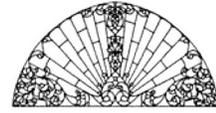




Gateway

The Voice



Mansion Hill

OF THE East Row Historic Foundation

Volume 6

Issue 9

September 2005

The Voice of the East Row Historic Foundation is published monthly and paid for by the East Row Historic Foundation (ERHF). Diverse, responsible commentary is encouraged. All opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily express those of the ERHF or its officers.

Articles, editorials, or calendar items should be dropped off at 519 E. 2nd St. or emailed to Voice@EastRow.org. Submissions must be signed to be considered for publication. The editors reserve the right to edit or reject submissions due to length, content or appropriateness.

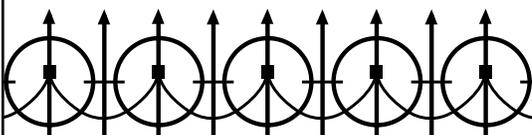
Co Editors: Bruce Murray, Nancy Stephens
Managing Editor: John Morrow

Contributors to this issue: Julie Smith-Morrow, Jeff Ballard, John Morrow, Monica Stephenson, Nancy Stephens, Darryll Strickler.
Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

Next Meeting: Joint meeting for Gateway and Mansion Hill neighborhoods
Tuesday, July 3rd, 7:30 p.m.,
St. Mark Lutheran Church,
Corner of Monroe & Eighth Sts.

East Row Historic Foundation Officers:
Chair: Jeff Ballard, Chair@EastRow.org
Secretary: Virginia Claypool
Treasurer: Monica Stephenson
Gateway Rep: Mary Jo Gerwe
Mansion Hill Rep: Joyce Chastang

www.EastRow.org



House Tour a Certainty

by The Editors

With an abundance of houses committed to the December Historic District tour of homes, we move forward in exhibiting the Victorian beauties that comprise our community. Now we can showcase the breathtaking restoration and decorating efforts that often bring others to live here.

Scheduled for Sunday, December 11, this complement to the two-day Tall Stacks tour, still planned for next year, will be a one day event culminating in a wine and non-alcoholic beverage tasting. New twists are in store to attract a wide range of visitors.

Community spirited volunteers are already at work to create a successful day. Response to the VOICE's request for help has been gratifying.

We could use additional help. To volunteer, email Pat Budd at pbudd@zoomtown.com or Nancy Stephens at nstephens@fuse.net. You may choose to assist with publicity, art for posters and tickets, house histories, wine tasting, recruiting house volunteers who staff the house on tour day or for ticket sales the day of the event.



Gallery at Mammoth

by Nancy Stephens

Stroll or drive down Monmouth St. and the sign, "Caffeine Pusher," will catch your eye. Stop in! Josh Baker, owner of this hip, wireless internet-access coffee shop has a new show open in the gallery space. Screen prints by four Northern Kentucky artists are on display. All are for sale and all are moderately priced.

Relaxed seating arrangements reminiscent of your living room provide a mellow setting for the cafe's light refreshments, beer and signature coffee drinks. The ENQUIRER voted the peanut butter mocha frappe the best iced coffee drink in its Dining Out section.



Approving the ERHF Budget

by Jeff Ballard

The budget for the ERHF will be discussed at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 6. The regular meeting will follow at 7:30. Editorial request: Printing the voice is a large budget item for the ERHF only partially offset by advertising revenues. Because of our 4 page limit we request that your submissions be limited to 150 words.

Breast Cancer Benefit at York Street Cafe

by Nancy Stephens

York Street Cafe's manager, Linda Kummner, has a close friend, Sheri Heffern, who is a breast cancer survivor. During her recovery, she collected and wore a huge variety of hats. These, and other donated hats—all with a story—will be in a silent auction at this exciting charity evening to benefit the St. Lukes Hospital Breast Cancer Center.

Owners Betsy and Terry Cunningham have donated the space on the 2nd and 3rd floors for this "hat"pening on Saturday, October 8.

With new chef Amy Rifken, formerly at the Celestial, and new menu items, the restaurant offers enticing reasons to visit a local favorite. The Cunninghams have expanded the popular Sunday evening "buy-two-entrees-and-receive-a-bottle-of-wine-for-\$1" to include Wednesdays.

Another addition, "Three for Thirty" provides a new variety of fixed price menus that include an appetizer, entree, and dessert—all for \$30. With an interactive murder mystery planned for upstairs on the evenings of the 16th and 23rd of September, York Street Cafe aficionados and newcomers alike will find ample reason to stop by.

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Classifieds

OCASSIONAL HELP wanted for small gift store in historic district. Ask for Roger or Nancy. 859-491-1664.

Battling Bats

by Monica Stephenson

I am not afraid of the many critters that invade my home. However, when a bat comes to visit, all good sense disappears, at least initially.

Since I have lived in Kentucky, I have had three nocturnal visits. I was not able to find the last uninvited guest, I hope it found its way out.

For those like me who are new to bats, I found the following information courtesy of Thomas G. Barnes of the UK cooperative extension. (Bats: Information for KY homeowners: www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/for/for48/for48.htm)

Bats are not filthy and will not infest homes with dangerous parasites. Bats are not aggressive and will not attack people or pets. Bats do not need to fly through an opening to enter or escape. (Did my visitors walk out?). Bats can enter an opening as small as 3/8 inch in diameter. Sealing bats inside a building causes bats to starve, creating unsanitary and smelly problems. Bats, the only predator of night-flying insects, are beneficial and consume large amounts of insects, including mosquitoes.

Big brown bats and little brown bats, the two most common species, are the most likely to take up residence in our area. The best way to keep your house free of bats is to provide them with a bat dwelling of their own—a bat house some safe distance from your home. By my estimation, there is not enough space between me and my neighbors to qualify as a safe distance.

According to an article in the POST, a simple device called a checkvalue can be installed. For most openings, netting draped over an entrance—but open at the bottom—allows bats to crawl down and leave, but they will not be able to crawl back up under the netting. Early autumn, after nursery colonies leave in August and before cold weather sets in and hibernation starts, is the best time to evict bats. Seal the openings; once sealed, they cannot be gnawed open by bats.



Newport Welcomes Red Hatters

by Nancy Stephens

September 24 has been designated by the city as "Red Hatters' Day" in Newport. With a motto of "Drink tea, shop and be entertained," this group plans a day-long event that includes a scavenger hunt, a "Taste of Newport" buffet at the Syndicate, welcoming ceremonies and craft sales at the Newport Peace Bell, a tour of Newport merchants and an historic district tour.

Watch for the Red Hat banners around the city and welcome these ladies unmistakably dressed in purple dresses and red hat.



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Notes From the Aboveground: National Trust for Historic Preservation

by John and Julie Morrow

We attended the annual meeting of the NTHP held in Louisville during the last week of September of 2004. The NTHP is the largest and most influential society involved in historic preservation in the United States, and its annual meetings are a combination of presentations, tours and cocktail parties, allowing much time for schmoozing.

Dr. Bruce Katz, an urban planner and writer at the Brookings Institute, a liberal think tank, gave the plenary talk. He discussed the rise of the "exit ramp economy" which has resulted in massive suburban sprawl, supported by a tax structure that favors the growth of suburbs at the expense of the central cities, which (with their marginalized minorities) become more and more isolated. This of course includes access to jobs, as industrial parks spring up along freeways, farther and farther from unemployed urban populations.

Spread out infrastructure must be created at great cost, and there is a counterintuitive effect on the health of suburban residents who do little walking and experience health decline because of lack of exercise. Katz asserts that the more local government you have, the more sprawl you wind up with, as overlapping political entities duke it out for control of smaller and smaller pieces of pies and battle one another for access to commercial development projects.

Katz's solution is to expand regional governments (as Louisville, Jacksonville and Oklahoma City has done), institute land use reform (to protect green belts), rebuild urban infrastructure through regional taxation authority and provide access to opportunity for urban populations.

As sensible as this appears, the fact that many major cities (can you think of any?) lie on rivers (and therefore on state lines) makes it very difficult to develop regional governmental authorities. Actually Napoleon did a pretty good job of obliterating European borders in the 19th century, but this is unlikely to happen in this country.

The truth must be told that the political shade of

the NTHP is decidedly liberal. Much of their lobbying efforts are aimed at the acquisition of government support for preservation, tight restrictions on urban sprawl and tax programs that benefit investment in urban communities. One of plenary addresses was by Wendell Berry, well known poet and author. Berry's bottom line was that local communities need to fight their own small battles for historic preservation, as they come up against the global industrial behemoth, which has no interest in regional needs.

(more to follow next issue.)

Letter to the Editors

by Darryll Strickler

I enjoy reading the VOICE and will give you my feedback on what we can do to improve our neighborhood. This is the second home I have owned in this area. I enjoyed my first property very much. It was quiet. My neighbors were all friendly and everyone took pride in the ownership of their homes.

Living on 4th St., however, has not proved to be such an enlightening experience. It is noisy; the police do nothing to help calm the noise, even on weekends. I never have a place to park even though the block I live in requires a parking pass. On weekends I have to park a block or more away just to get to my own home.

People throw trash in my yard and I have to look at a few other homes on my block that are, to say the least, not up to what I feel this neighborhood should be representing.

I, along with a lot of my neighbors, feel that the best thing that can happen in our neighborhood is for us to feel safe. I and three of my neighbors have all had our homes broken into.

If Newport is going to move forward, we have to step up and take care of the neighborhood before it gets out of hand. I'm sure that everyone in this historic area will tell you they have spent a lot of money to live here and all they want is to be able to come home, feel safe and have everyone follow some guidelines as to how our area should be kept.

Flowers and gaslights are great, but if everyone starts moving out because they feel unsafe, there will be nothing left for Newport. We were ridden with crime not that long ago and look what happened to our town then. The time to fix it is now.



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Garden Club Presents Gift to Kid's Café

by Elaine Pearl

The East Row Garden Club extends its thanks to the homeowners who opened their beautiful gardens to the public for the 9th Annual Garden Walk held on June 25 & 26. In addition to the talented musicians, the 80+ volunteers, and on-site vendors, many generous sponsors provided both financial and in-kind services to assure a successful event. Over 600 garden-enthusiasts attended the weekend event which featured 10 superb gardens and a lovely relaxation area. The club is proud to announce that through the support of those listed above and the garden walk patrons, they were able to present this year's selected local charity, Kid's Café of Newport, with a gift of \$947.00. The check was presented to Betty and Ron Cooley at the August meeting, who noted that the gift will afford Kid's Café the opportunity to purchase a new refrigerator. The club members were pleased that the dedication, commitment and support of those involved in the Garden Walk on a hot weekend in late June, provided a small, yet meaningful, contribution to a much needed service in our own community.



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Historic Preservation Update

by J. A. Smith-Morrow

During the past several months Newport residents, Historic Preservation Commission, and Board of Commissioners have moved several key issues moved from back to front burners for review. These included both recommended changes to and questions about much needed changes to the City code for historic preservation and, in addition, refocusing on potential inclusion of several areas with significant and contributing historical structures in the local East Row Historic District.

Residents, City staff and the Newport Board of Commissioners took the opportunity to discuss the recommendations posed by the East Row Historic Foundation as part of the total recodification effort of the City, on August 8, 2005 during the regular Board of Commissioners meeting.

Recommended changes focused on: (1) strengthening the role of the City's Historic Preservation Officer, (2) changing the composition of the Historic Preservation Commission to require greater representation of residents from local and national historic districts, (3) include appropriate relief (with teeth, such as daily fines) for violations of historic preservation codes, (4) limiting the time the Historic Preservation Commission may consider any proposed historic designations to six months, (5) preserving requirements for design guideline compliance even if an owner demonstrates financial hardship, and (6) imposing a moratorium on demolition of proposed historic landmarks until final designation has been determined.

Clarification regarding the several issues was sought including: (1) which "party" is eligible to appeal decisions of the Historic Preservation Commission, (2) whether a resident could demolish a property if mold made it uninhabitable, and (3) concerns about infill construction restrictions following demolition.

Educational sessions were facilitated by City staff on August 9, 10, and 16, respectively, to provide information about possible expansion of the local East Row Historic District by including the (1) western corridor—blocks of Washington not currently included, 200 block of E. Fourth Street, and the 200 block of E. Ninth Street, (2) The 900 blocks of Park Avenue and Monroe Street, and (3) the north 300 and entire 500 blocks of E. Second Street. About 15-20 residents actively participated in each session. More sessions may follow to include other residents and better gauge homeowner opinion about expansion. The goal is to reach independent decisions on including each area in the district by the end of the calendar year, following a process which requires approval by the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and finally the City Board of Commissioners. All upcoming meetings of these groups would be public and resident feedback including meeting attendance, letters or phone calls would be strongly encouraged.