

President's Corner

I trust that everyone is enjoying their summer. It has been too hot and humid lately for my taste but great corn growing weather. As I drive the country roads, I noticed corn almost shoulder height by the end of June so it was 'way taller than "knee-high by the Fourth of July." And some farmers are already selling sweet corn.

It's also about the time that kids start saying, "Mom, I'm bored. What's there to do around here?" With that in mind, I started looking into the local offerings for kids of all ages. I went to the Rockford Park District's website to see what all they offered. I was surprised to see some of our local attractions under the Park District's domain. I know they have the parks, golf courses, bike walks, Sinnissippi Gardens as well as Magic Waters. But I was not expecting to see that the Rockford Art Museum, the Discovery Center, Burpee and "Jane" were also under their jurisdiction.

Did you know that some of these sights have "Free Days"? The attractions with free or "donation" days are:

- **Burpee Museum:** Wednesdays
- **Rockford Art Museum:** Tuesdays
- **Tinker Swiss Cottage:** Wednesdays-
Donation day

I know in the past that the Discovery Center and Midway Village had free days, but there is nothing listed for them which is too bad. Those attractions, among others, needs to reinstate Free Days. The cost of admission to the Discovery Center is \$5-adult, \$4-children. A family of four would cost \$18 to be admitted. Midway village is \$16 for the same family and that is just the

general admission. If there is a special event it will cost an additional \$18 bringing the grand total to \$34.

These prices affect all of us. You don't have little kids anymore? How about the grandkids when they come to visit. If you spring for Magic Waters for that family of four, it will set you back \$54. How can growing families afford these prices?

Under "Museums" in the Park District's website it has the following statement. **"Because of the tax levy, each museum is required by state law to be open to the local residents one day a week free of charge or to provide some services to local residents free of charge."**

Let's see what we can do to get our terrific attractions open and available to all of our residents at least once a week.

Deb

PS: Be sure you take the grandkids to one of our great neighborhood eateries!

Coming Attractions

August:

- Monthly meeting: August 10, 2006
Deputy Chief Mike Booker
- Second Chance Ice Cream Social :
after the August meeting

September:

- Monthly meeting: September 14,
2006
- Annual Neighborhood Picnic:
Williams Park—Watch here for more
info.

Field Services Bureau

August's meeting speaker will be Deputy Chief Booker who is the commander of the Field Services Bureau. It is the largest bureau within the Department. Deputy Chief Booker supervises the operations of Day, Afternoon and Night Patrol Shifts, the Patrol Services Unit and the Department's Central Reporting Unit (CRU) as well as the Special Operations Division which consists of the following units: Community Services, Bike Patrol, School Liaison, TAC, RHA and Traffic.

FYI: NESNA Website

Be sure to visit our website at www.northendsquare.com to keep up on the latest happenings in our neighborhood. The current and back issues of the newsletters are available there, also. You might want to join our listserv to keep really up-to-date on NESNA info. That's where you can find out whose car was broken into last night, a "craftsman" in the neighborhood, etc.

2006 NESNA OFFICERS

President:

Deb Seyler 962-8777

Vice president:

Bob Revers 962-6268

Secretary:

Mary Englund 965-2239

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Powers 968-1395

POT YOUR PORCH!

Frances Anthon

The first week of August our community will be visited by the Garden In Bloom committee who, we hope, will be wearing rose colored glasses and of cheerful disposition. The focus will be porch beautification, so it is time to freshen up your pots of geraniums, petunias, vinca and what not. I have noticed mine own pot has grown rather tired looking. The good news is that everything in the garden is grand, and all the annuals in our greenhouses are very much on sale. This is the time of year when fresh plantings are practically free. I recommend you look to the Farmer's Market too.

The gardens on Huffman Blvd. have been masterfully attended by fifteen devoted gardeners. Dave Lantz gardens our introductory plot at the south end of Huffman. It is a pleasing opening to the neighborhood. Dave has generously helped with watering, mulching and weeding when others have been out of town. Jason Thompson heroically took on two plots, one quite neglected. Both are currently glorious. Lisa Ruschill also took on both corners of Brown Street and Huffman and has made wonderful use of what was in place and adding her touch to it. Dave Baker's dad stopped to admire his son's plot, and I agreed with him that it is quite beautiful. Donna Olsen and Claudine DeVerneuil are fighting growing shade but all the plantings are thriving. Julie Hoyer has successfully beaten her Russian Sage into submission. Those who remember that plot from past years can appreciate what work that was. Kathy Hilton, the Sherveys and Annette

Schroder have maintained handsome plots. Paula Clevenger has added flair to the plot that she has maintained for many years. It keeps sprouting surprises throughout the season. Paula Lawson and her little Lawsons have been maintaining the Berm, and the roses she planted there should double in size by next year. At the north corner Kay Veit and Char Ramsey have a cheerful and tidy plot. Potato vine on the truck sign? It has been a pleasure seeing the gardens mature. We all owe a thank you to Mike Diventi for the selection and plantings of red carpet roses and blue petunias in past years. They now provide the "bones" for building on our gardens. The Rocket Snapdragons were a whim, but they have been a pleasant and colorful success. If you have suggestions call a gardener or come to a meeting. Input is welcome. Three cheers to all our gardeners!

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Elizabeth Powers

Our small, but enthusiastic group meets once a month to discuss a book and enjoy refreshments provided by rotating hostesses. This month's meeting will be hosted by Therese Moncelle. Our book selections range from the profound to the absurd (see this month's choice). We read mystery, biography, bestselling fiction, and classics; our choices appeal to every taste and introduce us to new literary perspectives.

Presently we are reading The Big Over Easy by Jasper Fforde. This promises to be a wacky, imaginative who-done-it involving Detective Inspector Jack Spratt, head of

the Nursery Crime Division, who's investigating the death of nursery celebrity Humpty Dumpty. Sounds like lots of fun, doesn't it?

If you've read this book and want to join our discussion group on Sun 27 Aug, please call me at 968-1395.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Kay Veit

Members of the Property Committee have been checking the neighborhood for property code violations and making sure that they get reported. We are happy to see that many of you have been doing a lot of work in your yards. We need to keep working because on August 6th the America in Bloom committee will be here again and will also be judging our porches this year. Since we received the award last year, let's show them that we continue to make our neighborhoods look even better.

Our committee also has the task of choosing the NESNA Garden of the Month and it's been difficult because so many of your yards are so beautiful. Our first choice this year was the yard and garden of Lisa and Bobby Barks at 1910 Grant Ave.; all the effort they put into it has produced a lovely result. Our second selection was the yard and garden of Jan Schlenk at 1819 N. Church St; she has a bench and yard ornaments in her garden, to complement the colorful flowers. A \$25 gift certificate is given with the award. Take time to go by and look at these two gardens.

Keep in mind that we still have one more garden to pick and it could be yours. America in Bloom judges and the NESNA Property Committee will be looking over the neighborhood, so keep up the good work!



1910 Grant Ave.



1819 N. Church