

# FOUNDERS' GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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## Our shared interests

Clubs, old and new, bring neighbors together

### Music Guild: a 15-Year Tradition

By Michele King, longtime Music Guild-er

#### The origins

Music Guild was formed as and remains a monthly event for Founders' Grove residents interested in listening to and sharing music. Mike Schulz (Grove St.) organized the group and hosted the first meeting in March 2009. It has been going strong ever since and celebrates 15 years this March.

Mike remembers the first meeting was held in his basement where he keeps his vinyl collection. The



group watched U2 perform at the Live Aid Concert on an old Beta Max unit. Hosting duties rotated among Guild members. Around this time, Mike purchased this used portable turntable and cassette player that became a

fixture at Music Guild meetings so the group could listen to vinyl. Early members included Greg Zimmerman (Washington St.), and Mike and Jackie Bauer (Washington St.).

The meeting format involved the group taking turns playing music based on a theme (the season, colors, etc.) Members brought CDs, vinyl and played directly from their phones. The early meetings often included grilling hot dogs and brats beforehand and occasionally live music. Meetings were held in the warm months with a break each winter.

Music Guild "road trips" to live music events became common after a trip to the Ellnora Guitar Festival in Champaign in 2010. This tradition continues, with members emailing to see if others want to join them at local live music shows. The Castle Theatre and nightshop are favorites. Other trips include Peter Adrial live, Concerts on the Quad and Schooner's Beer Garden. This summer several members took the train to Chicago to see the live musical *Tommy*.

#### Spinoff events

Two annual FGNA events started as offshoots of Music Guild. With a working title of "The Most

*Read on, MUSIC — page 4*

#### Join in: Music Guild Meetings

**When:** 2nd or 3rd Wednesday each month. Check FGNA Facebook for locations or contact Matt Lollar (lollarmatt@hotmail.com). Sign up for FGNA event email reminders at Bob@Dawson1.com.

New members are always welcome, and a variety of music genres is encouraged and enjoyed.

## New Knife Collecting Club: Discuss, display and demonstrate your collection

Neighbors Heather & Joshua Dingler are calling all neighbors interested in talking and learning about knives. We will do show & tell and occasionally use our knives on projects.

They plan to host three club meetings, each starting at 4:30 p.m. at their home, 221 Florence Ave:

**April 13:** For the first 'welcome' meeting, bring two

folding knives to discuss, show and possibly use.

**June 15:** Bring two knives of any variety to share.

**Sept. 7:** Bring two fixed blades to discuss.

Meetings will be outdoors unless it is raining. Water and snacks will be provided. Please bring your own chairs and non-alcoholic beverage, if desired. Email any questions to: grove.knives@gmail.com

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

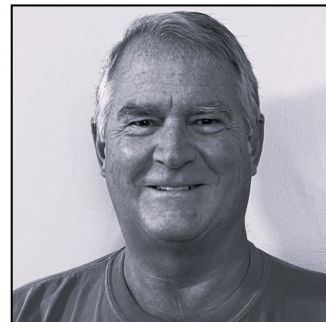
Happy New Year to everybody! I am your newly elected FGNA President for the next two years. I've served on the Board as a Member at Large for the last four years. I have some pretty big shoes to fill from our former President, Amanda Hill.

Serving on the Board has given me a new perspective on just what goes into making FGNA, with all of its activities, a big success. Did you realize there are 25 teams of people who distribute 899 newsletters, four times a year? Yup, you read that right ... almost 900 residences in Founders' Grove. Having also helped plan for events has really opened my eyes to how much the Board does for the neighborhood. For example, the Palooza (recently expanded to a two-day event with 16 performers) is pulled together by our dedicated Board.

### A little about me

I'm a Bloomington native, BHS and ISU graduate, and retired from State Farm since 2018. My wife Beth and I combined have three adult children and four grandchildren.

Beth and I moved into our home on Grove Street in 2013, but Beth lived on Grove prior to that. We've had several remodeling projects since moving in, all with an attempt to maintain the vintage feel of our home, built in 1904. We are both passionate about older homes, and Beth serves on the Old House Society Board.



### 2024 outlook

So, what can you expect in 2024? Many of the same events we've had in the past will continue, including: monthly socials, Easter Egg hunt, book clubs, music guild, euchre club, plant exchange, 4th of July parade/potluck. You can also look forward to some new events to be announced later.

There are so many diverse activities going on throughout the year, I'd encourage each of you to come out and give some a try. We'd absolutely love to see you there. Enjoy!

### Neighbor to Neighbor Classifieds

**Pet sitting:** Alex Kahn, age 15, has two years experience. Call 309-434-8952. Email alexj.jhk@gmail.com

**To submit a free one-time classified ad:** Email: sonyajeremy@yahoo.com

### 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 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

<b>President:</b> Todd Vincent 309-825-9635 jtvincen@att.net	<b>Vice President &amp; Historian:</b> Rochelle Gridley 309-838-2597 rochellegridley@gmail.com	<b>Secretary:</b> Amanda Hill Ahill8407@gmail.com	<b>Treasurer/Webmaster:</b> Neil Gridley nmgridl@ilstu.edu
<b>Social Chair Co-Chairs:</b> Todd Trainor, 309-212-0484 tnt98@comcast.net	<b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Sonya Embry sonyajeremy@yahoo.com	<b>Social Media:</b> Rhonda Massie rmassie@hotmail.com	<b>Email Reminders:</b> Bob Dawson Bob@Dawson1.com
Leisa Barbour leisa.barbour7@gmail.com	<b>Member at Large &amp; Block Captain Coordinator:</b> Matt Lollar — lollarmatt@hotmail.com		



## HELLO, NEIGHBOR! Meet **Lori Riverstone**, owner of REALBagel!

By Todd Trainor, FGNA Social Chair

Lori and daughter, Ruby, have called Founders' Grove their home since 2013, first living on Taylor Street before relocating to her current lovely home on East Washington Street in 2018.

**Her roots:** Lori was born and raised in East Tennessee on her family's farm in Jefferson County until she moved to Knoxville, Tenn., at age 19. Lori mentioned during the interview that her family's farm was very small with only a few animals and gardens, so she was shocked by the scale of the farms in Illinois.

**What brought her to Bloomington?** Lori joined the faculty in the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University, where she continues to teach. She specifically sought out FGNA based on her love for older homes – and also for the quality and diversity of the neighborhood's residents and families.

**Her bagel story:** One of Lori's hobbies is making bagels! Wanting a chewy, authentic, New York style bagel and not finding what she wanted locally, she tried different recipes until she mastered the process. Lori then secured her cottage food license – and recently began selling to neighbors and friends who all now enjoy an authentic bagel. Lori takes pre-orders and delivers them to your door. You should try them: They are DELICIOUS!! Order at [REALBagel.square.site](http://REALBagel.square.site).

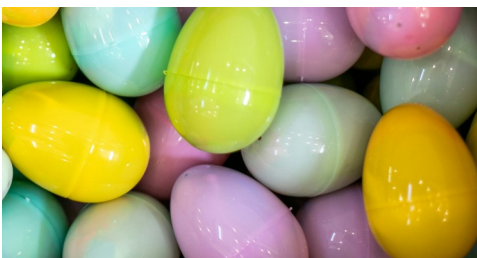
**Other interests:** Lori also enjoys woodworking, teaching, and her research. She and her family have enjoyed the Founders' Grove Easter egg hunt, Fourth of July parades and bake sales in years past – and a few of the social hours too. Finally, Lori mentioned how impressed she is by the Founders' Grove Neighborhood Board and how active our association is. We thank Lori for her kind words!



### TIDBITS

#### Seeking wrapped Easter candy donations for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Please no loose, unwrapped candy like jelly beans. If you can't bring to the March 8 Social at Neil & Rochelle Gridley's, contact any Board Member (see pg. 2) to drop off in advance. Thanks for supporting this family event!



#### Q: What are you looking forward to in the neighborhood when the weather warms?

**A from Carol Koos:** I look forward to being able to get out and walk through our lovely neighborhood and enjoy the landscapes and friendly people. I love what a friendly neighborhood this is and truly appreciate how so many value and enjoy getting out and walking with their pets, family and friends.

#### Related Reminders:

- ⇒ **Safe sidewalks:** Carol reminds us to do what we can to keep sidewalks clear of debris and alert the city of any hazards on sidewalks that could cause someone to trip and fall. The city will replace hazardous sidewalks at their expense.
- ⇒ **Scoop dog poop:** A different longtime neighbor writes to remind walkers to clean up after pets. This neighbor has no problem picking up an occasional pile left in her yard – but lately she and her neighbors are having to clean up several piles of poop from their yards each day. Please be courteous!

Continued... **MUSIC (from page 1)**

Excellent Cigarettes, Booze and Vinyl Hullabaloo," the first Vinyl Hullabaloo was held August 11, 2013, at Mike Schulz's house. The first FGNA Palooza was in fall 2013 at the home of Carey and Jaime Moore. Palooza features musicians from or with connections to the 'hood. Drew Goss (Leland St.) has performed every year except 2015. The Readers (including Mike and Jackie Bauer and friends) have performed six times. Various named bands that include Andrew Moody (Olive St.), Kevin Loeske (Woodland Ave.) and Tyler Lotz (Olive St.) played almost every year. Other frequent performers include Tom Ricker (State St.) and Bruce Bergethon (formerly Grove St.), and Kurt Hoffman (formerly Taylor St.).

**In recent years**

Music Guild has evolved since its beginning. Year-round meetings became the norm in 2014 with

snacks provided by the host. In 2017, members began sharing music as YouTube videos instead of vinyl, CDs or from smart phones. Also in 2017, the group began to keep a record of monthly playlists to track listening trends and favorites. Matt Lollar (Grove St.) took over organizing from Mike Schulz, and also now organizes Vinyl Hullabaloo and FGNA Palooza.

Some themes have become annual traditions. In January each member chooses songs shared by other members from the previous year's playlist. We also do "snake," sharing a song inspired by the previous one. Most meetings in the summer are outdoors, and in December there's a potluck. New plans under consideration for this year are holding one summer meeting on a Friday or Saturday, and holding another potluck or two.

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## Mulch: What is it and why is it important?

By **Sue Anderson**, Master Gardener & FGNA resident

Mulch is seen by many experts as one of the best things you can do for your garden. It holds moisture, suppresses weeds, regulates soil temperature, suppresses insect and disease damage, keeps vegetable products clean and ... it looks nice.

### Mulch myths

There are many myths about mulch:  
All of these are FALSE!

- changes the pH of the soil
- attracts termites
- robs the soil of nitrogen
- makes your pets sick
- volcano mound around the trunk of a tree to protect it
- more mulch the better

Why these are FALSE:

- Pine needles or leaf mulch would take years to change the pH, and most plants wouldn't notice.
- Very few insects can withstand the mulching process. Also, termites do not like the large chunks of mulch – too hard to digest. They like rotting wood.
- It's true that decomposing mulch uses nitrogen but only where it touches the soil. Most plant/tree/shrub roots are well below the surface where the mulch meets the soil.
- The only mulch that is bad for pets is cocoa shells – chocolate can not be digested by dogs.



- "Volcano" like mounding of mulch holds too much moisture next to the tree and can cause serious damage. Using mulch away from the base of the tree (2-5 inches) is good to hold moisture in the soil. The tree has bark to protect it from temperature changes and does not need it up against the tree.
- Mulch helps your garden beds increase the nutrients needed for plants to thrive while not suffocating them. 2-3 inches is the max to use. Anything deeper opens the door to mold.

### Which types are best?

Here are my favorites:

- **Annuals and perennials** – shredded bark, pine chips, chopped leaves are all easy to get through to plant or weed. (Straw and pine needles get caught in rakes or as you are pulling weeds.)
- **Vegetables** – seed-free straw or hay (up to 6 inches deep), dried grass clippings (no more than 1 inch deep so they dry) or landscape fabric can all be successful. The first two can be tilled into the ground after the harvest, which adds to the soil nutrients. Or leave in place through the winter, then pull back in spring to plant seedlings and tuck close around them. Landscape fabric is very good at suppressing weeds and keeping the produce clean. Do not put other mulch on top of it. Just pull it out at the end of season to reuse.

Enjoy these months planning your next garden and mulch away!



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## MARCH

**Thurs., March 7 at 7 p.m. – Founders' Grove Quarterly Meeting**, open to all residents

- **Speaker:** FGNA neighbor and County Coroner Kathy Yoder will discuss the opioid epidemic.
- **Where:** Centennial Christian Church, 1219 E. Grove St. Use South entrance to the lower level.

**Fri., March 8 at 6 p.m. – FGNA Social Gathering**

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

**Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m. sharp! – FGNA Easter Egg Hunt**

- **Where:** Grounds in front of Oakland Elementary School.
- Watch for an Easter Bunny sighting!!

**Would you consider hosting a Neighborhood Social Gathering?**

Is there something about your place that might be interesting to neighbors? A cool man cave, she shed, garden, remodel or restoration? Socials are usually the 2nd Friday of most months. If interested, please contact a Board member or email: [fgnabloomington@gmail.com](mailto:fgnabloomington@gmail.com)

## APRIL

**Fri., April 12 at 6 p.m. – FGNA Social Gathering**

- **What:** Food, drinks & fun. Bring snack to pass, BYOB, 50/50 cash
- **Where:** TBA

## MAY

**Fri., May 17 at 6 p.m. – FGNA Social Gathering**

- **Where:** Donny Bounds, 1306 E. Washington St.
- **Bring:** Snack to share, BYOB, cash for 50/50 drawing.
- **Wine tasting!! Reserve a spot in advance for special event during the Social:** A wine tasting begins at 6:30 with Tracy from PRP Wine International, [www.prpwine.com](http://www.prpwine.com). This is reserved for the first 18 people to sign up by email: [fgnabloomington@gmail.com](mailto:fgnabloomington@gmail.com). Suggested donation is \$10 to hold a spot and must be paid in advance. Once your spot is confirmed, you will be notified. Payments will be accepted by PayPal, Venmo or check.



**Sat., May 18 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!
- **If you're 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

**Fri. & Sat., June 7-8, 8 a.m. to ?? – Neighborhood Sales**

- Keep an eye out for info in the next newsletter and on the FGNA Facebook Page about how to get a sign and get on the map for a nominal fee!

**Plan ahead!**

## RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

- Play cards at **Euchre Club**. At **Music Guild**, share songs from bands/artists around a monthly theme.
- **Mystery Book Club** usually meets 3rd Thurs of month; **Washington Street Book Club** the 4th Tues
- For more info, email [fgnabloomington@gmail.com](mailto:fgnabloomington@gmail.com)

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

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