

August 2014

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 e-mailed to Voice@EastRow.org

Submissions must be signed to be considered for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject submissions due to length, content, or appropriateness.

Editor: Jenny A. Hudson

Advertising: Deborah Duttle

Contributors to this issue:
Susan Whitehead; Tom Fromme

Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month.

Next Meeting:

Joint meeting for Gateway and Mansion Hill neighborhoods is 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, at The Sanctuary (Monroe and 6th Streets.)

East Row Historic Foundation Officers:

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Angela Siddall
Chair@EastRow.org

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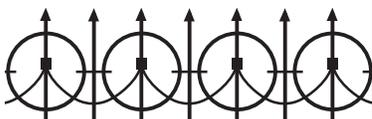
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Mansion Hill Representative:

Elizabeth Robson

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EastRow.org



State of the City 2014

by City Manager Tom Fromme

As we enter into a new fiscal year, it is time to reflect on where we are and what we have accomplished during the last few years. Newport is a 219-year-old city that has a tremendous amount of aged infrastructure and is situated in the center of the Greater Cincinnati metropolitan area. This alone can create some rather challenging issues. Then add a significant number of visitors and traffic to the equation and the challenges become even more difficult. Newport has been a major retail center for as many years as people can remember and we have learned to deal with certain issues such as traffic and visitors; however, maintaining our infrastructure will continue to be a challenge for many generations to come. Our planning and budget process takes these issues into account and funds are set aside for ongoing capital improvements throughout the City.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 the City had a general fund balance of \$1,970,784. During the past fiscal year, we welcomed continued development at Newport Pavilion, the completion of VUE 180, the Nth Degree Distillery and the St. Elizabeth Medical Arts Building. In addition, a groundbreaking was held for the Monmouth Row residential development and an announcement was made of a 60 million dollar mixed use development adjacent to Newport on the Levee.



In the fiscal year 2015 that began on July 1, we anticipate spending nearly \$1 million on infrastructure improvement throughout the City, including more than \$250,000 on street improvements. A list of streets scheduled for work will be posted on the City web site at www.newportky.gov. We are also examining the issuance of a general obligation bond during the current fiscal year to address other infrastructure and capital improvement needs. Our financial goals continue to be the maintenance of a structural balance, the reduction of debt service expenditures to less than 10 percent of our general fund balance, improving the City's credit rating and the building of sufficient reserves.

As always please feel free to contact my office with any questions or input at **859.292.3687** or through e-mail to bholiday@newportky.gov.

Things are happening in Newport! Thanks for your efforts to continue to make Newport a great place to live, work, shop and play. 🍷

Just a Reminder...

As we live in a historic district, it is important to consult with the city's historic preservation representative prior to making any changes to the exterior of your home. This ensures the work conforms to the guidelines for the Historic District. It is also necessary to display a permit that shows the work has been approved. The Historic Preservation Officer is Scott Clark, City of Newport, **859.655.6347**, sclark@newportky.gov 🍷

Newport Independent Schools Enrollment Continues to Increase

For more than 10 years, Newport Independent Schools' enrollment experienced a steady decline. Nearly 1,000 students left the District between 2002 and 2012. However, in 2012, the District stopped the decline and is now rebounding with steady increases in enrollment. Since 2012, the District has increased its enrollment from 1789 (2012) to our current total of 1825.

This increase enrollment is happening in tandem with an increase in our overall attendance rate. Attendance stands alone as the single most important component of education. Students have to be present to learn. It is that simple.

In 2011, Newport Schools had an attendance rate of 92.5 percent. Fortunately, attendance in the Newport Independent School District has steadily increased over the past four years to its current level of 94.19 percent.

Since coursework is often built upon prior learned content, previous absenteeism will often plague a student's attempt to learn new material. In addition to the detrimental influence that absenteeism has on performance scores, it is widely accepted that poor attendance is also an early indicator of a student's likelihood to later drop out of school. In fact, in a study conducted by the Rodel Community Scholars at Arizona State University, students were tracked from kindergarten through high school and it was determined that dropout patterns were linked with poor attendance. For instance, the study reports that dropouts in the study group had missed an average of 124 days by eighth grade.

Because of these concerns, the Newport Independent School District has specifically placed its focus on increasing attendance as well as developing and maintaining a strict adherence to guidelines so as to encourage attendance in our schools. To increase attendance, the District does the following:

- maintains an emphasis on high attendance at all schools;
- utilizes recognition and awards programs for perfect attendance and high attendance;
- refers 100 percent of the parents of habitual truants in grades K-6 to the Campbell County Family Court for educational dependency or neglect;
- maintains the court designated worker truancy diversion program (TDP) at the middle and high schools;
- makes a conscious effort to refer 100 percent of our habitual truants to the court designated worker truancy diversion program (TDP) ... and thereafter, to refer 100 percent of unsuccessful diversion students to the Campbell County Family Court.

The District is constantly reviewing our strategies and looking for new ways to improve attendance. As we near 95 percent district-wide attendance, we are pleased to know the impact that our efforts will make in the lives of our students and their

futures. Our increase in enrollment and attendance rates are two indicators that Newport Schools is making strides to provide a positive environment for our students to learn and achieve their goals. 

Rides on Monmouth is August 24

The City of Newport and Kentucky Klassics Car Club present "Rides on Monmouth" Sunday, Aug. 24, from Noon to 6 p.m., rain or shine, on Monmouth Street between 3rd and 11th streets. Registration is \$15 per car from 9 a.m. – noon at the city parking lot next to the Pepper Pod Restaurant in the 700 block of Monmouth Street.

Awards will be presented to the Top 75 and Specialty awards will be given at 5 p.m., along with dash plaques for the first 200 cars. 

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A Dramatic Leap

by Susan Whitehead

The Newport Schools Theater Program ended the school year with the staging of the Broadway Musical “You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown”. Ms. Brittany Stacy, the Theatre teacher, adapted the play to include 16 student actors instead of only six, as in the Broadway production, so the whole Peanuts Gang was present on the Newport Primary School stage for three nights in April. The gang included four high school, five middle school and seven intermediate school students. This production was a challenge for the actors as they needed to learn dialog and songs and combine it all with choreography for the 90-minute show.

Ms. Stacy, who was overwhelmed by the success of the show with so many of the actors participating for the first time, told me: “I am so proud to have seen the growth of the students who participate in the theatre productions here in the Newport School District. They have gone from a small Christmas show to a full-scale musical with an orchestra in “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” in just under five months! They are taking on so much leadership and independence in their individual roles and becoming better learners and team players in the process. I love working with these students and I am excited to see where this road takes them as they continue to participate in the theatre program with me.”

Many other high school students played a supporting role in this production as set-piece builders and painters, prop designers, sound and lighting tech crew along with a hair and make-up crew. Our own East Row neighbor and retired teacher, Wes Ledyard, was the costume designer and seamstress. Her work included 11 dresses, custom T-shirts for the boys, Snoopy’s outfit, three dancing blankets and five Woodstock birdie outfits. The actors loved the costumes and felt special in the colorful designs. In addition, Bryan Kelly, the High School music director, helped with musical arrangements and led the four-piece orchestra during the performances.

For Ms. Stacy, the high point of the year was watching the kids grow and change from students who did this program just for fun to students who take being in a production seriously and working independently to perfect their roles. She saw them become professional individuals who knew and understood expectations and she believes this experience has made them better students as well.

In the future, Ms. Stacy would like to interest more high school students in performing. As she said, “As I work primarily at the high school, I am hoping that more of the students I teach every day will take part in the productions next year. I am excited about growing the department with the intermediate students who participate, but I hope that the current high school students can have a theatrical experience before they venture out as high school graduates. I believe that experience would help them in the real world!”

As for me, the time spent working with the student actors was fun, enlightening, rewarding and only occasionally frustrating, and I too am looking forward to the next production. 🐾

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In case you are interested in any East Row logo merchandise go to www.cafepress.com/eastrow



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Join us for August's "Band-on-the-Lawn" concerts

Join us at St. John's United Church of Christ for Band on the Lawn concerts this month. The dates are Sunday, Aug. 17 and Sunday, Aug. 24. Both concerts are at 3 p.m.

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for a fun afternoon of music! Also, if you are interested in playing in the band, we are recruiting. Just ask someone!



The address is 415 Park Avenue at Nelson Place. Hope to see you there! 

Newport Business Association Meeting Aug. 27

City Manager Tom Fromme will be presenting a "City of Newport Update" at the Newport Business Association (NBA) luncheon meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 27 at the Newport Syndicate 18 East 5th Street. From 11:30 to noon there will be networking, and from noon to 1 p.m. there will be luncheon, presentation and discussion.



Luncheon registration is \$10 per person for NBA members and \$15 for non-NBA members. Register by sending name, address, phone number and e-mail address along with payment payable to: Newport Business Association to NBA, PO Box 843, Newport, KY 41072. **Registrations must be received by Friday, Aug. 22.**

If you are attending and have questions or topics you would like the City Manager to address, please e-mail them to bholiday@newportky.gov by Friday, Aug. 22.

The Newport Business Association serves the local businesses through its problem-solving forum, unified voice to policy makers, and through its member support, education and networking. 

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East Row Listserv – How Do I Sign Up?

For those who may know about it, but may not know how to sign up to be part of it, here is the information on the East Row Listserv.

Just as an aside, a listserv is an electronic mailing list software application, consisting of a set of email addresses for a group, in which the sender can send one email and it will reach a variety of people.

To subscribe to the East Row Listserv, send an email to east_row_subscribe@yahoo.com. The group is moderated and you will receive an email when you have been accepted. 

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