

THE ARBOR DISTRICT

CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS 62901



June 1, 2006

Welcome to the Arbor District and to the third issue of our 2006 newsletter. Each issue of the newsletter will include announcements and reports of interest—please email me at mmcgnewsletter@yahoo.com by June 26 for inclusion in the July newsletter. While we will continue to deliver copies of the newsletter to all homes and apartments within our district, Arbor District members can request to receive their copy **through our member email list**. Please contact Mary O'Hara at maryohara@mchsi.com to be added to that electronic mailing. *(If you aren't already a member, you can join for the modest annual cost of \$5.00 per person, or \$10.00 per household, by sending your check made out to the "Arbor District Neighbourhood Association" to: Sandy Litecky/603 W. Walnut/Carbondale, IL 62901.)* You can also read each month's newsletter **on our website**, designed and maintained by Jane Adams and D Gorton, at www.arbordistrict.org.

We Have a Winner! As announced last month, we have started a photograph-based contest "**Can You Identify Me?**" related to that month's featured topic, issue, or event. All those who correctly identify the location or event in the photo will be entered in a drawing for one of the t-shirts from our neighbourhood clean-up day. Our winner from last month's drawing is Tasis Karyiannis, who correctly identified the location of the overflowing trash dumpster on S. Forest Ave. Thanks to all who submitted entries. Unfortunately, space constraints preclude a contest for this month, but watch for the return of "Can You Identify Me?" in upcoming newsletters.

Summertime Watch News: Officer Randy Mathis sent out the following information to the Neighbourhood Watch captains after a break-in on W. Elm in which entry was through a window with a fan placed in it. "I recommend that if you use this method to cool your residence, get an auxiliary lock for your window. An auxiliary lock can be mounted to your window frame and set at a designated height. I would set the lock to make sure no one could crawl through the opening. If you need a fan set it back away from the window while still allowing it to pull the cool air inside. Although it is not as effective, your window will be more secure." And he added this important reminder: "Don't assume just because you are home, someone won't try to enter your residence." Next month's newsletter will feature information about the Carbondale Neighbourhood Watch Program and other suggestions, ideas, and plans to help keep our district safer year round.

Study Circles: One of the ways we can link our district with others is through the Carbondale Study Circles. These groups meet regularly, focus on a particular need or interest for the city, and report to the Human Relations Commission (which meets the first Monday of every month). I attended the May meeting of the Housing and Neighbourhood Action Group, which discussed the importance of design standards for the central city and made plans to present their findings to the HRC at its upcoming June meeting. A future newsletter will look more closely at these Study Circles and other grassroots-based efforts to improve the quality of life throughout our city. By looking beyond the boundaries of our own district, and by meeting and working with groups and individuals throughout Carbondale, we can become a more effective voice for positive change.

BUCKY DOME NOTES

The City of Carbondale Preservation Commission announced that the Fuller Dome has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Progress is being made on the clean-up and fence repairs. All in time to mark Fuller's July 12 birthday!

MEETINGS

The next Arbor District Board meeting will be held on July 20 at 7.15pm at Robin Russell's home (702 W. Elm).

PRESERVATION

National Preservation Month: The National Trust for Historic Preservation designated May as National Preservation Month. Recipients of the City of Carbondale Preservation Commission's Historic Preservation Awards were honoured on May 15 at a reception in the historic train depot. Congratulations to all recipients:

K. K. Collins, 601 W. Oak St. (Preservation)

D Gorton and Jane Adams, 702, 704, 706 W. Cherry St. (Preservation)

Gary and Susan Edgren, 411 S. Poplar (Restoration)

Jon Boyer and Brian Swoboda, 409 W. Monroe St. (Preservation and Restoration)

Bethel A. M. E. Church, 316 E. Jackson St. (Preservation and Restoration)

Preservation Spotlight: When **Jon Boyer and Brian Swoboda** returned in August 2001 to the house they had once rented as students, they discovered it had been nearly destroyed. There were holes punched in the walls, the floor had been damaged by kegs, there were ashes from the fireplace covering much of the living room floor, and the yard was mud littered with broken glass. Today it is difficult to imagine what it looked like five years ago—the natural woodwork (which was never painted) glows, the rooms are filled with colour, period pieces, and the kind of charm that historic homes have in abundance. The original siding at the front has been restored and painted, and the front and back gardens are beautiful. While there are problems along the block, things are changing, and both stressed the benefits of living within walking or biking distance to restaurants, churches, the library, the hospital, and stores. I first met Jon when I stood outside their home admiring the garden and the exterior—and both say many folks have stopped by to compliment their efforts. Next time you are at the library take a minute to enjoy the beauty they have brought to their neighbourhood—and let them know you appreciate their contribution to making our city and our neighbourhoods a better place to live.

The City of Carbondale Preservation Commission began in 1989 "to promote the identification, designation, preservation and protection of Carbondale's historic buildings and properties." Two of its programs are summarized below. More information can be obtained through the City of Carbondale Development Services Department, 200 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale, IL, 62902-2047 (phone: 618-549-5302 or 618-457-3235).

Carbondale Register of Historic Places

Placing property on the local Carbondale Register of Historic Places benefits everyone by preserving a part of our town's history. Historic designation does not mean that you need to change any existing features of your home. It does mean that if you work on the *exterior* of the building you will need to meet designated design standards and file for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) before beginning work. Contrary to popular belief, these design standards are flexible (within the standards set); there is no charge for the COA; and COA denials can be appealed to the City Council. COA does not apply to interior work on the building.

Carbondale Neighbourhood Preservation Districts

These districts are a way "to preserve and protect the character and vitality of traditional neighbourhoods from the adverse effects of inappropriate development. Additionally, Neighbourhood Preservation Districts help to foster and encourage preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of structures, areas, and neighbourhoods, and thereby prevent future urban blight and in some cases reverse current urban deterioration." For those of us living in homes that don't meet the historic or architectural specifications necessary to be placed on the Carbondale Register of Historic Places, Neighbourhood Preservation Districts are another means to preserve the character of an area. The application process requires at least 25% of the property owners to petition the Commission for designation, which will be reviewed by the Nomination and Hardship Review Committee. If accepted, there will be a public hearing before the Preservation Commission, with a final decision made by the City Council. As with the Carbondale Register of Historic Places, design standards will be applied relevant to that district, and a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) must be obtained for exterior work, construction, or demolition within the district.