

**December  
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](mailto: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.

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**Deadline for submissions is  
the 15th of each month.**

**Send articles to:**

[Voice@EastRow.org](mailto:Voice@EastRow.org)

**Next Meeting:**

Joint meeting for Gateway and  
Mansion Hill neighborhoods  
**Tuesday,**  
**December 6, 7:30 p.m.,**  
See Article on this page

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## Historic Homes on Display Dec. 11

by Nancy Stephens

The East Row Historic Foundation, on Sunday, December 11, invites you to tour nine homes on this year's "Victorian Christmas Tour and More." Imagine a scene suitable for publication in *Architectural Digest* and you'll be on track visualizing the stunning interiors on display. Some restored homes pay homage to the Victorian Era, others have traditional interpretations, while still others employ bold contemporary styles.

Among the delightful sights is a 10' Christmas tree sparkling with hundreds of antique and vintage hand-blown ornaments. In the same house are a third floor master suite with cathedral beamed ceiling, a sitting area, a walk-in closet and deluxe bath. This owner can comfortably entertain more than a hundred throughout his home which also has a finished basement with bar and bath.

Other owners have created from a former bedroom a fanciful dressing room and closet which will be the envy of every woman (and man) who visits. Their newly completed third floor suite welcomes frequent weekend guests who have already proclaimed it "a great house in a perfect location."

Another home has a unique family treasure from the 30's: an upright spinet used on Bob Hope's USO tours. Another house received a Jenn-air 2005 National Grand Prize in kitchen design.

House Tour tickets, which are \$15 if purchased before December 11, and \$20 on tour day, are on sale during tour hours at 401 Park Avenue, or in advance at US Bank locations in Newport, Covington, Cold Spring and Ft. Thomas, Kentucky Haus at Monroe and 10th Avenue, and Together at 703 Park Avenue. In addition you may contact Pat Budd at 491-7696 or Nancy Stephens at 491-1664. 🐾

## East Row Holiday Party

by Bruce Murray

Join your neighbors in the east Row Historic District for the annual East Row Foundation Holiday Party. The party will be held at Captain's Cove on December 6 from 7:30-9:30 pm. Appetizers, beer and wine will be served. We look forward to seeing all Historic District residents. 🐾

## 4th St. School Clothing Program

by Molly Wesley Chevalier

We would like to thank all those who donated clothing to the 4th St. School clothing closet last month. Between 50-80 items of clothing are distributed during the course of a month, to Fourth Street students who find themselves in a clothing emergency during the school day! These clothing "emergencies" could be the result of a toileting accident, a spill in the cafeteria, clothing inappropriate for special activities or weather, or clothing inappropriate due to the age of the student. While we now have enough underwear, we can always use socks and new or clean children's clothing. Just drop them off at the school office between 7am and 4pm.

The goal of the clothing closet is to eliminate most reasons for asking a family member to take a child home due to a clothing emergency. If that happens, the likelihood of the student returning to class is not great. We want to keep them here, in the classroom, comfortable, and in a position to learn at all times. The clothing closet helps us keep students in the classroom. Thanks to all who helped! 🐾



# What You Can Do on Monmouth Street?

by Bruce Murray

We've heard from some people how important Newport on the Levee and a new Wal-Mart can be to Newport. But there is a lot we have already. I took a walk down Monmouth St. starting at 11th St. to see what we might be able to do if we walk to retailers right in the city:

Do business with City Government, Talk to the Police, Buy some meat at a good meat market, Eat some Mexican Food, Buy an antique—at two places, Shop for groceries in a very small family store, Donate, or buy some used clothes or furniture, Buy or sell a used CD, Buy a sewing machine or vacuum cleaner, Get some Cincinnati Chili, Have Breakfast or lunch—at three different places, Have some coffee, on line with wi fi, Go to the bank at three places—soon to be four, Buy a bike or get yours fixed, Get a dancing lesson, Visit your child's Grammar school, See some nearly naked ladies—at least two places, Sit at a bar and have a beer, and maybe even a good meal—at least nine different places, Have your T shirt decorated, Have your dog groomed, Buy a pizza, Stop at the bakery, Get uniforms for your business, Get a cell phone, Buy a knife, Buy a gun, Have your taxes done—at three different places, Do your laundry—or have it done, Stop at a convenience store, Get some lawn equipment, Visit a locksmith, Visit the Spence Post Office, Buy a musical Instrument, Buy some jewelry, Pawn something, Rent to buy: furniture or electronics, Visit a designer/Builder/architect, Get a prosthetic, Have your business computer network set up, Learn how to decorate a cake, Get men's clothes, Get men's and boys clothes, Get a trophy engraved, Visit a liquor store, Visit a beauty salon, Get some miscellaneous Home decorations or toys, Have some printing done, Park your car—or on Saturdays in the summer, visit a Farmer's Market, Have something upholstered, Buy an aquarium and fish, Get a costume, Go to the theater to see some really good live stage performances, Have your nails done, Buy a scooter, Buy some carpeting or floors, Buy a sexy nightie, Get some glass, Buy some sneakers, Bring your clothes to the cleaners—and read the humorous marquee, Stand in front of the old library building and try to think of some use for it, Stand on the street and look at The Peace Bell across a desolate paved area. There are a few cars parked on the asphalt but no trees except what the city planted on the sidewalk area, Pass by at least 15 empty storefronts, Walk to Newport on the levee and visit businesses owned by people who probably don't live here.

With all this, why would you want to shop somewhere else?

*(Editor's note: We'll have some answers to that question next month. If you have some thoughts, drop your answers off or send to [voice@eastrow.org](mailto:voice@eastrow.org)).* 🐼

## Wal-Mart — an Opinion

by Rennae Ward

I'll state right up front that I don't like Wal-Mart because of what they do to local businesses, how they treat their employees and what they do to their suppliers. I don't shop at Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart built a store in the county seat, seven miles from my hometown of 2300 people in Northern Ohio. In my hometown we had two grocery stores, a hardware store, a drug store—you know, an All-American downtown. A few years later there was no grocery store, no drug store and several other types of stores were forced to close their doors. People had to drive at least 7 miles to buy groceries and prescription drugs. In the county seat they went from three grocery stores and a K-Mart to one grocery store and a Wal-Mart. In my spouse's hometown in Northern Michigan, Wal-

Mart has driven all but one grocery store out of business.

In Newport, people were forced from their homes in the interest of new development. What will happen with the Sears store, Remke's and K-Mart if a Wal-Mart is built? The shopping plaza across from the new Wal-Mart will become blighted. It will affect many if not most of the stores in the Newport Shopping Center, which already has vacancy problems and is a real eyesore. The stores in the Levee are already having problems staying in business and we need to fill the buildings on Monmouth with viable merchants.

In Wal-Mart's defense, the giant retailer is at least partly responsible for the low rate of U.S. inflation, and a McKinsey & Co. study (as reported in the NY Times) concluded that about 12% of the economy's productivity gains in the second half of the 1990s could be traced to Wal-Mart alone. Wal-Mart does whatever it can to hold down prices and because they do, people across most economic levels can afford to shop there.

But, what is the real cost in terms of jobs and prosperity to the American People? Ask Steve Dobbins, president of Carolina Mills, a 75-year-old North Carolina company that supplies thread, yarn, and textile finishing to apparel makers—half of which supply Wal-Mart. Carolina Mills grew steadily until 2000. But in the past three years, as its customers have gone either overseas or out of business, it has shrunk from 17 factories to 7, and from 2,600 employees to 1,200. Dobbins's customers have begun to face imported clothing sold so cheaply to Wal-Mart that they could not compete even if they paid their workers nothing. There are other examples of Wal-Mart undermining American businesses. Levi Strauss, Huffy Bicycles and even Vlasic pickles were forced to supply them at such a low cost that the companies were either forced to move production to foreign countries or in the case of Vlasic, file for bankruptcy.

M. Susan Chambers, Wal-Mart's executive vice president for benefits recently voiced concern that workers were staying with the company longer, pushing up wage costs. She was also quoted in the *New York Times* where she stated "the cost of an associate with seven years of tenure is almost 55 percent more than the cost of an associate with one year of tenure, yet there is no difference in his or her productivity."

So the bottom line is Wal-Mart chases out mom and pop stores, chases businesses offshore and chases it's employees out after seven years. What a business model! 🐼

## Wal-Mart — another Opinion

by Jimmy Combs

Although I am just a lowly "renter" who lives on The Bastard Island, (as John and Julie Morrow pointed out in their article 'Part Two in a Series of Notes from the National Trust for Historic Preservation' with the 70% comment about renters) I am still a citizen of Newport. I think Wal-Mart would be a welcome addition

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to Newport; might chase Kmart off, which couldn't be a bad thing. Anyone who has tried to buy something at Kmart during the Christmas Season, or find a store employee when you do wanna buy something at any other time of the year, knows what I am talking about.

Wal-Mart does it right. Wal-Mart would mean more tax revenue staying in Newport rather than watching it do 55 MPH down the Double-A Highway to Alexandria. Wal-Mart would mean jobs for those in Newport who really need them so they can become contributors to our community rather than detractors. Wal-Mart would mean even more dollars flowing into Northern Kentucky from just across the river - not to mention many potential new customers for those little businesses in Newport who appear to be opposed. Those little 'niche' stores that truly have a unique service or product to offer, wouldn't have to worry. If Cincinnati ever lets a Wal-Mart break ground on Riverfront Property, or a riverboat casino dock at the Serpentine Wall, you can forget it, Newport! The levy is already having problems keeping tenants.

And while we're on the subject of revenue, since three counties in Northern Kentucky have been singled out for Emissions Testing (which is rumored to be ending soon), why can't those same three counties be singled out as eligible for Riverboat Casinos on the levy? I find nothing that indicates a massive crime increase in those fair cities to our West who have let it happen. And if any politician who really cares about growth and expansion in Northern Kentucky takes the time to figure out the revenue and expansion available by adding such an attraction, it will certainly be a no-brainer! It makes all the sense in the world to let it happen. 🐾



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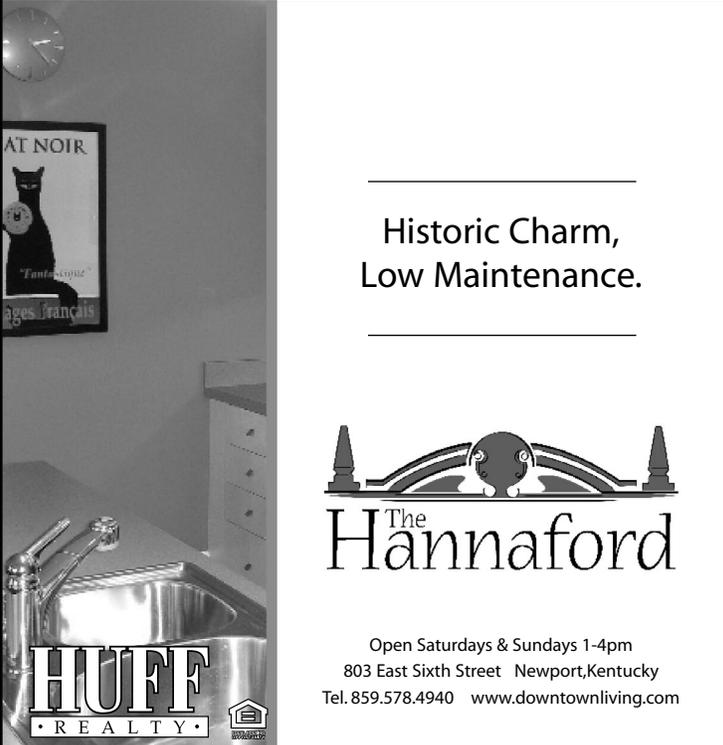
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## Mansion Hill Market Sold

by Bruce Murray

It was designated as the "Best Corner Market" by *Cincinnati Magazine*, and carried a lot of things that we needed in the neighborhood. But two years after the new owners started, the Mansion Hill Market at 4th & Overton has been sold.

This was a family operation, with Jimmy and Billie Trencamp running the store with his uncle. Jimmy explained that he has had back problems, which became serious over the last year. It became difficult for them to run the business so it was sold. Robert Pikar, of Ft. Thomas owns the building.

The new owner, Don Barger owns and runs markets in Covington and on the South side of Newport. He plans to keep the market running with the same excellent selection, cleanliness and service as we have come to know in the past two years.

Morningstar Cafe and Gateway Market have also closed recently. It isn't easy to be a retail businessman in Newport. What we all must do is patronize the businesses we have, and support those who advertise in *The Voice*. These people not only invest their money, but part of their lives in the East Row Historic District. When we allow real estate developers to install large "Big Box" stores, we turn over part of the future of Newport to people who do not live here and may care little about the long term future of Newport. 🐾



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# Kentucky's Oldest Family Owned Business Continues Historic Preservation

by Nancy Stephens

An article in the *Newport News* of February 1985 describes Buecker Iron Works, who produced the ornamental ironwork much of which survives on our fences and gates in Newport, as having rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 1964. But at the end, the reporter asks if there will be a Buecker running the family-owned company in the distant future. His answer, "Unfortunately, it doesn't look like it. The two Buecker children have chosen other careers." He mourns the fact that the oldest family-owned business in all of Kentucky will disappear.

Thankfully for those who appreciate quality ironwork, the prediction was wrong. The graphic arts background that led David Buecker and Linda Buecker Velton to veer for a while from the 148 year old business, led them back when their father, Robert, died. The brother and sister's design background has infused the business with an artistic direction. They continue to repair old gates and fences, and to produce new gates, fences and railings from old blueprints found in the attic. Their commitment to preserve their heritage has taken this continuously family-owned business, as Linda Velton says, "a step farther." They are creating future heirlooms to join those owned by those fortunate enough to have the ornamental works from days gone by.

**A visit to the newly expanded gallery at 29 West 6th Street should be a must for anyone contemplating the purchase of a gift or an item for home or garden.** Custom orders are encouraged and furniture such as headboards, tables, lamps, candleholders, wall sconces, and fountains have been artfully placed in gallery space that is divided into home-like settings. Designs reflect a bold contemporary interpretation like their raw steel chairs or more traditional designs that reflect the past.

Linda and Dave support local artists and display and sell their works on the gallery walls. Best of all when you visit, you will find that whether or not you make a purchase they are genuinely happy to see you. The bonus is that you meet some of the most gracious and friendly people around. 🐾

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## A Thank You Note

by Ginny Smith

Thank you, to all the neighbors and residents who reside in the Island.

People who take their time and resources to maintain the historic homes that we are fortunate enough to have entrusted to us.

Thank you to the City of Newport who have listened to our needs and have responded in a quick and timely manner to enhance our area.

Jan Knepshild, City of Newport Commissioner recently visited "the island". Jan initiated a meeting between some of the neighbors on the Island in reference to some concerns regarding vacant lots, street and alley conditions, street signs, and vacant houses left in disrepair.

Jan graciously took his evening and walked around the Island to view the problems and responded to our questions about city plans for the area

We want to thank him for taking his time to come and visit us and help us eliminate some of our complaints.

He immediately sent the city workers to mow the vacant lots and the yards of the vacant homes. He contacted some of the homeowners whose houses are sitting vacant. The trees were trimmed, new signs were put up and streets were repaired. We also would like to thank the City workers who did a great job of cleaning up the area along with the alleys. Weeds were sprayed and debris was cleaned from sidewalks.

This is a community effort to make our neighborhood an attractive and pleasant place to live.

*Editor's note: Ginny lives on "the Island", the section of Newport isolated just south of Dave Cowan way and East of I-471. It is considered part of the East Row but is not part of the East Row Historic District. Jimmy Combs also lives there. 🐾*



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