



The Voice



OF THE East Row Historic Foundation

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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 the opinions of the ERHF and its officers. Articles, editorials, classifieds or calendar items should be sent to Fran Blasing, Nadine Parris, or Bob Yoder. The editors reserve the right to edit all submissions or reject inappropriate material.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month.

Drop off at 611 Monroe Street or via e-mail:
KillianP@aol.com,
rjyoder@fuse.net or
fmbiasing@aol.com

Next Meeting

Joint meeting for Gateway and Mansion Hill neighborhoods

**Tuesday, November 6, 7:30 p.m.,
St. Mark Lutheran Church,
Monroe & Eighth Streets.**

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark Church at the corner of Monroe and 8th.

Editors of The Voice

Fran Blasing
Nadine Paris
Bob Yoder

Letters of opinion to The Voice are welcome but must be signed if they are to be published. The editors reserve the right to edit for length. Thank you.

Southgate Street School Receives State Historical Marker Designation

The Southgate Street School is the oldest African-American School structure still standing in Kentucky. The Southgate Street School was the first African-American school to be funded out of the General Tax Fund in Kentucky. It received a state of Kentucky Historical marker in a ceremony at the school on October 6, 2001.

A Short History of the Southgate Street School

Following the Civil War, the Freedmen's Bureau was extended into Kentucky, and on March 16, 1866, Campbell County joined Kenton and Boone counties as part of the new 9th District of the Freedmen's Bureau. One of the responsibilities of this new district was the implementation of an educational program for the newly freed slaves. In October 1870 the Newport City Council purchased the Southgate Street property, and the school opened Tuesday, September 19, 1873.

In 1893, a year marked by jubilation because the first African-Americans were to graduate in the City of Newport, and a construction project was undertaken to add a second floor to the school building to accommodate the increasing number of students. The Southgate Street School was the first African-American school in the State of Kentucky to be funded out of the General Education funds the same as the white schools. Due to the small population of African-Americans residing in Newport and Campbell County, the City Council and Board of Education took unprecedented steps to provide educational opportunities for all of its citizens.

During the dark period of segregation in America, Newport has great reason to be proud of the leadership it exhibited by providing educational opportunity to all of its citizens. The Newport City Council, Board of Education, and mostly the people who voted to pass this groundbreaking

Continued on page 5

September Agenda:

- Committee Reports
- Old Business
- New Neighbors
- New Business
- Presentation on the New Public Library



Victorian Christmas Tour Events

Victorian Era Homes on Tour

- Seven beautifully restored Victorian Era Homes decorated for Christmas

Wiedemann Mansion

- Christmas Store – local artists provide crafts for sale
- Kreutzer Dorl Florist Open House and refreshments Friday November 30 6-9 p.m., Saturday December 1st 1-7 p.m., Sunday December 3rd 1-9 p.m.
- Carriage Rides – Saturday and Sunday 2-5 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday, carolers strolling the neighborhood

First Presbyterian Church Condominiums

- Built in 1893 and creatively converted into two homes in 1993

St. John's Church Liturgical Art Festival

- Friends of the Groom 7 p.m. Friday November 30 Christian Drama Group
- Saturday December 1st Workshop – Brenda Grauer, and artist educator from Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Brenda is a widely traveled national speaker and workshop leader who founded “In Stitches Center for Liturgical Art. (reservations will be taken and there is a small fee for the workshop. Box lunch included Call 431-1818)
- Also Saturday, “The Friendship Singers” Women’s Choral Group
- Sunday December 2nd, 3:30 p.m. The Summit Camerata from Summit Country Day School, under the direction of Tom Merrill and the “Sanity Singers”, Men’s Choral Group in Northern Kentucky
- Candlelight Christmas Concert Sunday, December 2nd, 7 p.m.
- On display are outstanding works from the Traveling Collection of the Liturgical Art Guild
- Paintings by the renowned artist and designer, William Schickel, leading contemporary biblical artist in America
- Holiday Table Settings reflecting cultural heritage of East Row Neighbors Displayed in Fellowship Hall

Trinity Baptist Church

- Live Nativity Saturday and Sunday 3-7 p.m.
- Violin Ensemble 1-3 p.m. Saturday
- Carols of Christmas 1-3 p.m. Saturday
- Refreshments and tours of the church

Southgate Street Public School

- Originally built as a frame structure in 1873, the Southgate Public School was, for many years, the only school in Campbell County for African-American children. Currently under renovation, the structure is now owned by the Newport Free Masons

Masonic Lodge

- White Oak Singers – Native American Dancers
- Kimonos – Asian-Americans costumed in traditional dress
- York Rite Masons display of traditional ritual items
- Harpist

South of the Levee Monmouth Street Merchants

- Luminaria Lighting of Newport
- Other events to be announced

Newport on the Levee

- Barnes and Noble Bookstore Arthur the Aardvark – in costume – readings at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Books on Victorian and Holiday decorating themes on special display
- Other events to be announced

Luminary Walk

- East Row Neighborhood Luminary Walk at dusk on Saturday December 1st
- Luminaria Lighting of Newport Sunday December 6, 6-9 p.m.

Light a Home Contest

- Friday Night at 7 p.m. a judge will select 1st 2nd & 3rd place winners for Christmas decorations on the exterior of homes in the East Row

Luminary Walk

East Row will have its traditional luminary walk on Saturday, December 1st, at dusk. However, we ask everyone to keep their luminaries out (weather permitting) and relight them on Sunday December 2nd at dusk, as part of Brighton Center’s “Luminaria Lighting of Newport”. For more information on the Brighton Center Event call (859) 491-8303. For luminary orders please fill in the following order

form and deliver (with check) to Susan Ankenbauer at 654 Nelson Place by November 18th. After our November 18th deadline, kits may still be purchased from Brighton Center or their distribution centers (Atlas Cleaners, Ebert's Meats, Detroit's Joe's, Kentucky Haus and Kreutzer Dorl Florist). Candles should last for three hours each evening.

Shuttle Bus

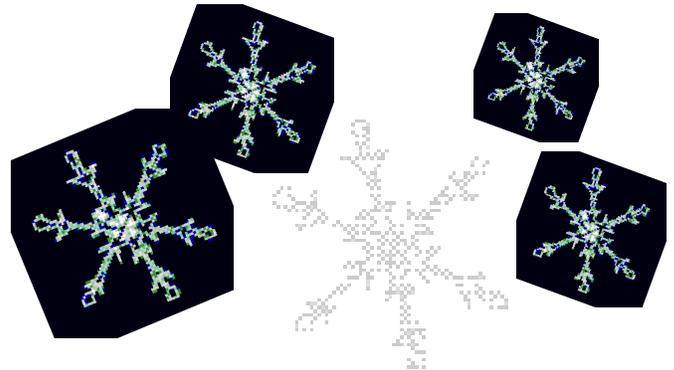
This year our shuttle bus for the tour will take visitors along Monmouth Street and down to the Levee. I hope the added venues will make the tour a more family friendly event, providing alternatives for younger visitors.

As always, Victorian era costumes for the event are available to rent at the Costume Gallery on Monmouth.

Questions, Rebecca Walker, 261-0718.

Proceeds from the tour go to various charitable, preservation, and beautification projects.

Among our contributions this year were: The Newport Branch of the Campbell County Library for the establishment of a historic preservation collection, the Henry Hosea House, Preservation Kentucky, the American Red Cross, The St. John's Church Music Series, placing the flower urns on Sixth Street and planting trees within the historic district.





Victorian Christmas Tour

Luminary Order Form

Please join the tradition of lighting our neighborhoods' streets during the Victorian Christmas Tour!

Saturday and Sunday December 1 and 2, 2001
 Luminary Walk scheduled for Saturday (rain day is Sunday)

Each kit is \$9.00 and includes 10 white paper bags, 10 candles and sand.
 Every order benefits the **Neediest Kids of All!**

_____ kits x \$9 = _____ total

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please mail or drop off order form by November 18th to
Susan Ankenbauer at 654 Nelson Place.

Make checks payable to the East Row Historic Foundation, Inc.
Call 291-3743 for more information.

Kits will be delivered to your home.

Garbage Collection Changes for the Worse

By Ray Rice – Mansion Hill

Many of you may have received notifications about the "Wheeler Program" and stricter enforcement of "litter laws," which will include fines. The City will now be fining people even if they don't have a lid on their garbage can. I've lived in Newport since 1976 and remember when the City did its own collecting and a truck would come by once a week, which would pick up anything you had to throw out, including stoves, toilets, plaster, lathing, lumber, etc. It was especially accommodating and convenient for us early renovators to have good garbage collection. Now, with tighter regulations being enforced and fines it appears that those days are gone, unless us citizens let our city leaders know that this is not acceptable. The type of regulations our city officials plan on imposing would work well in the suburbs and subdivisions with new houses, where ongoing repairs are not needed. In Newport however, renovation and repairs on these old houses will always be needed and we need garbage collection that will pick up whatever needs to be disposed of. I can see fining someone for creating a litter problem, but fining people for not having a lid on their garbage can is absolutely ridiculous and an outrage. How petty and bureaucratic! This is another example of how government is not serving people anymore, but dictating how things will be, whether we like it or not. Now, after you've put your trash out and someone goes though it looking for aluminum cans, as they sometimes do, and neglect to put the lid back on, you may well get FINED! This is our town folks... we pay the salary of those who make up these rules... is this what you want?

One other point, did you know that each home owner is being charged almost \$20 per year for a "Wheeler" whether you get one or not? I didn't until I went to the City building inquiring about this and found out that every home or rental unit is paying for a Wheeler. Rumpkie is getting approximately an additional \$79,000 per year that was passed on to us taxpayers to pay for this Wheeler Program. If you haven't gotten your Wheeler, you may as well – your paying for it. When announcements went out about the Wheeler program, this point should have been made a lot clearer. Personally, I don't like these Wheelers and find them to be bulky and a nuisance, so I didn't get one and don't feel I should have to pay for it. Often, they clutter the alleys and you have to get out of your car to move them, just to get through.

If you object to these changes and fines, please write to our commissioners and mayor at the City of Newport, 998 Monmouth Street, Newport, KY 41071, and let them know. Commissioners: Ms. Beth Fennell, Mr. Tom Rehtin, Mr. Jerry Peluso, Mr. Jan Kneppshield, Mayor: Mr. Thomas Giudugli.

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Southgate Street School

Continued from page 1

legislation to fund this school out of the General Fund showed great foresight, leadership, and a willingness to do the right thing.

A New Mission for a New Millennium

The Southgate Street School Alumni Association is currently restoring the Southgate Street School to its original form. The goal is to create a center of cultural interest, dedicated to our fore-parents, where future generations can come to feel, see, walk through, and touch their beginnings.

The Southgate Street School Alumni Association is in the process of restoring the first floor front room that housed the first and second grade classrooms to their original design with furniture, blackboards,

lights, walls and windows of the late 1800s. The back room on the first floor, that housed the third and fourth grade classrooms, will become a repository for African-American artifacts to be displayed for public view. This room will also accommodate cultural events, displays, lectures, and educational programs to allow people to learn about the African-American experience in Newport. The basement will house the business offices of SSAA and various African-American community organizations. The second floor will house the Masons, who own the building. The restoration of the Southgate Street School Building will revive the history of African-Americans while providing an enriching cultural background for the Newport's Entertainment District.

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This Month

Newport City Commissioners Meetings

November 5, 19 & 26

7 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, City of Newport, 998 Monmouth Street. Information: 292-3666 or www.cityofnewportky.org

Newport School Board Meeting

November 21

7:30 p.m., Board Room on the third floor of the Newport Board of Education Building, 301 East Eight Street. Information: 292-3001 or www.newport.k12.ky.us

Newport Business Association Monthly Meeting

November 28

"State of the State presented by Representative James Callahan"

Learn about the issues facing the next general assembly.

7:15-8:30 a.m., Detroit Joe's, 115 E. Ninth Street. Breakfast is \$7.50 for members at the door, \$10.00 for nonmembers.

Winter Lights in the Village

November 10-12 and 17-19

MainStrasse Village, Covington. For more information call (513) 357-MAIN.

Candlelight Walk

November 25

MainStrasse Village, Covington. For more information call (513) 357-MAIN.

Bazaar and Cut-a-thon

December 2 or 9 at the Crazy Fox Saloon.

A Benefit for Aids Volunteers of Northern Kentucky. Call (859) 261-2143 for details.

Candlesmith Gifts and Fine Art along with Eclectic Corner Antiques and Collectibles

Cordially invite you to an Open House complete with refreshments and door prizes on Saturday, November 3rd from 10 am to 5 pm. Located at 625 and 631 Monmouth Street, we offer a variety of candles, art, antiques and collectibles. Stop by for coffee or tea and join us for our grand opening.



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Welcome to all at St. Mark's Episcopal Church as the Friendly Church since Dec. 23, 1837. Located at 8th & Monroe Sts in the Gateway and the East Side Historic District, including Mansion Hill. Services are each Sunday at 10:00 AM. Come worship. There are more than 20 Christian Churches in Newport. Go to the church of your choice. St. Mark will always have a place for you. Come!

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
1000th Avenue