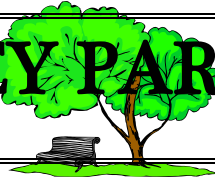

THE CLOKEY PARK NEIGHBOR

Vol. 3 Issue 3

September 2012



History In The Neighborhood Walking Tour

Saturday, September 29 at 1pm at Jasper Park

Each structure and street within a neighborhood has a story to tell.

East William Street will share some of its stories during a walking tour to begin at 1 pm on Saturday, September 29, and last a little over an hour.

Our own neighborhood association president, Jason Butterick, will be leading a walking tour down memory lane with information retrieved from various sources.

Stories to be shared include:

Jasper Street School and the development of the first lighted playground.

Ann Beman and her resistance to development of her farm, creating the odd placement of William Street between Jasper & East Avenue.

Sylvester Crebbs house, 1354 E William

Crescent/Ritz Theatre Site, 1460 E William

James Ward home, 1545 E William

George & Louisa Waggoner Home, 1546 E William

Samuel C. Allen homestead site, 1600 block E William

Edwin & Minnie Allen Home, 1606 E William

Jay & Zella Allen Home, 1636 E William

Barnett Home, 1625 E William

Brott/Smalley Residence, 1645 E William

Gritton Residence, 1713 E William

Grusek Residence, 1746 E William

Galloway Residence, 1850 E William

Walsh/Hoffman Residence, 1857 E William

Roach School, 1900 E William

Kepler Residence, 1963 E William

Noble/Kreher/Greene's Grocery Site, 2008 E William

Bickes/Grant Residence, 2075 E William

Piper Residence, 2084 E William

Neighborhood Association to Seek 501(c)3 Status

Formal Organization of Clokey Park Neighborhood

Association will increase ability to improve neighborhood

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association will begin the process of obtaining 501(c)3 status in the coming year.

Becoming a formal non-profit charitable organization will enable the neighborhood group to formally seek grants and funds from private foundations and government sources. Other benefits granted by 501(c)3 status includes tax-deductable charitable donations by individuals or companies and legal recognition as a defined public charity.

By moving towards official 501(c)3 status, Clokey Park Neighborhood Association will be able to pursue, apply, and seek funds and support for its projects to directly benefit the neighborhood. It will encourage possible donors and grantees to support our efforts to improve the neighborhood through our programs.

There are legal fees and filings that must be done in order to receive 501(c)3 status, and your generous support towards those costs would be appreciated.

City To Work on Redevelopment Plan

Meeting with City Staff begins improved relations towards a better neighborhood

Staff of the Department of Economic and Urban Development of the City of Decatur met with Jason Butterick & Carol Barnes on Friday, September 7 to discuss issues and develop a working relationship with Clokey Park Neighborhood Association towards neighborhood investment and redevelopment.

One of the issues raised was formalizing Clokey Park as a 501(c)3 organization to better qualify for government grants and programs.

More meetings with city are planned.

The Clokey Park Neighbor is the monthly newsletter of the Clokey Park Neighborhood Association.

The Clokey Park Neighborhood Association's boundaries are Jasper Street on the west, East Eldorado Street on the north, 22nd Street on the east, and East Wood Street on the south. Membership is open to all residents and businesses of the neighborhood, as well as those who support efforts within the neighborhood.

Suggestions, Comments, may be sent to The Clokey Park Neighbor c/o Jason A. Butterick 1953 E Prairie St, Decatur, IL 62521

Crime Statistics

August 21-September 16

Assault:	2
Disorderly/Breach of Peace	1
Drugs:	1
Family Offenses/Domestic:	3
Forgery:	1
Illegal Dumping	1
Involuntary Admission:	1
Property Crime:	5
Recovered Property:	1
Residential Burglary:	1
Robbery	1
Vehicle Registration/Insurance	3

How a Neighborhood's Walkability Can Increase Property Values

People who love cities have known for years what the rest of the country is just starting to figure out: urban life is a beautiful thing. But even city lovers may be surprised at the premium home buyers place on urban living.

A new study from CEOs for Cities shows that homes in close proximity to multiple destinations, such as stores, libraries, parks, coffee shops, restaurants, are more valuable than similar homes in neighborhoods where there is less to walk to, pointing to a bright spot in the residential real estate market.

The report, "Walking the Walk: How Walkability Raises Housing Values in U.S. Cities" by Portland, Oregon economist Joseph Cortright, analyzed data from 94,000 real estate transactions in 15 major markets and found that in 13 of the 15 markets, higher levels of walkability, as measured by Walk Score, were directly linked to higher home values. (If you are not familiar with Walk Score, it calculates the closest amenities to an address, then assigns a "Walk Score" from 0–100, with 100 being the most walkable and 0 being totally car-dependent. Walk Scores of 70 or more indicate neighborhoods where it's possible to live without a car.)

"Even in a turbulent economy, we know that walkability adds value to residential property just as additional square footage, bedrooms, bathrooms and other amenities do," said Cortright. "It's clear that consumers assign a tangible value to the convenience factor of living in more walkable places with access to a variety of destinations."

Here's an example of the effect of walkability on housing values from Charlotte, North Carolina: The Ashley Park neighborhood has a typical Walk Score of 54, and the median home price is \$280,000. In the Wilmore neighborhood- above average Walk Score 71-an otherwise similar home would be

valued at \$314,000. Controlling for all other factors including size, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, age, neighborhood income levels, distance from the central business district and access to jobs, if you were to pick up that house in Ashley Park, and place it in more walkable Wilmore, it would increase in value by \$34,000 or 12 percent, Cortright said.

In the typical metropolitan areas studied, the premium for neighborhoods with above average Walk Scores compared to those with average Walk Scores ranged from \$4,000 to \$34,000, depending on the metro area. That's big money for both homeowners and cash-strapped local governments trying to figure out how to stave off falling property values (and falling tax revenues).

A number of trends are reshaping the American Dream, and the value home buyers now place in urban neighborhoods is clearly one of the most important. Now, planning, zoning and development decisions have to catch up to consumers.

Clokey Park Neighborhood Walkable Score: 57
(Somewhat Walkable)

City Reminds Residents of Sign Regulations

The City of Decatur would like to remind residents that signs, regardless of content, are not allowed on public rights-of-way and that prosecution and significant fines could result for persons or organizations found to be responsible for the illegal placement.

City staff will soon begin enhanced efforts to collect signs in the right of way and will be issuing citations, with fines ranging from \$150 to \$500 plus court costs for entities found to be responsible for the signs. Signs collected from the right of way will not be returned.

Generally, no sign shall be located on any street, alley, parkway or other public space, with the parkway on a street being the space between the private property boundary line and the edge of the street or road. Placing signs on utility poles or street light poles located on the public street or alley right-of way is also prohibited.

In addition to signs in the right of way, there are also limits as to the number of most kinds of signs that can be displayed on private properties in the city. Recent changes to state law prohibit cities from limiting the number of political signs that can be displayed and the length of time that they may remain on residential property.

A maximum of five non-campaign temporary freestanding signs may be displayed for up to 90 days in single and two family residential districts while properties in multiple family districts may display up to three temporary freestanding signs for up to 90 days.

PURPOSE OF CLOKEY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

*TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE,
PROACTIVELY ADDRESS JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY, SUPPORT
REVITALIZATION AND
STABILIZATION EFFORTS, AND
EFFECTIVELY NETWORK AS
RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORS FOR A
BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Adopt-A-Street Clean-Up

Saturday, September 22

9 am

Clokey Park (1800-1900 E Main)

Monthly Meeting

Monday, September 24

7 pm

Prairie Avenue Christian Church

History In the Neighborhood

William Street Walking Tour

Saturday, September 29

1 pm

Jasper Park (1200 E William)

Ways to Improve the Neighborhood Now!

Make a list of landlords in your area.

As owners of property in the community, landlords are responsible to the neighborhood and most are concerned about the health of the community in which their properties stand. Your neighborhood president keeps track of real estate changes via public records and can let you know who is the landlord of a particular property.

Turn your porch light on.

Do this every night at dusk and keep it on till dawn. Crime tends to decline in neighborhoods that are well lit. It also makes the street feel more “welcome” to residents who are out for a walk. It communicates a higher level of caring for the neighborhood by residents.

Walk around the block.

It sounds simple enough, but neighbors benefit over time when responsible citizens walk around their neighborhoods. At minimum, walk around the block, once every day. Take the time to chat with neighbors, including youth, when given the chance.

Drive slowly on neighborhood streets.

Stop signs, traffic lights, and speed bumps are not the only things that can slow down traffic in your neighborhood. Drivers looking for a short cut won't find it as desirable to cut through a neighborhood if the traffic moves at a slower pace. Take a simple step to organize with your neighbors and perhaps reduce traffic volume at the same time. It is legal to drive a few miles per hour below the speed limit in your neighborhood.

Pick up the litter near your home, even if you didn't put it there.

People are less likely to litter where they don't see litter already. You can help stop the growth of trash in your neighborhood by taking away the existing litter that attracts it.

Stay where you are.

Stable neighborhoods are built on the commitment of long term residents who would rather live in a healthy community than move to a bigger house. Communities reach stability when conscientious citizens allow their roots to grow deep. Please, stay and help.

Help your neighborhood association, crime watch, or similar groups.

If you are willing, decide what your strengths are and what contribution you would like to make – then take the lead and do it. If leadership isn't your desire, at least make sure someone in your household attends local neighborhood association meetings. You'll be kept better informed of the issues facing the neighborhood, how you can help and, perhaps more importantly, you'll have the chance to shape, guide, and participate in the future of your neighborhood. Do whatever else you can to make your neighborhood a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, go to school, and raise a family.

Living in a good neighborhood isn't a right; it's a responsibility.

REMINDER

Monthly Meeting
Monday, September 24, 2012
7 pm
Prairie Avenue Christian Church
(2201 E Prairie)



Find us on
Facebook

Connect with Your Neighbors On-Line

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association is on the Internet!

Keep up on your neighborhood with the click of the mouse.

The Clokey Park Neighborhood Association launched its own website through the neighborhoodlink.com website.

You can check housing values, discuss recent events, and find valuable informational links to local companies and government websites. A calendar of events is also posted.

*Check out our website at
www.neighborhoodlink.com/Clokey_Park/home*

Sign up as a Clokey Park Neighbor today! ❖

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association
c/o Jason A Butterick
1953 E Prairie
Decatur, IL 62521

