

FOUNDERS' GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ISSUE NO 1 | SPRING EDITION – MARCH 2025 | VOL 24



GENERATIONS PAST: When former residents visit their old stomping grounds

by Sonya Embry on Grove Street

Have you ever gotten a knock at the door, out of nowhere, by someone with a connection to the house you live in, wanting a little look-see?

Nowadays people tend to scoff at unannounced visitors. And I have to be honest – I did some verification before I let the first person who knocked on our door with such a claim return for a visit. But the amount of personal history it can unlock can be so interesting.

I co-narrated a virtual Old House Society Tour of our home with Dan Deneen, who told stories of growing up in my house starting in the 1960s. In recent years, other Deneen siblings stopped by to visit too.

I also video-taped a woman in her 80s - whose aunt, uncles and cousins lived in our house in the 1930s and '40s. She walked room to room, spilling stories about sneaking icing off chocolate cake in the bread drawer... and endlessly playing paper dolls on the front porch.

My neighbors Mike and Nancy Schulz came by an old typewritten account from another member of that same family, describing among other things a famous faceoff of two neighborhood girls baseball teams in the '40s: The Grove Street Gorillas and The Taylor Street Tigers. The little memoir was gifted by a group of cousins whose grandmother (a Read from Read's Sporting Goods fame) was a little girl next door in the Schulzes' home during that era.

Six of those ladies with connections to the Read family (pictured below) visited the Schulzes' house on Grove Street last summer, cherishing stories and memories of past family.



Read family,
1959

YOUR TURN:
Have a story of meeting past residents of your home? Watch for a FGNA Facebook post on this topic and share there!



2024

2025 Neighborhood Survey: *What's your opinion?*

The FGNA Board is interested in hearing from residents to understand whether the Association is hitting the mark with things you'd like to see happen in the neighborhood.

I personally encourage each of you to complete and return this survey by the end of April, so we can see if any adjustments, additions or deletions should occur in our annual and/or monthly events.

Obviously we won't be able to incorporate all ideas, but if we see common themes, we'll definitely consider them.

As a reminder: we are a social group, not responsible for any traffic, street, etc. issues. Those should go through the city government.

Start here:

Use the QR code to take the survey online, or turn the page for a printed version and other options to submit. →



- **Todd Vincent,**
FGNA Board President

HOT OFF THE PREZ - By Todd Vincent on Grove, Board President

Happy New Year to all our wonderful Founders' Grove neighbors! I hope everyone had a good holiday season and started the new year off healthy. I, for one, am anxious for spring and for the FGNA events to start up full swing again.

We'll have the usual events this year including the Easter Egg hunt and 4th of July parade/potluck. The monthly socials start again in April (see calendar). The Palooza dates have been set, and it promises to be a weekend of jam-packed entertainment. Mark your calendar for Sept. 19-20, because I'm sure you won't want to miss it. As always, the book clubs, music guild and Euchre night continue monthly.

We look forward to hearing your feedback on the survey. The last question asks about interest in helping with FGNA activities. Would you be willing to coordinate an event? Or host a social? This is a chance to raise your hand and get involved. We'd love that!

Finally, once again, I'd personally like to encourage you to get out and participate in our events. We've got a great neighborhood and will continue to strive to provide activities which drive up participation. So, come on out and we'll see you in the 'hood!



Visit the OHS Architectural Salvage Warehouse for all your old house needs!

214 E Douglas, Bloomington
Wed - Sat 10am - 5pm
(309)820-0548

Old House Society

THE HAAS SISTERS TEAM
HOME IS WHERE THE ♥ IS

Tracy Haas Riley
 309-275-6590

Kristen Haas Oliver
 309-838-6082

Call or text us for all your Real Estate needs!

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; or QR code available to pay digitally
- PayPal to fgnabloomington@gmail.com
- Venmo: @FGNABloomington
- 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.

2024-2025 FGNA Board

President: Todd Vincent 309-825-9635 jtvincent@att.net	Vice President & Historian: Rochelle Gridley 309-838-2597 rochellegridley@gmail.com	Secretary: Amanda Hill Ahill8407@gmail.com	Treasurer/Webmaster: Neil Gridley nmgridl@ilstu.edu
Social Chair Co-Chairs: Todd Trainor, 309-212-0484 ohs.todd@gmail.com	Newsletter Editor: Sonya Embry sonyajeremy@yahoo.com	Social Media: Rhonda Massie rmassie@hotmail.com	Email Reminders: Bob Dawson Bob@Dawson1.com
Leisa Barbour leisa.barbour7@gmail.com	Member at Large & Block Captain Coordinator: Matt Lollar — lollarmatt@hotmail.com		

Founders' Grove Neighborhood Association Survey 2025

Please complete the survey **by the end of April**, either:

- Electronically via the QR code or at bit.ly/fgnasurvey2025
- Mail the paper copy or drop it in the mail slot at **1407 E. Grove**
- Scan your responses and email to fgnabloomington@gmail.com



1. Rate the value of these neighborhood association communications:

	High Value	Medium Value	Low Value
FGNA Quarterly Member Meetings (at church)			
FGNA Quarterly Newsletter			
FGNA Website (fgna.org)			
FGNA Facebook Group			
FGNA 'Tidbits' Emails (e-list)			

Comments on any of the above: _____

2. What events / activities do you like or dislike? Have you attended any activities, and if so how many and which? _____

3. What would you like to see more or less of in terms of FGNA events? _____

4. What factors keep you from attending neighborhood events? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ◇ No time | ◇ Frequency / occur too often |
| ◇ Forget about them | ◇ Disinterested in participating |
| ◇ Reluctance to attend my 1st event/not sure how to dive in | ◇ Other (specify) _____ |
| ◇ Not right types of events for me | ◇ None of the above |

5. What would you like to see more or less of, related to the neighborhood association in general?

6. Name one great thing about living in Founders' Grove: _____

7. Name one thing that would make living in this neighborhood better: _____

8. Would you be willing to....

... serve on the FGNA Board?	Yes	No
... volunteer to run or help with an FGNA event?	Yes	No
... host a social event?	Yes	No

If you chose "Yes," provide your name below; or email fgnabloomington@gmail.com to get involved. Thank you!

TIDBITS

Donate wrapped candy for annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Please no loose, unwrapped candy like jelly beans. If you can't bring a candy donation to the April 11 Social at the Gridleys (see calendar), contact a Board Member to drop off in advance.

Thanks for your support!

Sign up - FGNA Yard Sales: June 6 & 7

To get on the sale map, **by June 3** complete the form with this QR code or the link in the calendar.



Please remember to pick up after pets!



Upcoming FGNA volunteer opportunity: Midwest Food Bank
 If you'd like to get involved, watch for details or email leisa.barbour7@gmail.com.

The Ripple Effect continues: Do you need some outdoor help? By Pastor 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 clean gutters, paint interior or exterior, repair a wooden porch or garage, remove brush from a fenceline, etc. Homeowners would need to pay for materials, but the Church will provide labor and small tools. We cannot repair roofs, provide plumbing or anything that requires a license.

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

The Church is calling this "The Ripple Effect" and trying to provide this ministry year-round. Find more info on how you can participate in the work on the church site: centennialcc.org/ripple-effect.html.

It's just people helping and caring for people.



A 2023 project

Receive 10% off your purchase when you mention this ad.



10% off

1220 Towanda Ave, Bloomington

- donnybpopcorn.com
 - 309.827.3511

For All Your Lawn & Garden Needs

Come In or Call Ahead for Carryout.

309-828-2722

GRAB & GROW 916 E. Grove St., Bloomington

MON-FRI 8a-7p, SAT 8a-5p, SUN 12p-5p

ABHatcherygarden.com

JULIA DAVIS LAW FIRM, LLC



JULIA DAVIS
 ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

(p) 309-661-1104
409 S. Prospect Rd. Ste F

(f) 309-662-6568
Bloomington, IL 61704

jdavis@juliadavislaw.com
www.juliadavislaw.com



SARAH DUTTA, MD

OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY, INFERTILITY • BOARD CERTIFIED

sarahduttaobgyn.com

107 N. Regency • Bloomington, IL 61701

309 . 661 . 0406

Arbor Day: April 25 By **Julie Murphy & Sue Anderson**, FGNA residents & gardeners

"To exist as a nation, to prosper as a people, we must have trees." - Theodore Roosevelt

Arbor Day is a holiday that focuses on the planting, caretaking and preservation of trees. Trees help clean the air, reduce erosion, mitigate urban heat islands, and beautify our homes and communities. All are worthwhile reasons to consider participating in the rich history of Arbor Day this year!

Origins of the day

The significance of trees in the world has long been celebrated. The Spanish village of Mondoñedo held the first documented "tree planting festival" in 1594. The United States' first Arbor Day was in 1872 in Nebraska when Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraska journalist, convinced the State Board of Agriculture to support a statewide day to honor planting trees. In the ensuing years, he planted over 1,000 trees on his homestead, which began as 160 treeless acres.

This idea caught on in many other states, and within 20 years all states except Delaware were recognizing Arbor Day. It was not until 1970, under President Richard Nixon, that Arbor Day became a national holiday.

In our community

We have an Arbor Day Tree Talk celebration sponsored by both communities and Illinois State University on the last Friday in April. Watch for details as it approaches.

Our city of Bloomington has a rich history of celebrating and honoring trees. It has been noted when the first settlers came to this area that 1/8th of every acre was covered in timber, giving a park-

like appearance to the whole district. Bloomington's early nickname was "The Evergreen City."

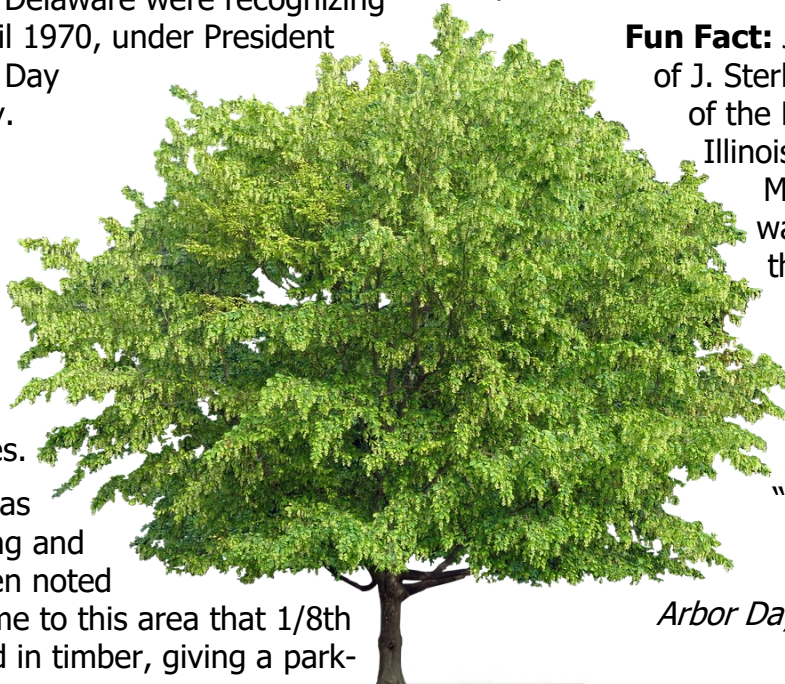
Also, the "Augustine Ascending Elm" was developed in the early 20th century by Archie Augustine here in Bloomington. The tree is known for its roots which grow straight down, thereby not interfering with building or other area improvements. The limbs tower upward instead of spreading outward. This tree was planted in the United States National Arboretum on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Despite Dutch elm disease, 20 of these trees remained standing there in 2018.

So as April 25th rolls around this year, celebrate Arbor Day! Whether it be glancing out the window at a tree in your yard, walking in our tree-rich neighborhood, planting a tree, or attending a formal Arbor Day event, there are many ways to embrace the importance of trees in our natural world.

Fun Fact: Joy Morton, the eldest son of J. Sterling Morton, is the founder of the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. It was developed on Joy Morton's family estate. How was Mr. Morton able to fund this project? He established the Morton Salt Company in Chicago in 1885.

More info: arborday.org

"Arbor Day is not like other holidays. Each of those reposes on the past, while Arbor Day proposes for the future."
- Julius Sterling Morton



Edward Jones Member SIPC

Brad Hallstein, CFP®, AAMS™
Shawn Finlen, AAMS™
Financial Advisors
507 N Hershey Road, Suite C
Bloomington, IL 61704
309-662-8582

MKT-58940-A-A4 AECSPAD > edwardjones.com



Moving You
From Where You Are
To Where You
Want To Be



Dawn Peters, MBA
REALTOR®
309-445-3668
dawn@alignmenthomegroup.com
www.alignmenthomegroup.com
2401 E Empire
Bloomington, IL 61704



FGNA CALENDAR

APRIL

Fri, April 11 at 6 p.m. – FGNA Happy Hour / Social

- **Where:** Neil & Rochelle Gridley's, 1219 E. Washington (parking available at Washington School)
- **What:** Food, drinks & conversation. Bring snack to share, BYOB, cash for 50/50 drawing.
- **Bring a wrapped candy donation too:** We will stuff Easter eggs for the hunt that weekend.

Sun, April 13 at 2 p.m. sharp!! – FGNA Easter Egg Hunt

- **Where:** Grounds in front of Oakland Elementary School
- Rain or shine. Hopefully there will be an Easter Bunny sighting!!



MAY

Fri, May 9 at 6 p.m. – FGNA Happy Hour / Social

- **Where:** TBD. Watch Facebook or the monthly email update for details.
- **What:** Food, drinks & conversation. Bring snack to share, BYOB, cash for 50/50 drawing.

Sat, May 17 from 10-11 a.m. – Annual Plant Exchange

- **Where:** Todd & Anne O'Neill's, 1923 E. Jackson
- **What:** Swap garden plants with your neighbors. You don't need to bring plants to participate! Please label any plants you do bring.

PLAN AHEAD

• June 6 & 7: Neighborhood Sales

For \$4, your sale will be listed on the sale map, you'll be loaned a sign, and you'll help cover the cost of a Pantagraph ad. **June 3 sign-up deadline:** To be included in publicity, complete the form at bit.ly/2025fgnasales. Email lollarmatt@hotmail.com with questions.

• Sept 19 & 20: FGNA Palooza Music Fest

RECURRING MONTHLY

- Play cards at **Euchre Club**.
- Share songs around a theme at **Music Guild**.
- **Mystery Book Club** meets 3rd Thurs of month and **Washington Street Book Club** the 1st Tues.

FGNA seeks hosts for a Progressive Brunch

Do you make an **AMAZING Bloody Mary**?

Are you anxious to share your grandma's famous quiche recipe?

The FGNA Board is looking for 4 families/individuals to serve as hosts for a Progressive Brunch (no more than 28 guests) to be held on May 31. Hosts would receive some reimbursement for food & drink.

If you're willing to host or would like additional information, please email fgnabloomington@gmail.com no later than Monday, March 31.

(If there are not enough interested hosts, brunch will be cancelled.)



Events, dates & times listed are to the best of the Board's knowledge at time of printing. Stay up to date at www.facebook.com/FoundersGrove, fgna.org or sign up for email updates at bob@dawson1.com