Founders’ Grove
Neighborhood Association

ISSUE NO 1 | SPRING EDITION – FEB. 2023 | VOL 22

Connecting for a Little Fun: Neighborhood Clubs

If you’re like many people, you may be looking to get back to socializing a bit more in the new year. You know, actually making plans. With people. An easy way to connect with others – without going far or having to do any organizing – is getting together with neighbors at a club or event.

If you’re thinking: “I’m not going to show up at someone’s doorstep if I don’t know the host or anyone else there!”… keep in mind: Events in Founders’ Grove truly are meant to welcome new people and build connections. It’s a pretty good scene. I know people who’ve “bravely” shown up for their first gathering, loved it and kept coming back.

Here’s the low down on the standing clubs open to any neighborhood resident. Drop by and give one a try. (And if there’s another interest you’d like to form a club around, give a shout to fgnabloomington@gmail.com to feel it out.)

---

Two Book Clubs meet every month, with books announced in the FGNA Tidbit email and FGNA.org calendar.

- **Mystery Book Club**: Every third Thursday at 7 p.m., 1413 E. Grove. Contact: Jen Johnson at jensincjohnson@gmail.com
- **Washington Street Book Club**: Every fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m., 1219 E. Washington. Contact: Rochelle Gridley at rochellegridley@gmail.com
- **One neighbor said**: ”Book Clubs in FG have been an exciting part of my retirement. The shared respect for different views and the opportunity to grow through these discussions has been invaluable to me. People I have met in book clubs I now call friends.” – Sue Anderson

---

Music Guild meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at different locations. The theme and location are published on FGNA.org each month.

- **How it works**: No, you don’t have to play an instrument! Music Guild is all about sharing music from your playlist with others. Those who attend take turns calling out a song for the host to play or sharing a YouTube link.
- **Themes**: Each month, the host selects a theme. Examples from last year: favorite deep cuts, songs about “Moving on” (new beginnings and/or recovering from a breakup) and opinions on the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame (who’s in but shouldn’t be, not in that should be, or in and deserves to be).
- **One neighbor said**: ”A great way to expand your musical horizons & share your favs.” - Sonya Embry

---

Euchre Club meets the fourth Sunday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at different locations.

- **How it works**: We play six rounds of eight hands. Ante for games is $2. The winner takes the pot, except the player with the lowest score gets his ante back! We play strictly for fun.
- **What to bring**: Your own drinks and an appetizer or dessert to share.
- **To join in**: A Signup Genius comes out the beginning of each month. To be included, email fgnabloomington@gmail.com.
- **One neighbor said**: ”Hanging out on a Sunday evening playing a friendly game of Euchre with neighbors and maybe winning some money. What could be more fun!” – Leisa Barbour

---

We hope you join us and become part of one of these informal groups. Check out the back of the newsletter for upcoming spring events!
PREZ on the EDGE - By Amanda Hill on Mercer, Board President

Hi neighbors!

By the time you receive this newsletter, the spring season will be right around the corner. Although we have had a mild winter this year, I am still looking forward to the trees blooming, the sun shining, planting flowers & gardens and getting back to more outdoor activities.

The board met after a much-needed winter break, and we have some fun things planned for the spring season in Founders’ Grove. Progressive parties are back on the schedule of events, and we can’t wait to bring these back with a Cinco de Mayo theme. See more details in this newsletter for how you can participate.

If you’ve never attended a member meeting, you may want to add the quarterly meeting to your calendar on March 2 at 7 p.m. Our speakers that evening will be both candidates for Ward 4 on the Bloomington City Council. The meeting will be held in the basement at Centennial Christian Church, and the FGNA board will provide refreshments.

These are just a couple of the events we have planned. Be sure to check out the calendar on the back of this newsletter for all the details!

Looking forward to seeing you at an event soon!

Cheers!
Amanda

About Founders’ Grove Neighborhood Association

FGNA is a 501c3 organization formed to enhance the community in which we live. Every residence on and between Oakland, Mercer, Washington and State streets is a member invited to join any and all events. No dues are required, and activities are funded by donations.

Donate by:
- Cash in FGNA jars at events
- PayPal to fgnbloomington@gmail.com
- Check to: FGNA (c/o Neil Gridley), 1219 E. Washington St., Bloomington, IL 61701

GOALS
- Celebrate and preserve our neighborhood’s unique character and history.
- Promote communication and a sense of community between neighbors, with many social gatherings.
- Keep neighbors informed about city projects that may affect them and give our neighborhood a voice in city decision-making.
- Keep the neighborhood safe and traffic under control.
- Help our neighborhood schools & businesses thrive.
- Share expert info on topics of interest such as gardening and home restoration.

2022-2023 FGNA Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President: Amanda Hill 309-706-4907 <a href="mailto:Ahill8407@gmail.com">Ahill8407@gmail.com</a></th>
<th>Vice President &amp; Historian: Rochelle Gridley 309-838-2597 <a href="mailto:rochellegridley@gmail.com">rochellegridley@gmail.com</a></th>
<th>Secretary &amp; Block Captain Coordinator: Matt Lollar <a href="mailto:lollarmatt@hotmail.com">lollarmatt@hotmail.com</a></th>
<th>Treasurer/Webmaster: Neil Gridley <a href="mailto:nmgridl@ilstu.edu">nmgridl@ilstu.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Chair: Todd Trainor <a href="mailto:tnt98@comcast.net">tnt98@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>Newsletter Editor: Sonya Embry <a href="mailto:sonyajeremy@yahoo.com">sonyajeremy@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Social Media: Rhonda Massie <a href="mailto:rmassie@hotmail.com">rmassie@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>Email Reminders: Bob Dawson <a href="mailto:Bob@Dawson1.com">Bob@Dawson1.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member at Large: Connie Boznos <a href="mailto:connie.boznos@hotmail.com">connie.boznos@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>Member at Large: Todd Vincent <a href="mailto:jtvince@att.net">jtvince@att.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Ripple Effect: Do you need some outdoor help? by Rev. Tom Cici

Centennial Christian Church is offering to assist residents of the Founders’ Grove neighborhood (and their nearby friends) in doing small jobs, such as cleaning gutters, interior and exterior painting, repairing wooden porches or garages, removing brush from a fence line, etc. Homeowners will need to pay for materials, but Centennial Christian Church will provide labor and small tools. We cannot do roofs, plumbing or anything that requires a license. Work will begin this summer.

If you have a small job you cannot do by yourself, please contact Pastor Tom Cici at the Centennial Christian Church office 309-828-2185 or cell phone 765-541-0611; or email marian64tom57@gmail.com.

After Pastor Tom Cici assesses the job(s), we will place them on the summer calendar. Work will be done during a three-week interval in the summer. Centennial is calling this ministry “The Ripple Effect.” It’s just people helping and caring for people.

If you can lend a hand: In the Summer Edition of the Founders’ Grove Neighborhood Association newsletter, we hope to announce the jobs we plan to do this summer, the location of the jobs, and when we plan to work on them - so you can join in the fun! Let’s give it a try! What do you say?

TIDBITS

Seeking wrapped Easter candy donations before or at March 10 Social event

Please no loose, unwrapped candy like jelly beans. If you can’t bring to the Social event at Neil & Rochelle Gridley’s, contact them or any other Board Member (see pg. 2) to drop off in advance.

FGNA flower garden needs volunteers to keep flourishing!

Our garden at the corner of Towanda & Washington Streets needs volunteers to periodically pull weeds and prune. No huge time commitment. Email fgnabloomington@gmail.com if you can help!

Election Day is Tuesday, April 4. Ward 4 Candidates:

- John Wyatt Danenberger, danenbergerward4.com; Email: vote@danenbergerward4.com
- Steven Nalefski, stevenforbloomington.com; Email: StevenForBloomington@gmail.com

Neighbor to Neighbor Classifieds

Homework help/tutoring: Retired special education teacher, 1 block from Oakland Elementary School. Email Linda for references, rates and scheduling. Lrladage@gmail.com

Need a hand? Pet-sitting, mother’s helper, babysitting, mowing, yardwork, watering plants, cleaning house, taking out trash. Katherine Graehling, penguinqueen14@hotmail.com

Want to submit a free one-time classified ad?

Have a newsletter topic/idea?

sonyajeremy@yahoo.com
FOR THE RADAR: Preparing for summer events...

Do you like to entertain and make a mean margarita? Seeking Cinco de Mayo hosts for Progressive Dinner...

FGNA is looking for four volunteer hosts for a progressive dinner on Saturday, May 6. The theme is Cinco de Mayo. Each host will prepare a portion of the meal and a margarita mix – enough to serve about 20 people total. Attendance will be limited through ticket sales, with proceeds covering hosts’ costs. Guests will travel from house to house, enjoying food and drink at each stop. If you’d like to host, contact a Board Member (pg. 2) or fgnabloomington@gmail.com. If you’d like to attend, see event info on the back page.

Start sorting now for Neighborhood Sales on June 2-3

Every year, the first full weekend in June, you can get in on an event that draws garage-salers near and far. Watch for info closer to June about how to get on the sale map and a sign for your yard, for a nominal fee. FGNA will advertise sales on social media and in The Pantagraph. You may want to start clearing closets now...

THE HAAS SISTERS TEAM
HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Tracy Haas Riley
309-275-6590

Kristen Haas Oliver
309-838-6082

Call or text us for all your Real Estate needs!

Receive 20% off your purchase when you mention this ad.

Donny B’s
gourmet popcorn and more!

20% off

1220 Towanda Ave, Bloomington

Brad Hallstein, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

507 N Hershey Road
Suite C
Bloomington, IL 61704
Bus. 309-662-8582 Fax 877-867-2145
bradley.hallstein@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

Sarah Dutta, MD
OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY, INFERTILITY • BOARD CERTIFIED
sarahduttaobgyn.com

107 N. Regency • Bloomington, IL 61701
3 0 9 . 6 6 1 . 0 4 0 6
Spring Garden Tips from Sue Anderson

Once snow and ice melt, it’s time to start shaping up your landscape to enjoy all summer. These tips should help you have beautiful and bountiful gardens this year.

**EARLY SPRING:** *First nice day…*

- **Review your yard for damage** to hardscapes, fences or other permanent gardening decorations.
- **Clean gutters** prior to plants filling out.
- **Clean out beds** of dead leaves, winter debris, and chop off winter foliage. Add compost. This will help keep disease and pests away.
- **Divide perennials** as they are just peeking out of the ground. (Save those you don’t want for FGNA plant exchange in early May at the O’Neills’ house.)
- **Add fresh mulch** around shrubs and trees but not right next to the base. This helps retain moisture during hot days.
- **Clean trellises and fencing** (paint if necessary) and place decorations such as whirligigs, colorful stakes, windchimes and gazing balls that were stored during winter. This adds a bit of color before the flowers bloom.
- **Prune fruit trees** BEFORE budding out or new growth appears. Flowering shrubs that bloom on NEW wood can be pruned now also. Examples are bluebeard, butterfly bush, coral berry, smooth hydrangea, panicle hydrangea, potentilla, Rose of Sharon and roses. Redwood dogwoods bloom on old wood but are best pruned in early spring to allow longer recovery time. Boxwoods and arborvitae can be sheared back.
- **DO NOT prune** OLD wood shrubs until they have bloomed. Examples are azalea, forsythia, lilacs, quince, ninebark, weigela, elderberry or mock orange. Spirea blooms on new wood but grow best if pruned after blooming.
- **Plant cool season vegetables:** radishes, artichokes, peas, lettuce and potatoes. They all like cool soil. Mulch and protect from critters.

**MID SPRING:** *Might still frost but mostly warmer days…*

- **Add fresh mulch** around perennials that have made an appearance by now. This helps with disease and pest damage.
- **Clean out and repair bird feeders.** Add water sources to bring butterflies, birds and bees to the yard.
- **Plant seeds indoors.** Label each container with name, date planted and date expected to harvest.
- **As spring bulbs** begin to bloom, take note of gaps and place stakes where there are gaps you want to remedy.
- **Plant new perennials and cold hardy annuals such as pansies, nemesia, sweet alyssum, lobelia and snapdragons.**
- **Plant summer blooming bulbs:** dahlias and gladiolas, canna lilies, calla lilies and day lilies.
- **Fertilize existing plants** as needed and according to package.

**LATE SPRING:** *Past frost date…*

- **Dead head flowering bulbs** but leave leaves for growth until completely dead. This will ensure a fuller flowering plant for next year.
- **Plant warm season vegetables:** tomatoes, peppers, beans, herbs, etc. To have less difficulty with pests and disease, add in and around your vegetable beds: marigolds (pungent odor deters mammals), sweet alyssums (attract beneficial insects that attack pest insect) and nasturtiums (attract bees and hummingbirds to pollinate the plants).
- **Plant summer blooming bulbs:** dahlias and gladiolas, canna lilies, calla lilies and day lilies.
- **Fertilize existing plants** as needed and according to package.
**MARCH**

**Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m. – Founders’ Grove Quarterly Meeting**, open to all residents  
- **Speakers:** The candidates for Ward 4, Bloomington City Council: John Danenberger & Steven Nalefski  
- **Where:** Centennial Christian Church, 1219 E. Grove St. Use South entrance to the hall on lower level.

**Friday, March 10 at 6 p.m. – Founders’ Grove Neighborhood Assn. Social**  
- **What:** Gathering of neighbors for food, drinks & fun. Bring dish to share, BYOB, cash for 50/50 drawing  
- **Bring a wrapped candy donation too:** We will stuff Easter eggs for the hunt.  
- **Where:** Neil & Rochelle Gridley’s, 1219 E. Washington St.

**APRIL**

**Sunday, April 2 at 2 p.m. sharp! – FGNA Easter Egg Hunt**  
- **Where:** Grounds in front of Oakland Elementary School.  
- Watch for an Easter Bunny sighting!!

**Friday, April 14 at 6 p.m. – Founders’ Grove Neighborhood Assn. Social**  
- **What:** Gathering of neighbors. Bring dish to share, BYOB, cash for 50/50 drawing.  
- **Where:** TBA

**MAY**

**Saturday, May 6 at 5 p.m. – Cinco de Mayo Progressive Dinner Tour**  
- **Advance ticket purchase required:** Only a limited number of spots available on a first come, first serve basis by emailing fgnabloomington@gmail.com. $20 per person.  
- **What:** Travel from house to house, enjoying a different Mexican food and drink at each stop.  
- **Where:** Details will be provided closer to the event to those who sign up. (If you’d like to be a host, contact a Board Member or email fgnabloomington@gmail.com.)

**Friday, May 12 at 6 p.m. – Founders’ Grove Neighborhood Assn. Social**  
- **Where:** Casper Brewing Co., 3807 Ballybunion Rd, Bloomington  
- All beverages will need to be purchased from Casper Brewing.  
- **Optional prior event, 5 p.m.:** Meet for a round of 9-hole golf with neighbors at The Links, for a fee.

**Saturday, May 20 from 10 to 11 a.m. – Annual Plant Exchange**  
- **What:** Swap garden plants with your neighbors. You don’t need to bring plants to participate!  
- **Tips for those bringing plants:** Because of bug problems, we ask bare root only - you can wrap roots in a plastic bag. And please label your plants!  
- **Where:** Todd & Anne O’Neill’s, 1923 E. Jackson

**JUNE**

**Friday & Saturday, June 2-3, 8 a.m. to ?? – Neighborhood Sales**  
- Keep an eye out for information on how to get a sign and get on the map for a nominal fee!

**RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS**

A **Euchre Club** and **Music Guild** also meet most months. At Music Guild, select & share songs from bands/artists that align to a monthly theme. **Mystery Book Club** usually meets 3rd Thursday of each month & **Washington Street Book Club** usually the 4th Tuesday. For more info, email fgnabloomington@gmail.com

---

*Events, dates & times listed are to the best of the Board’s knowledge at time of printing*

To stay up to date on the latest, watch for FGNA events on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FoundersGrove), visit fgna.org or sign up for email updates by contacting Bob Dawson at bob@dawson1.com.