



# Founders' Grove Neighborhood Association

www.FGNA.org

Summer 2020

Volume XIX, Issue 2

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.

## Spring Time in the Garden

By Linda Pilant, 1500 block of E. Olive



When the warm days of spring come and the plants are just starting to peek through the ground, head out to your garden with a notepad or your journal from last fall. The following are steps I take to prepare my yard for the growing season. If you haven't started your outdoor spring check list yet, hopefully the following will be helpful for you as well this season!

Walk around to see what's happened in the yard over the winter.

Take note of changes and think back to last fall and what changes you wanted to do in the spring:

- ⇒ Look for any winter damage to plants, shrubs or trees.
- ⇒ What plants need to be moved? Has the amount of light changed from sun to shade or shade to sun? Was a tree cut down and now your shade garden is in the sun?
- ⇒ Do any of your plants need to be separated or thinned out? Over time, hostas tend to grow out from the center leaving dead space in the middle and create a donut shape. I dig these up - separate the shoots, keep some, clump together and replant. The rest I pot up and label for the neighborhood plant exchange.
- ⇒ Look for volunteer plants that are coming up in the edging or the middle of other plants or even in pathways. These need to be moved or potted up to give away.
- ⇒ Are there any plants that you just don't like - they are not what you expected or they grow too tall, or they flop over? Learn to just get rid of them or plant something else. It's your garden and you need to love and enjoy every plant you have. I attended a seminar on hostas at the Home Lawn and Garden Day several years ago taught by Shane Cultra from Country Arbors Nursery in Champaign. He told us that if a plant (for me, it's a hosta) does not "WOW" you every time you look at it in the garden, get rid of it and plant one that does. Not an easy thing to do if the plant is still healthy.
- ⇒ Think about what new plants you want to try this year. New annuals or maybe a new perennial? Where do you want to plant it? Do you need to clear a space?

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### FGNA Gear

Available at neighborhood events!!  
**Magnets and stickers:** \$2 each  
**Recyclable shopping bags:**  
 1 for \$3, 2 for \$5  
**T Shirts:**  
 Men's long sleeve T \$17  
 Men's/Women's short sleeve T \$15  
**Koozies:** \$2 each

### FGNA Goals:

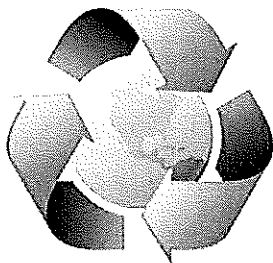
- To celebrate and preserve our neighborhood's unique character and history.
- To promote communication and a sense of community between neighbors.
- To give our neighborhood a voice in city decision-making.
- To keep neighbors informed about city projects that may affect them.
- To keep the neighborhood 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.

### FGNA Contact Info:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FoundersGrove](https://www.facebook.com/FoundersGrove)  
 FGNA's address: 1219 E. Washington St. Bloomington, IL 61701

# Prez on the Edge

## By Amanda Hill, Mercer



I hope this newsletter edition finds you staying well, enjoying this slower paced life at home, and finding activities to keep your minds, bodies and souls energized.

During the toilet paper shortage of 2020 I researched ways to make my own reusable cloth toilet paper just in case times get really tough. I'm thankful that we aren't there yet, but it caused me to really think about the waste we accumulate.

This has led me down a path of trying to discover other ways to try to heal our Earth and prevent further damage to our environment. My family has used cloth napkins and reusable shopping bags for years. I currently have a stash of microfiber towels to reach for before paper towels (those with little ones know how hard this is). I try to buy glass or paper over plastic at the grocery store. I have recently switched to bar soap in the bathrooms and kitchen to reduce plastic waste. I'm excited to revamp our compost pile and install a clothesline outside when the weather gets a little nicer. I am committing to walking or biking whenever I can, and am thankful that we live in a neighborhood where this is possible. It's been wonderful seeing the neighborhood take advantage of our spring walking weather.

I encourage you to seek ways to make a difference for our planet, and I would love to hear what you are currently doing or any tips you have! Please email me: [ahill8407@gmail.com](mailto:ahill8407@gmail.com)

I hope you have enjoyed the quarantine activities the board has put together so far. Be on the look out in this newsletter and online for creative ways to remain connected as a neighborhood. Hopefully soon we will be enjoying time together in the best neighborhood around! ~Amanda

### Salsa Chicken

You can use mild, medium or hot salsa depending on your taste. Serve with Spanish rice and Mexican-style canned corn. Very easy and quick!

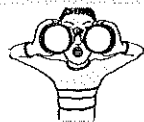
**prep:** 5 mins / **cook:** 40 mins / **total:** 45 mins / **Servings:** 4

### Ingredients

4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves  
4 teaspoons taco seasoning mix  
1 cup salsa  
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese  
2 tablespoons sour cream (optional)

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C)
- Place chicken breasts in a lightly greased 9x13 inch baking dish. Sprinkle taco seasoning on both sides of chicken breasts, and pour salsa over all.
- Bake at 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) for 25 to 35 minutes, or until chicken is tender and juicy and its juices run clear.
- Sprinkle chicken evenly with cheese, and continue baking for an additional 3 to 5 minutes, or until cheese is melted and bubbly. Top with sour cream if desired, and serve.



Check out Jessica Kentner's recipe for Slow Cooker Butternut Squash Tortellini soup on the FGNA facebook page! She brought it to the neighborhood crockpot challenge, hosted by A.B. Hatchery this past Fall. It was a huge hit!



### Neighborly Pet Care

A friendly reminder to please leash and clean up after your pet.  
Your neighbors appreciate it and so does your furry friend.

## 2020-2022 FGNA Board Members

President: Amanda Hill  
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# LUXE

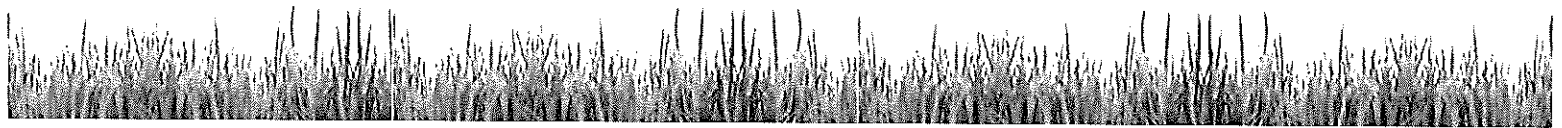
## BOUTIQUE

(309) 808-3278

[luxeboutique.com](http://luxeboutique.com)

- ⇒ As soon as you can safely get into the gardens without compacting the ground and the weather is past the point of a hard freeze, clean the plant debris out of your garden beds. This includes fallen branches, matted down leaves, last year's perennial foliage, trimmed off ornamental grasses, old clematis plants on arbors, and any annuals you didn't remove last fall.
- ⇒ Once the garden beds are cleaned out, start the process of moving, separating perennials, thinning out aggressive plants or throwing away the ones you don't like. Any extra plants can be potted up, labeled, and ready for the plant exchange in May.
- ⇒ The next job is to compost the existing garden beds. At our last FGNA meeting, Bill from AB Hatchery said you can spread a layer of compost around your plants to help improve the soil. It does not have to be dug into the soil.
- ⇒ For our growing zone, mid May is usually the last frost day and the day that's safe to plant annuals and other perennials. If the weather stays warm earlier, go ahead and visit the nurseries. Just be aware some plants may need to be protected if cold weather is forecast.
- ⇒ Finally, the last step is mulching the garden. You can buy bags or have bulk mulch delivered and spread it yourself. We have a local landscaper do ours. The mulch helps to keep your garden beds weed free and holds in moisture during the hot days of summer.

Now your garden is ready for spring and summer. It's time to sit back and enjoy!



## FGNA Annual Plant Exchange

### SUNDAY, May 17, noon-6:00 p.m.

Hosted by Anne & Todd 1923 E. Jackson Street

This year's plant exchange is going to have a unique look and feel, but your yard won't know the difference once you plant your findings!

Follow these guidelines to get the best experience at the plant exchange!

- \* Drop off your plants by Saturday, May 16 in Anne & Todd's driveway. There will be a designated drop off spot in the driveway
- \* Please ONLY BRING PLANTS to exchange
- \* Make sure the plants you drop off are in containers and are labeled
- \* Please DO NOT bring tools, pots, accessories, or books to exchange this year
- \* On Sunday, May 17, plants will be arranged on the Moore and Jackson street sidewalks. You are welcome to walk or drive by and choose from available plants

Thank you so much for your flexibility as we continue this neighborhood tradition and adapt it to today's need!



20% off

Donny B's is a proud member of the Bloomington Area Chamber of Commerce  
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## Social News

By Todd Trainor, 1200 block of E. Grove



I hope you and your families are well during this unusual time in history. Stay safe and positive!!

Recently we held an alternative Easter egg hunt adapted from our traditional one usually held at "The Grove". The hunt was well received with many up for the challenge to locate 32 decorated positive-motivating word-inspired paper eggs posted throughout the 'hood. Fellow neighbor, Isabelle Dawson also designed a Founders' Grove Scavenger Hunt Bingo. Winners were awarded prizes graciously donated by Donny B's Gourmet Popcorn and Gifts. Thanks to our neighbor Donny!!

The FGNA board met in early April via Zoom to plan summer events and activities. Thanks in advance for your patience and flexibility as we postpone and may need to cancel some events in order to abide by state directive. For example, the annual June neighborhood garage sales have been postponed with a later date in the season to be announced. However, with some creativity, we will still have our annual plant exchange on Sunday, May 17, noon—6:00 p.m., just in time for the planting season (see additional details on page 3). Thanks once more for hosting, Anne & Todd O'Neill!!

The board is looking at ways to connect virtually with recent uses of Zoom for book clubs, music guild, and possibly a happy hour! If you have any suggestions, reach out to any board member!

Watch for random pop-up trivia posted to our FGNA Facebook page. Put your knowledge to the test and have FUN with it! Enjoy the many interactive opportunities included in this newsletter's edition; try out a recipe and enjoy the puzzles and coloring picture!

Take care my friends. Until next time, be well!! Todd

**FGNA—The Good Life:** Jordan & Michaela of Woodland Ave.

Todd Trainor, 1200 block of E. Grove St.



Meet and welcome Michaela & Jordan of the 200 block of Woodland Ave since January 2020. Their family consists of two dogs, Duncan & Gunnar, also their precious kitty, Wobbles.

Michaela is a Labor & Delivery nurse at Bromenn/Advocate in Normal, IL. She grew up in the Kankakee area. Jordan recently finished a six year career in Special Ops in the Air Force, and now is starting a career in sales. He grew up in Morton, IL.


After living in apartments in the Bloomington/Normal area, they chose Founders' Grove for a variety of reasons. In addition to the neighborhood being visually appealing with its mature trees and variety of architecture, they also chose it for its centralized location to downtown and other businesses, and its low crime rate.


Their Woodland Ave home is the only home they toured in Bloomington. They purchased it on the spot, knowing it was the one as soon as they made it to the front door.


The two of them are excited to meet new people within the 'hood, as well as to attend monthly happy hours, pizza in the grove and many more activities. They both love being outdoors, fitness, boating, and walking their dogs within FGNA. Be sure to introduce yourself and say hello...from 6 feet! =) An interesting fact about the two of them: they met when Jordan was Michaela's personal trainer.

### THERE'S STILL TIME!! HOME BEAUTIFICATION AWARD NOMINATION


Nominate your neighbor or a home on any block within Founders' Grove which sparks your attention with great curb appeal and pride of ownership! The FGNA board will select one winner at the end of summer, then present them with an award. Send all nominations to [FGNABloomington.org](http://FGNABloomington.org) with "beautification" in the subject line.

  
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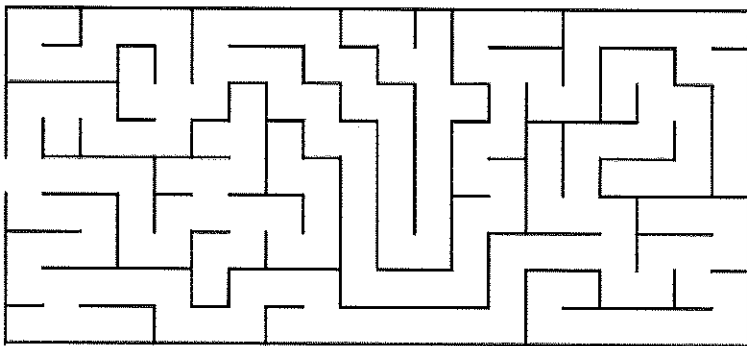
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## FGNA Annual Sales—Friday & Saturday, paused for June

For those of you who have been using this shelter in place time to declutter and organize your home (or maybe it's just your annual tradition), with hopes of having an amazing garage sale this season, your labor is not in vain - just paused momentarily. The FGNA board is being very receptive to state directives and their impacts for our neighborhood traditions. Stay tuned to our FGNA Facebook page, email, or contact your favorite board member if you are not digitally connected.

In the meantime, here are the details:

- ⇒ For a \$4 donation, FGNA will list up to five items/categories in our flyer, provide a sign for your yard, and publicize in The Pantagraph.
- ⇒ As we find out dates for the event, sign up by emailing [fgnabloomington@gmail.com](mailto:fgnabloomington@gmail.com) to participate.
- ⇒ Thanks for your patience and understanding.

### Neighbor-to-Neighbor Classifieds

*Local services available in your own backyard!!*

**Casper or Josie Trainor, 309-828-8863**

"Casper the Friendly Pet Sitter" in Founders' Grove— reliable, responsible & reasonable.

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)

# FGNA ANNUAL TOURS



2020 TENTATIVE EDITION  
SATURDAY, JULY 18, 6:00 P.M.

FGNA's 3rd annual progressive tour is back (hopefully!) This year's theme is...you guessed it... Mancaves and She Sheds!

20 FGNA'ers will tour selected mancaves and she sheds for a series of snacks, drinks, and fun.

The cost is \$10 per person to reserve your spot and covers the cost of food for each host.

To sign up as a host or attendee contact:  
[fgnabloomington@gmail.com](mailto:fgnabloomington@gmail.com) before all the spots are taken up!

## FGNA Summer Solstice

Saturday, June 20, 2020

4:00 p.m. Let the games begin!

- Kid's games: Including Rewind Easter Egg Hunt (we stuffed all those eggs, someone's gotta enjoy them!)
- Bags
- Photo booth

5:30 p.m. Dinner is served! Meat will be catered.

Things to bring:

- You!
- Dish to pass
- Your own beverage
- Chairs/blankets to sit on

## Clip-N-Save Calendar

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

- May -

**Fri. May 8:** Note: Summer Happy Hours, "FriYaY"s start @ 7:00 p.m. FriYaY@7; kick back at home!

**Sat. May 16:** Drop off plants at Anne & Todd O'Neill's driveway for FGNA Plant Exchange, 1923 E. Jackson St.

**Sun. May 17:** Drive by Plant Exchange; noon-6:00 p.m. Hosts: Anne & Todd O'Neill, 1923 E. Jackson St.

**Thurs. May 21:** Mystery Lover's Book Club; 7:00 p.m. Host: Jen Johnson, Zoom

**Tues. May 26:** Washington Street Book Club; 7:00 p.m. See email for Zoom details. [rochellegridley@gmail.com](mailto:rochellegridley@gmail.com)

- June -

**Thurs. June 4:** FGNA Member Meeting; 7:00 p.m. Centennial Christian Church. Guest Speaker: Kathy Yoder, McLean County Coroner

**Fri. June 12:** FriYaY@7p. Hosts: Michele King; 1219 E. Jefferson

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

**Sat. June 20:** Summer Solstice Gathering; The Grove,

1222 E. Grove St. See details above.

**Tues. June 23:** Washington Street Book Club; 7:00 p.m. 1219 E. Washington St. [rochellegridley@gmail.com](mailto:rochellegridley@gmail.com)

- July -

**Sat. July 4:** 4th of July Parade and Potluck; 9:00 a.m. Meet at corner of Grove & Woodland, Brunch to follow. Bring a dish to share. Hosts: Mike & Nancy Schulz, 1322 E. Grove St.

**Fri. July 10:** FriYaY@7p Host: TBD

**Thurs. Apr. 16:** Mystery Lover's Book Club; 7:00 p.m. Host: Jen Johnson, 1413 E. Grove St.

**Fri. July 17:** FGNA 3rd quarter newsletter items due end of day to Sandra @ [sandra.underwood@frontier.com](mailto:sandra.underwood@frontier.com)

**Sat. July 18:** Mancave/She Shed tour; 6:00 p.m. Hosts: Various, see details above.

**Tues. July 28:** Washington Street Book Club; 7:00 p.m. 1219 E. Washington St. [rochellegridley@gmail.com](mailto:rochellegridley@gmail.com)

- August -

**Sun. Aug. 2:** Vinyl Hullabaloo; 2:00-8:00 p.m. Listen to vinyl music and socialize. Hosts: Mike & Nancy Schulz, 1322 E. Grove St.

**Fri. Aug. 14:** FriYaY@7p; Host: TBD

**Sun. Aug. 16:** Back to School Ice Cream Social; 2:00 p.m.

**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).