Turning Inward for Winter

4 ideas for indoor renewal projects

By Rochelle Gridley, FGNA Vice President

Once Illinois winter sets in, we won’t be outside maintaining our homes and yards, so here are ways to improve your home’s interior as skies turn gray.

1. De-clutter & organize

- Our kitchens are often filled with a plethora of utensils, pans and small appliances we purchased with good intentions but never used. Those crowded drawers and cupboards can be inventoried and unwanted items donated to a local thrift shop. A newly organized kitchen drawer or cupboard is truly a thing of beauty!

- Do you have old books you no longer want or need? The Book Bike can always use gently used children’s books. Just leave them off at the West Bloomington Revitalization Project on Washington Street and they will find eager readers. Adult books can be donated at the library or if you feel lucky, see which books can be sold at Bobzbay. Old board games? Another great thing to give to thrift stores.

- Set up systems for organizing to carry you beyond a onetime purge: Set a plan for handling incoming mail; designate a spot to collect items to be donated until you have a load ready; etc.

2. Improve energy efficiency

- The Ecology Action Center provides energy audits (sponsored by Normal & Bloomington) for $80. Learn where you could save energy ($$) by insulating or buying more efficient appliances.

- You can even buy one of those nifty thermal guns to seek out places where your windows are leaking or your insulation is lacking and seal up leaky spots.

- Draft dodgers made of heavy fabric and dry beans can cut down on those nasty under door drafts.

3. Spruce up!

- Painting with latex or other low-fume paint products will brighten up your winter world and give your rooms a new lease on life.

- Papering a wall with maps can be a fun project. National Geographic maps make an especially good wallpaper and can be found at thrift stores and book sales.

- Having your bathroom grout professionally steam cleaned can make your bath a spa retreat. Add some essential oil dispensers and you’ll welcome your morning shower.

4. Schedule regular maintenance

- Put recurring tasks on certain days of the calendar, such as Winter Solstice, Vernal Equinox, Summer Solstice and Autumnal Equinox.

- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors (to avoid that annoying chirp in the night!)

- Change the filters in your furnace and any water treatment devices. (Add salt to water softeners while you’re at it!)

- Make your list and stick to it!
PREZ on the EDGE - By Amanda Hill on Mercer, Board President

Another term is nearing its end for our neighborhood association Board. I have loved the opportunity to serve as president these last four years, but I am ready to pass the torch on to the next. I am so grateful for the hardworking volunteers I’ve served alongside, and have loved the opportunity to meet and become friends with so many of you.

We’ll hold elections for the next term at the December Holiday Social/Quarterly Meeting at 6 p.m. Fri., Dec. 1 at a great “out of the hood” location - an 1872 Italianate at 1007 E. Jefferson St.

If you’d like to get involved, we are always looking for new people to join the Board and help keep Founders’ Grove an awesome place. Please contact me or any Board member if you’d like to throw your name in the hat. It’s a great way to serve your community and a lot of fun, too!

After the Dec. 1 Social, we will continue our usual holiday events with the Bake Sale at AB Hatchery on Sat., Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are a baker or make a specialty treat, we’d love for you to contribute to our sale. All proceeds benefit FGNA.

Also, caroling is making a comeback this year, and the kiddos really love this tradition. If you’d like to join us we will meet in the Centennial Christian Church parking lot at 5 p.m. Sun., Dec. 17 to spread some holiday cheer throughout the neighborhood!

It has been my true pleasure to serve you. Cheers!

Thank you, Amanda, for all the energy, positivity and heart you bring to FGNA!

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
- Check to: FGNA (c/o Neil Gridley), 1219 E. Washington St., Bloomington, IL 61701

2022-2023 FGNA Board

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<td>Matt Lollar</td>
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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.
New FGNA Board Members to be elected at December meeting

Current terms for the Founder’s Grove Neighborhood Association Board are up at the end of this year, and candidates for all Board positions will be nominated and voted upon at the Quarterly Member Meeting, which will be combined with the December Holiday Social, at 6 p.m. Dec. 1 at 1007 E. Jefferson St.

If you are interested in serving or voting, please attend. You may contact a current board member or email fgnabloomington@gmail.com with any questions.

So far, these neighbors have expressed a willingness to serve a two-year term:

- **President**: Todd Vincent, Grove Street, currently an at-large Board representative
- **Vice President**: Rochelle Gridley, Washington Street, currently serving as Vice President
- **Treasurer**: Neil Gridley, Washington Street, currently serving as Treasurer
- **Secretary**: Amanda Hill, Mercer Avenue, currently serving as President

Thank you to the residents who serve the Board and plan neighborhood functions!

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HELLO, NEIGHBOR! Meet Ann Dady on Fairview Avenue

By Todd Trainor, FGNA Social Chair

**Origins:** Ann grew up on a farm in Lexington, Ill. Later she and her husband raised their three sons on a farm in Chenoa, Ill., where they were hog farmers.

**Family:** Ann is a widow with three sons. Her eldest is in California, middle son lives at Lake Bloomington, and the youngest is in Albuquerque, N.M. She has six grandchildren.

**Career:** Ann was an elementary school librarian for 12 years, then worked at Advanced Trading for 20 years and is now retired.

**Getting to Founders’ Grove:** Ann has lived in Bloomington for 16 years with the last four years at her current residence, which she calls her forever home! Her middle son, who happens to be a contractor, found the home on Fairview to purchase. It has the dining room Ann had been wanting so she can host her entire family. Prior to that, she lived on South Kreitzer – on the other side of Oakland Avenue – where there was no dining room!

**What she enjoys:** You might see Ann walking down Grove Street as she tries to get in 2 to 3 miles per day. She enjoys walking to Green Top Grocery, downtown and to the Farmer’s Market when in season. She loves attending outdoor concerts in the community and spending time with friends at coffee, lunch or happy hour.

**Causes she supports:** Ann is actively involved with volunteering at Brightpoint (formerly Children’s Home & Aid), is a member of Green Top Grocery, McLean County Arts Center, McLean County Museum of History and the Old House Society.

**I asked what she enjoyed about FGNA:** The people, of course! Her favorite events are the monthly Socials and the music events of Palooza and Vinyl Hullabaloo.

If you see Ann out and about, please be sure to say hello!
Looking for an old house item?

The Old House Society Warehouse at 214 E. Douglas in Bloomington is a great spot to find vintage bathroom fixtures and tiles; doors, knobs and hinges; vintage lights; flooring, trim pieces, built-ins and more!

As you’re working on interior projects this winter - or just looking for an inspiration piece - the warehouse is definitely worth a visit.

- **Hours:** Wed to Sat, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Phone:** (309) 820-0548
- **Email:** ohs.salvagewarehouse@gmail.com
- **Web:** www.oldhousesociety.org
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/OldHouseSociety

Show off your handiwork

Have you recently completed a cool project around the house - or know someone in the neighborhood who has? Send us a note if it might make a nice tidbit in the newsletter: sonyajeremy@yahoo.com

Want to submit a free one-time classified ad?

Email: sonyajeremy@yahoo.com

Pictorial Nostalgia

Thanks to Kenneth Davis for delighting FGNA Facebook followers (www.facebook.com/foundersgrove) with past photos of FGNA homes in all eras, including way-back gems like this one from 1888. Keep ’em coming!

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Participate in local “Adopt a Family” Program

Centennial Christian Church invites you to participate in an “Adopt a Family” program throughout November 2023. The church is partnering with Center for Hope Outreach Programs in reaching a goal to give three new Christmas gifts per family member. Fifty-five families were adopted for Christmas in 2022, and we hope to serve 20% more families in 2023.

- Donations may be sent to Centennial Christian Church, 1219 East Grove Street, Bloomington, IL, 61701. Make checks payable to Centennial Christian Church with “Adopt a Family” in the memo line.
- Please bring new gifts for ages 0 to 100 to Centennial on Sunday mornings or bring to the church office, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to new gifts, you also may donate gift cards, wrapping paper, gift bags and bows.

Thank you, in advance, for your contributions!

FGNA residents write and illustrate “The First Night of Christmas”

Mike and the late Patti Bohl have authored and Nancy Johnson illustrated a children’s book that uses the rhythm of Clement Moore’s “The Night Before Christmas” to retell the story of the birth of Christ.

Mike was a longtime resident of the neighborhood until just recently after his wife passed away. He moved to Indiana to be closer to family there. Nancy is on Vale Street and has lived in Founders’ Grove for 29 years.

The book was a couple years in the making. The Bohls originally created the story for family but then wondered if they could do more with it. They approached Nancy to develop the artwork, which was a project unlike any she’d tackled before. She says her illustrations are a juxtaposition of photography (the real world) and watercolors (the child’s imagination).

The book is available on Amazon.

10% of the net proceeds will be donated to Project Rescue, an organization aiding in rescuing women and children from abuse and trafficking. www.projectrescue.com

Sign up for email reminders of FGNA events: Contact Bob Dawson at bob@dawson1.com
Fri., Dec. 1 from 6 p.m. to ??? — Annual “out of the hood” Holiday Social/Quarterly Meeting (with Elections!)

- **What:** Join us for an evening of entertainment, whiskey, good conversation, light hors d’oeuvres, and a grand tour of this lovely 1872 Italianate home on a brick-lined street in the Davis-Jefferson Historic District.
- **Elections to the FGNA Board** will take place at the start of this event. See details on page 3.
- **Bring:** Wear your festive holiday attire (there will be prizes!) and bring your beverages, a dish to share, cash for 50/50 drawing with additional door prizes!
- **Hosts:** Amy & Jeffrey Deaver, 1007 E. Jefferson St, Bloomington.
- **Suggested $5 donation**
- **Hope to see all of you!**

Sat., Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — FGNA Holiday Bake Sale

- **What:** Prepare to fill some platters for your upcoming events by purchasing goodies prepared by neighborhood residents.
- **Where:** A.B. Hatchery & Garden Center, 916 E. Grove St.
- **Proceeds:** Support FGNA activities & events

Sun., Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. — Holiday Caroling

- **Meet up:** At Centennial Christian Church parking lot, 1219 E. Grove St., and we’ll walk from there.
- **Bring the kiddos out for this tradition!**

2024

**FGNA Friday Socials are taking a hiatus!**
None in January or February; resuming again in March!

**Stay tuned for the lineup of 2024 activities!**

**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.