Gateway

The Voice

Mansion Hill

of the East Row Historic Foundation

Volume 6 *Issue 8*

August 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
Business Manager: John Morrow

Contributors to this issue: Bruce Murray, Nancy Stephens, John Morrow, Julie Smith-Morrow, Roger Stephens.
Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

Next Meeting: Joint meeting for Gateway and Mansion Hill neighborhoods
Tuesday, August 2nd, 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 Vital to East Row

By Nancy Stephens

The mission of the ERHF is to preserve the historic aspects of our neighborhood. Following that goal leads in many directions and is in the able hands of our chair, Jeff Ballard, the Gateway and Mansion Hill representatives Mary Jo Gerwe and Joyce Chastang, as well as all the officers and members, past and present, who are vigilant in monitoring the guidelines, attending city commission meetings, and participating in numerous fundraising activities. One important path toward historic restoration is missing. Last year we had no house tour and the prospects for this year are fading. In the past these tours opened the eyes of visitors to the possibilities of living in an historic, urban area and restoring these Victorian gems to their former glory. It is certainly the reason my husband and I found our way here. East Row residents' determination, dedication and tireless work have brought many East Row houses back to the glories of a bygone era.

We need volunteers and we need them quickly. We have one co-chair and we need someone to share that role. We have a publicity co-chair who needs a partner. We have some houses committed already and are limiting it to eight; a scaled down tour might still be manageable. Next year, perhaps, to coincide with the Tall Stacks we can return to a larger tour. It could be that we alternate the size and extent of these tours. We have a date selected, Sunday, December 4, one day only, from noon to 6:00. We will have a wine-tasting, as well as a non-alcoholic beverage tasting, at the newly refurbished Weidemann Mansion on Park at the conclusion of the day. But we need more volunteers, many more. If your pride in our lovely neighborhood motivates you, please volunteer: ***chair@eastrow.org*** or Nancy Stephens at ***nstephens@fuse.net*** or 491-1664. We need: ticket design, house histories, poster/post card design, press releases written, mailings to the media and volunteer coordinators. Many hands lighten the load!

Message from the Chair

By Jeff Ballard

I am very excited about a fundraising initiative our organization will launch later this month. The best part about this is how simply the program works. At the last ERHF meeting, we voted to

(continued on page 4)

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Farmers' Market on Monmouth

By Nancy Stephens

Produce is plentiful and all homegrown, a requirement for being a member of the Campbell County Farmers' Market that sets up from nine to noon on all Saturdays through October. If you're looking for lemons or bananas, this is not the place. If instead you insist on locally grown, in season, fresh-picked vegetables and fruit, the parking lot at 709 Monmouth Street next to the Pepper Pod Restaurant has varieties difficult to grow in our pint-sized gardens.

Steve's Farm Fresh in Silver Grove is featuring ripe tomatoes and corn. Bill Neltner has blackberries, apples and peaches. Stephanie Zink, from Little Rock Farm in Camp Springs had the full array of veggies and freshly baked zucchini bread that disappeared at our house within the day. Leonard Schultz of Alexandria was nearly sold out when I stopped by at 11:00; so I'll be there early next week.

Bob Leising, who bought the old farmhouse on Amelia Street, grows all his plants and flowers on the farm property across the street that he says was once called "Nanny Goat Hill." I found his gallon containers of perennials at three for ten dollars to be an irresistible bargain.

The August bounty will consist of apples, blackberries, grapes, peaches, raspberries, beans, green and lima, beets, cantaloupe, collards, kale, mustard, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, onions, peppers, potatoes, squash, tomatoes and watermelons.

Upcoming Public Sessions on East Row Expansion!

By J. A. Smith-Morrow

The Newport Historic District Preservation Commission recommends moving forward with educational sessions to discuss expanding the East Row Historic District. The sessions are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on August 9, 10, and 16 at the Newport Municipal Building, 998 Monmouth St., in the first floor multi-purpose room.

The Historic Preservation Commission has recommended inclusion of the following zones: (1) blocks of Washington Avenue not currently included in the district; (2) the southern 200 block of E. 9th Street; (3) E. Second Street; (4) the 900 block of Monroe Street; and (5) the 900 block of Park Avenue.

The purpose of holding public educational sessions is to allow residents to learn more about the findings of the Commission and potential long-term benefits of East Row Historic Preservation District expansion. The City will be dividing these first few meetings into geographical areas/zones in order to better gauge response from residents in the individual blocks; ERHD residents are absolutely encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity for everyone in our neighborhood to ask questions and voice their opinions! Contact me at ***julie.smithmorrow-@insightbb.com*** or 581-5044 for more information.

City Deserves Thanks

By Nancy Stephens

It was gratifying to see city employees out weeding alleys, weed whacking sidewalks overgrown with grass and noxious interlopers, and watering the urns planted with flowers that struggle at some of the sunniest intersections. The flurry of activity enhanced our neighborhood in preparation for the East Row Garden Walk.

It worked! A watering commitment from the city on a more than once weekly basis would help those urns that falter in full sunlight. Some of those urns have lost foliage and need a least a twice weekly watering. The ever-vigilant volunteers could use a hand

Lunch, Tuesday – Friday 11:00 – 2:00

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Where Are Your Dreams?

By Nancy Stephens

In the last issue of *The VOICE*, Bruce Murray asked readers to contribute to a "wish list" for possible projects to enhance our Historic District. We're still waiting for your brainstorms to turn up some gems. No one can place a limit on what we dream; after all, as Robert Browning said, "One's reach should exceed one's grasp else what's a heaven for?" (Past suggestions: gas light or gas "look-a-like" lights, an alley beautification project, a neighborhood effort to coordinate a charitable fundraiser to roundup stray cats to spay and neuter.)

We've not heard from any of you so I'll seed the field with my wish. I would like to see Jeff Hall's marvelous efforts to provide lovely flower bedecked urns for the East Row continue to have an impact even in the winter. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see small evergreens planted in the center of the urns so the decorative effect would continue throughout the year? Then in summer the blossoms would surround the trees.

My inspiration came from a recent trip through Northside, where I saw evergreens in place in urns surrounded by summer's bountiful blooms. I called a friend and resident, Bob Zimmerman, who told me of the Cincinnati Civic Garden Center's presentation at the Northside Garden Club. A master gardener from the Center assisted club members in choosing flowers, foliage and winter hardy conifers that provide beauty all year long. Choices varied depending upon the sun or shade conditions present. I enjoy our summer-filled urns so much and wish they continued shedding their beauty all year long.

Classifieds

APARTMENT FOR RENT — 3 blocks from Newport on the Levee. 1-bdrm, wd floors, patio & garden - $475 + utilities. 859-261-6214.

ADORABLE KITTENS need to be adopted by East Row resident. References required. Call Nancy 491-1664 (Must be seen to be appreciated).

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"Death Collectors" gets Boffo Review

By Roger Stephens

Jack Kerley's (of the East Row) new book, ***DEATH COLLECTORS,*** has received a well deserved starred review and rare photo of the author in PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY. His first psychological thriller, ***THE HUNDREDTH MAN,*** sold well in England and has been optioned for a movie in this country. Cozy and clever, the series offers strong characterizations and a distinctive literary style that is a pleasure to read.

CAPTAIN'S COVE: Overlooked by Naive East Row Diners?

By our intrepid restaurant critic, Roger Stephens

Although the bar at Captain's Cove, Fifth and Monmouth, is usually crowded the smoke-free dining room is often empty. That's a shame, because the chef offers a wide menu at moderate prices. Jeff Ballard and I discovered the excellent blackened grouper and, on special, the bread pudding which we had splashed with bourbon. We also added "Kentucky Coffee" (regular java fortified with our very own Kentucky bourbon) to complete a very satisfying meal.

Newport in Vintage Postcards

Reviewed by Bruce Murray

We have a fine new book (Arcadia) celebrating our community by Robert Yoder, East Row resident and former Chair of the East Row Historic Foundation. Newport in Vintage Postcards contains over 190 postcards of Newport, Kentucky from the 1880s to the 1950s. Newport's renaissance gives its citizens all the more reason to celebrate the city's speckled past.

The vintage postcards in this volume depict the fascinating legacy left by Newport's people and places. This period covers Newport's rise as a street car suburb of Cincinnati and its ascendancy as an industrial and retail center of Northern Kentucky to its period of notoriety as the "Sin City of the South." The book also chronicles the devastating floods that swept through the city throughout the late 1800s and the early 1900s.

The book will be available at bookstores and specialty shops thoughout greater Cincinnati. Kentucky Haus will be hosting a book signing on Saturday, August 6.

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ERHF Fundraiser Needs Volunteers

By Nancy Stephens

Volunteers are needed on September 4, 2005, to (wo)man our t-shirt booth at the Labor Day Fireworks Festival. It is a day-long activity; however, you need serve only a short shift. Past volunteers report that it has been a wild experience to be in the thick of the excitement. This is an important fundraiser for the ERHF and Ken Fischer asks that you contact him at ***ken.fischer@insightbb.com*** to volunteer.

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purchase Kroger Gift Cards and sell them at face value ($5.00) to friends and supporters of the ERHF. For every card that is recharged at Kroger, our organization will receive a 4% rebate. That means for every $100 you spend at Kroger our organization will receive $4.00. Gift cards can be recharged for an amount up to $200 at a time. So, purchase the $5.00 card from one of our representatives, recharge your card at Kroger and immediately start your contributions. It's fast and easy. There are no hidden fees or costs associated with this fundraising program. Best of all, the money raised benefits the ERHF. Just shop at Kroger!

For additional information, please contact me at 291-7992, or Beverly Simon at 292-8664.

Ms. Simon adds her thoughts:

We have discovered, thru our East Row neighbor, Lara Guttadauro, a new way to raise money for ERHF. This is how the program works. You buy a $5.00 Kroger Card from me or Jeff at the monthly meetings. It is good for $5.00 worth of purchases at Kroger. After that $5.00 purchase you fill your card, at the service desk, with any dollar amount up to $200.00. Every time you pay for your groceries and use your Kroger card, the East Row receives 4% of all monies purchased with the cards. Every buck you spend at Kroger thru your Kroger card, the ERHF makes money. Kroger has set this program up for non-profit organizations only, and at the monthly meeting we voted on becoming part of it. Please join with us to make this a very successful fund raiser. I will have the cards at the August meeting. We are buying 40 $5.00 cards, which we hope to sell out before that August meeting.

I have always wanted to see period street lighting in our community. With this kind of fund raiser maybe some of our common visions will come true. Please call me with suggestions for my next article 859-292-8664.