNA presents preservation awards

At the Tippecanoe County Historical Association's annual Toast to Preservation Awards on May 20, the Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association recognized those responsible for several neighborhood projects.

The association's "Pride of Centennial Award" was presented to **Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.** for restoration of the Queen Anne-style house on 640 Ferry Street.

The "Friend of Centennial Award" went to **Paradigm Development, Inc.**, for the North 5th Street Brownstones and Rowhouses project.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to **Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.**, **City of Lafayette Community Development Department**, and the **Neighborhood Action Committee** for their roles, along with Paradigm Development, Inc., in implementing the North 5th Street Brownstones and Rowhouses project.

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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	Joan and Bob McIlwain	Leon Thorpe
Rev. Tim Alkire, St. Boniface Church	Gretchen Mehring	Trinity United Methodist Church
Bundy McNear Insurance Agency	Bob Mertz	Thomas Wang
Dennis Carson, Lafayette Urban	Joe Micon, Lafayette Urban Ministries	Rob Reason
Enterprise Association	Midwest Party Rentals	YWCA
Barbara and Paul Dixon	Elizabeth Mork	Jane's Gourmet Deli & Catering
First Christian Church	Dick Nagel	Ed and Nancy Wagoner
Shirley and Jack Gerhart	Will Carter	Dave and Lynda Raymer
Anne and Todd Helfter	Van and Linda Phillips	Jim Brown
K.J. Nutt & Friends Hair Salon	Reiss Johnson Properties	Nelva Whiles
Dorothy Hovey and Elmer Dickman	Mark Scharer, Paradigm Development	Angie Bowen
Phyllis and Michael Hunt	St. Johns Episcopal Church	Marianne Kiefer

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, 2002

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