



## IHPNA

### President's Message

As you all are aware, Island Home Ave. is closed. Having said that, I assume we are finding ways to get places despite the inconvenience of the closure. Please stay safe on the detours.

On a brighter note the weather has turned nice and the damage caused by the rough winter is fixing itself in some cases. For instance the sledding hill in the park got a wonderful use during the snow days and the grass looked worn off the hill. But now the grass is back and the park looks great.

The neighborhood enjoyed those people who braved the detour to tour our Dogwood Byway. Thanks to all who make this a beautiful drive with the flowers, decorations and general tidiness they create in our neighborhood.

In a separate article, we are announcing the May General neighborhood meeting. This is a great way to meet neighbors and find out important information concerning events and activities that affect the entire neighborhood. I hope to see you there. There will be another general meeting in September. Attendees to the September meeting will be electing the officers and board members for the association for the next two years. Let your voices be heard and if you wish to participate or run for an office, please let one of the board members know.

Another event soon is the presentation of the IHPNA  
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## Free Little Library

**Nancy Campbell**

What's that? A Little Free Library is a low-tech library box where neighbors can take a book, leave a book to share with others in Island Home Park. It's a delightful surprise to open the box and discover books for all ages. Each one has been left because someone thought other people would love it, too. Little Free Libraries are part of a world-wide movement. There are now over 18,000 in every state and 70 countries. More information is available at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org). I had wanted to add a Little Free

Library to our corner and jumped at the opportunity to build one at a workshop at A1 Lab Arts/The Center for Creative Minds. We finished our library box at home and installed it on a recent Saturday morning. The box was full by the next day. In just one week, every book has changed! It has been such fun to watch the books come and go. Obviously they have been changed by fairies, because I have never seen a person at the Little Free Library! Check it out regularly for yourself.

## Knox Heritage Fundraiser In IHP

**Amy Brooks**

Two of our neighbors have graciously agreed to open up their homes as part of Knox Heritage's Summer Supper Series. **Jodie Birdwell** and **Greg Brown** and **Jeannette Bouchard** and **Lance Dean** will welcome over 40 guests into their homes on Saturday, June 6th as part of Knox Heritage's largest fundraiser of the year.

Did you know our neighborhood was one of the last

active trolley lines in Knoxville? Don't be surprised if you see two trolleys full of people touring our neighborhood on the evening of the 6th. In addition to the trolleys, expect to see more cars than usual parked along the Boulevard that evening.

To learn more about the 2015 Summer Supper Series, visit Knox Heritage at [www.knoxheritage.org](http://www.knoxheritage.org).

## Ice Cream Social

**Connie Vogt**

**Save the Date!** To celebrate Island Home Park's centennial year as a neighborhood, there will be an old-fashioned ice cream social Sunday afternoon, June 7, 2015.

Save the date and look for more details to come. Let's all celebrate 100 years of Island Home Park community.

# The Show House

by Skip Scalf

Island Home's First House, the Show House, and the Bomar House are all titles given to the bungalow at the entrance to Island Home Neighborhood. The bungalow was born on Island Home Pike, spent its early years on Maple Drive, moved on to 100 Maplewood Drive and now resides at 1900 of a street still named the same. When was it built? That's hard to say. The best evidence of its initial appearance on record is a jump in the assessed value of the Island Home Farm from \$20,000 in 1909 to \$26,490 in 1910. At the time, that would have been close to the value of a new house. If the increase in assessed value is attributable to a new bungalow on Island Home Pike, then the house was built in 1909 and first taxed in 1910.

Who owned it? That's really hard to say. If the house was a part of the 1910 \$26,490 tax assessment, then it belonged to H. H. Galbraith because Mr. Galbraith owned the farm. In 1911, when Island Home Park Company was established by H. H. Galbraith and his wife Essie Galbraith, the house became the property of the company. According to records, on January 13, 1913, H. H. bought the house from the company for \$2,283.75. Then, things start to get a bit complicated. Once again, according to records, H. H. sold the house to T. E. Plyley for \$5,750.00 on January 3rd, 1913, ten days before he bought it. And the sale was all in the family. Essie

Galbraith's maiden name was Plyley. Essie was T. E.'s sister.

The 1913 Knoxville Directory lists T.E. Plyley as a resident of the house on what was, at that time, still Island Home Pike. Some ten years later, in October of 1923, T. E. gave the house to his brother Charles Plyley just ten days before he died. Charles lived in the bungalow for about four years until his sister Essie Galbraith sued him for defaulting on a loan. He lost the house as a result and it was sold at auction in March of 1928. It's sad but worth mentioning at this point that the Knoxville Directory listed Charles as living in the house with his mother, Essie's mother. Essie had sent her own mother to the sidewalk. Surely, she didn't just leave her standing there.

John W. Green and D.C. Webb bought the house at the March 1928 auction. The sale of the house was duly reported but the deed was not officially registered until March 23, 1929. Why the long delay? There is no official reason available but it is easy to assume that the entire situation had grown into something more than just a little bit complicated.

When was the bungalow at 1900 Maplewood Avenue built and was it the first house built in what is now Island Home Park? It involves some conjecture, but if 1909 is the build date, then it was the first house. Was it a show house for the Island Home Park Company? The

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## President's Message Continued

plaque and award to an outstanding senior at TSD. The winner of this serviced based annual award is selected by the faculty of TSD. Presentation will be at the awards day ceremony on Graduation Day at TSD. For anyone wanting to attend, please contact Connie Vogt for details on time and place.

Jim Staub  
President

## Congratulations

**Bekah Henley**, of Island Home Boulevard, will graduate from Berean Christian School this spring. She plans to attend Columbia International University in the fall and major in Special Education. She will also be part of the Lady Rams soccer team.

**Sarah Webb** will graduate in May from Hollins University in Roanoke, VA with a masters of Arts in Children's Literature.

## Memoriam

**Freddie Henley** of Willis Place passed away April 5, 2015. Freddie and her husband Rudy have been fixtures of Island Home since moving here in the mid-1960's. A donation from IHPNA to the Alzheimer's Association has been made in Freddie's memory.

**Dorothy Holloway** of Watson Place passed away April 16, 2015. Retired from a career in nursing, Dorothy could often be found working outside in her lovely yard. IHPNA has made a donation to the American Cancer Association in Dorothy's memory.

## General Meeting

The IHPNA will hold its neighborhood General Meeting Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Ward Building on the Tennessee School for the Deaf campus. The meeting will feature Laura Coats from the Knoxville Transportation Organization speaking on Bike and Road Safety. A representative with the TVA eScore program will provide information on making our homes as energy efficient as possible. With summer just around the corner all this will be timely information for everyone. Please plan to attend.

*The Show House continued*  
timing and location could have made it so. Who owned it? The farm, the company, the Galbraiths, a few Plyley's, and Misters Green and Webb. And why is it sometimes called the Bomar House? John H. Green and D.C. Webb sold the house to Frank Bomar on March 11, 1930. The Bomars weren't the first owners but given those that preceded them, "The Bomar House" may well be better than anything else. (If you know the location of original photograph or negative please contact skip@scalf.com)

**Sign up to receive neighborhood emails by sending a request to Greg Congelton at [gregelton@comcast.net](mailto:gregelton@comcast.net).**

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