

# Founders' Grove Neighborhood Association

Celebrating 20 Years of Community

www.FGNA.org

WINTER 2021

Volume XX, Issue 4

The FGNA is a 501(c)(3) organization formed to enhance the community in which we live. Every residence on and between the North-South boundaries (Oakland and Washington Streets) and the East-West boundaries (State and Mercer Streets) is a member invited to join any and all events. No dues are required and activities are funded by voluntary donations. Board member terms run for two years.

## "Home"work

By Rochelle Gridley, 1200 block of E. Washington



### A History of Founders' Grove in Maps

\*\*\*\*\*

Home They lived in FG 1874 1895 1907 1914 1920 1940 Histories Homes Times Past



Do you ever wish you knew more about who built your house? Or, wondered who the people were who lived in your house and what their lives were like? For instance, who lived in your house during the Influenza Pandemic in 1918 and 1919? You can find out quite a bit by using FREE library resources from the Bloomington Public Library and the McLean County Museum of History.

Every home research effort should start with the City Directories. City Directories has two sections. One lists all the residents with their address and occupation, and the second section lists every address

of the city with the name of the occupant. You can find collections of City Directories at BPL and the Museum Library. Research your address in the address section (an "O" beside the name indicates they were the owner). The oldest directory to include the address section was in the 1890s. Once you have found the name of an occupant you can check the name directory to find out more, such as the wife's name, how many children they had and where the different members of the family worked. If you want to know even more, you can check out the census records in Ancestry.com, courtesy of BPL.

If your home is older than 1890, you can continue searching for the name of the first known owner/occupant in earlier city directories to learn when they moved in, and possibly when the house was built. Building permits are a great way to learn who the builder was and when your house was built. Notices of permits were frequently printed in the Pantagraph and can be found by searching in Newspapers.com.

Newspapers.com is a great resource for finding out more about prior owner/occupants or even building permits. In Newspapers.com you can search in the The Pantagraph for the names of people or even search for your address. Enter the name in the search bar, then choose "more information" to limit your search to Bloomington, IL. The search mechanism is not perfect, but it does pick up names pretty reliably. This resource is sometimes available for a free trial membership, or you can consult with a librarian.

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## FGNA Gear

Contact Todd  
@tnt98@comcast.net or  
309-828-8863

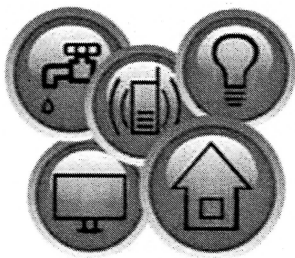
**Koosies:** \$2  
**Stickers:** \$2  
**Recyclable shopping bags:**  
1 for \$3, 2 for \$5  
**Bandanas**—\$5  
**Long Sleeve T Shirt**—\$15  
**Hoodie**—\$20

## FGNA Goals:

- To celebrate and preserve our neighborhood's unique character and history.
- To promote communication and a sense of community between neighbors.
- To give our neighborhood a voice in city decision-making.
- To keep neighbors informed about city projects that may affect them.
- To keep the neighborhood safe and traffic under control.
- To help our neighborhood schools and businesses thrive.
- To share expert information about topics of interest, such as gardening and home restoration.

## Prez on the Edge

By Amanda Hill, Mercer



We are headed into Fall and Winter this year with reports of gas and electric costs set to skyrocket anywhere from 30-50%. I thought it was important to start researching ways to conserve energy and I wanted to share my findings. Did you know the Bloomington-Normal Ecology Action Center offers an energy efficiency audit of your home? For \$20.00 you will receive a home energy inspection, starter kit, utility bill analysis, and personalized report highlighting home improvement items to help lower

energy costs and Increase your home's energy efficiency. Check out their website to learn more.

Some other simple fixes I found in my research are:

- Install a programmable thermostat. To my surprise these start at around \$15.00
- Block air gaps around plumbing pipes and electrical cables, windows and doors with caulking and weather-stripping.
- Buy some inexpensive foam outlet and light switch sealers, this is a huge source of cold air. A 10 pack is around \$2.00.
- If you are handy or know someone who will assist, pull the trim off of your windows and add additional insulation. You can use expandable spray foam that costs around \$4.00-\$10.00 on average per can. Or, get a roll of traditional insulation and stuff it in the windows.
- You can also put a window insulation film over your windows for \$3.00-\$15.00 for multiple windows. You need a hair dryer for most of these applications. Check your local hardware store or home supply store for pricing; be sure to have your details with you, accurate measurements and number of windows to insulate.
- Insulate hot water pipes and put a water-heater blanket on your hot water heater. A 6 foot piece of pipe insulation is less than \$2.00 and a water heater blanket is around \$25.
- Check your furnace filter every month. At a minimum, change the filter every 3 months. A dirty filter will slow down air flow and make the system work harder to keep you warm or cool — wasting energy!

Something that I was unaware of that wastes lots of energy is keeping lamps and electronics plugged in. This wastes energy even when they are not in use. You can easily solve this by unplugging everything or using a power strip that you can simply turn on and off when you are in each room.

Another good tip I found was to clean under and behind all of your appliances. Clean your refrigerator coils on the back and make sure your dryer is lint free and clean. When these appliances are dirty it takes more power to run them.

I hope you found some of these simple and inexpensive ways to help save on your utilities this winter helpful. Let's also remember to check on our neighbors this winter, and maybe we can even help each other save some energy with these simple fixes.

Cheers!

*Amanda*



Did you know?? FGNA accepts PayPal!  
Convenient for merch and donations  
PayPal Account: Founders Grove Neighborhood Association  
FGNA is a 501(c)(3)organization

## 2020-2022 FGNA

### Board Members

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Bloomington, IL 61702

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Remember to have a written list of the names you are interested in.

The McLean County Museum of History has been digitizing negatives from The Pantagraph for the past three years, and this collection is a treasure trove of images of houses and people. This collection is divided into four different time periods, covering the time period between 1932 and 1951 (thus far). Once you know the names of people who lived in your home, search for them in the [Illinois Digital Archive \(idallinois.org\)](http://idallinois.org) which is where the negative collections are held. A sampling of those images has already been shared on the *Founders' Grove History in Maps* website at <https://rgridley.wixsite.com/foundgrovemaphistory> -- look under "They lived in Founders' Grove."



This image shows the Miller children (Earl, Jackie, David and Frederick) in their pony cart. They lived at 1330 E. Grove with their parents, Earl and Virginia Miller.

To summarize:

- Search in city directories to find the names and occupations of past resident in your house
- Search in Newspapers.com with the names you have found to learn more about the families
- Search in idallinois.org to find pictures of people who lived in your home.

OR, if you don't want to do all the research, check out the website *Founders' Grove History in Maps* to see the research Rochelle Gridley has already done about this neighborhood.

# 2021 FGNA Beautification Award 1926 East Taylor Street **WINNER!!!!** **CONGRATULATIONS!!**



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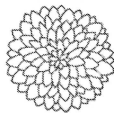
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## Social News

By Todd Trainor, 1200 block of E. Grove



## Hello Neighbor!

We end this year of celebrating our neighborhood's 20th anniversary, with great neighborhood events in the memory books. The rain didn't dampen the great spirit of music and memories made for our Annual FGNA Palooza. We enjoyed excellent neighborhood performers. It's amazing how many talented individuals we have in our 'hood who volunteered their time to entertain us for this two-night event. A special thank you to all who helped organize the event as well as to Bones Bach and Matt Lollar for hosting!

Yes, we can share with great pride to our co-workers, relatives, and friends outside of Founders' Grove. Where else can you live in a fantastic-eventful neighborhood which is full of a variety of events?

We are a Not for Profit organization with no annual neighborhood dues or obligations to participate. We operate solely on donations and a volunteer board of directors who selflessly donate their time to continue to be one of the best neighborhoods around. With this said, please watch for upcoming fundraising opportunities, and consider expressing your appreciation by attending the annual bake sale at AB Hatchery. Our wonderful 2022 FGNA calendars will be available (thank you to our business sponsors!!!) at the bake sale as well. Don't forget, there's always a chance to enter the raffle at the monthly Socials. If you would like to make a donation beyond these opportunities, reach out to one of the board members.

Our annual holiday out of the 'hood social will take place on the 2nd Friday in December this year. The socials will take a break during the January and February months, but will return in March 2022.

I want to give a special shout out for the **FGNA Social, Friday, December 10** at Meltdown Creative Works. There will be live music featuring neighborhood talent, giveaways with extended 50/50 raffles, fun times, and opportunities to meet new neighbors. Just like always, BYOB and an appetizer something to share. You are most welcome to also drop off donated goods for the bake sale happening the next day. See page 6 for more details

Looking into 2022, please reach out to me if you are interested in hosting a neighborhood Friday social. This is a great opportunity to showcase your home, she-something, man-cave, or garden. These are held on the 2nd Friday of each month from March - November.

Welcome to all our new neighbors and THANK YOU to existing neighbors for making Founders' Grove a safe, desirable, fun-friendly, social, neighborhood to live in!

Until next time,  
Todd

## Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 12, 5:00 p.m.  
Meet at Centennial Christian Church Parking Lot  
1219 E. Grove St  
We'll sing to neighbors | Bring friends and family  
Make memories | Music Provided



your old house expert

Like Us on Facebook

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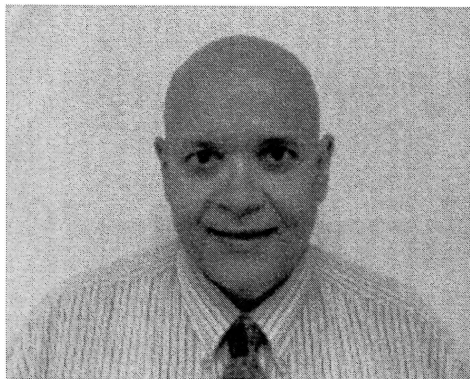


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## ■ The Good Life— Edward Ramos of E. Jackson St.

By Todd Trainor, 1200 block of E. Grove



Ed is employed by Illinois State University as a Campus Space Planner. Since 2005, his responsibilities have been to oversee the database of 6.8 million square feet of university space. Ed, the oldest of three siblings, grew up in New York City, in borough of Manhattan. Being raised in New York, Ed tested and was accepted to Brooklyn Technical High School which is a 10 story building with an enrollment of 6,000 students, he had a graduating class of 2,000 students. He recalls famous journalist, Geraldo Rivera being the commencement speaker at his graduating ceremony. Ed mentions each day he rode the subway to high school, which was a one hour trip in each direction. Ed earned his undergraduate degree in Architecture from Cornell University and his MBA from Penn State.

The start of his career was challenging with being laid off in 2002 and unemployed for three years, so he decided to broaden his demographic locations for employment opportunities, which brought him to central Illinois. Ed applied, interviewed and was selected by ISU for his current position he has held since May of 2005. After being an apartment dweller for a few years, he decided it would be a better investment to purchase a home. While searching for a home, he told his realtor he desired a brick home. After not having any luck, he came across his current “white sided” home. Ed said he loves the good energy and vibe of his Jackson Street home, is still resides there today. After being a Founders’ Grove resident for three years, he finally decided to partake in neighborhood events. He recalls the first being a monthly happy hour; I actually recall meeting him for the first time! He also mentioned enjoying past brewery tours, and the progressive FGNA dinner parties.

Some of his hobbies include: photography, architectural details, reading about art, Marvel comic books, and vacationing with friends in The Outer Banks.

Ed states he appreciates the people, activities, variety of architectural style of homes, decorations, and the camaraderie of Founders’ Grove. When he mentions all that his neighborhood offers to co-workers, friends and family...he states how envious they are. He stressed how THANKFUL he is and appreciates everything the FGNA board does for the neighborhood.

In 2022, he is looking forward to everyone being healthy, more opportunities to gather with people, and possibly being a guest speaker at an FGNA quarterly meeting sharing one of his photo slide presentations.

If you see Ed around, stop...introduce yourself...say hello, as you’ll be happy you did as I know I am glad I did...happy to call him my friend!



## The GREAT FGNA Bake Sale

Saturday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Stop by AB Hatchery @ 916 E. Grove Street and take part in all the tasty goodness that benefits our neighborhood. Better yet! Drop off a baked good at the FGNA Social the night before!

Shop | Snack | Say Hi

### Neighbor-to-Neighbor Classifieds

*Local services available in your own backyard!!*

Offering custom packing of large, heavy or unusual items. Contact John at 309-242-4761. For more details, check out the Facebook page: <https://fb.me/reboxshipping>

Seeking or wanting to offer a service? Neighbor-to-Neighbor Classifieds is a free one-time service available to you! Contact: [sandra.underwood@frontier.com](mailto:sandra.underwood@frontier.com)

# Bring on the Holiday Cheer!!



Featuring Live FGNA's own Music by  
Drew Goss & Oldest Horizons

**Mark your calendar!!**  
*FGNA Out of the Hood December Social*  
**make plans to attend!**

- ⇒ Bring your own shirt or purchase onsite
- ⇒ Special holiday FGNA logo for printing on your own shirt or purchase one onsite
- ⇒ Great opportunity to shop stocking stuffers
- ⇒ 50/50 Raffle Prizes
- ⇒ BYOB and a dish to share
- ⇒ Come festive, wear your holiday attire!
- ⇒ Bring your holiday cheer and a friend!
- ⇒ Drop off your Bake Sale donation

**See you @ Meltdown!**



## Clip-N-Save Calendar

Dates and events listed below are to the best of FGNA board knowledge at the time of print.  
Stay connected to FGNA Facebook, email, or contact a board member for updated information.  
**We can't wait to see you!!**

- November -

**Wed. Nov. 17:** Music Guild; 6:30 p.m. Host: Michelle King, 1219 E. Jefferson St.

**Thurs. Nov. 18:** Mystery Lover's Book Club; 7:00 p.m. Host: Jen Johnson, 1413 E. Grove St.

**Tues. Nov. 23:** Washington Street Book Club; 7:00 p.m. Host: Rochelle Gridley, 1219 E. Washington St.

- December -

**Thurs. Dec. 2:** FGNA Member Meeting; 7:00 p.m. Centennial Christian Church, 1219 E. Grove St. Officer Elections. Guest Speaker: Coroner Kathy Yoder.

**Fri. Dec. 10:** FGNA Social; 6:00 p.m. Meltdown Creative Works, 216 E. Grove St. See above for details.

**Sat. Dec. 11:** FGNA Bake Sale; 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. A&B Hatchery, 916 E. Grove St.

**Sun. Dec. 12:** Holiday Caroling; 5:00 p.m. Meet at Centennial Christian Church parking lot, 1219 E. Grove St.

**Wed. Dec. 15:** Music Guild; 6:30 p.m. Host: TBD

**Thurs. Dec. 16:** Mystery Lover's Book Club; 7:00 p.m.

Host: Jen Johnson, 1413 E. Grove St.

**Tues. Dec. 28:** Washington Street Book Club; 7:00 p.m.

Host: Rochelle Gridley, 1219 E. Washington St.

- January -

**Wed. Jan. 19:** Music Guild, 6:30 p.m. Host: TBD

**Thurs. Jan. 20:** Mystery Lover's Book Club; 7:00 p.m.

Host: Jen Johnson, 1413 E. Grove St.

**Fri. Jan. 21:** Newsletter articles due to Sandra, [sandra.underwood@frontier.com](mailto:sandra.underwood@frontier.com)

**Tues. Jan. 25:** Washington Street Book Club; 7:00 p.m.

Host: Rochelle Gridley, 1219 E. Washington St.

- February -

**Wed. Feb. 16:** Music Guild, 6:30 p.m. Host: TBD

**Thurs. Feb. 17:** Mystery Lover's Book Club; 7:00 p.m.

Host: Jen Johnson, 1413 E. Grove St.

**Tues. Feb. 22:** Washington Street Book Club; 7:00 p.m.

Host: Rochelle Gridley, 1219 E. Washington St.

**E-Mail Updates:** Get on our E-LIST by contacting Bob Dawson, [Bob@DawsonI.com](mailto:Bob@DawsonI.com) or sign up at any happy hour for breaking news, upcoming events, and announcements (FGNA never shares email addresses).