



THE ISLAND HOME NEIGHBOR

August 2015

The Island Home Park Neighborhood Association

IHPNA Board Elections

**September 17th General Meeting
TSD Dining Hall**

6:00 pm

Vote Upon Arrival

Pot-Luck Dinner

**Update on IHPNA Park Improvements
(Lori Goerlich, Parks and Rec Dept)**

Absentee Voting:

- Use the ballot contained in this Newsletter.
- Mark your ballot and sign with name and street address.
- Mail ballots to Jim Staub 2128 Spence Place, Knoxville TN 37920
- Each adult (18 and older) member of the household can vote. Extra ballots can be copied or obtained from Connie Vogt 2114 Island Home Blvd.

SoKno on the Map

Grant Barton

You may have heard about the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club (AMBC) winning a \$100,000 grant from Bell Helmets to build a “double black diamond” downhill mountain bike trail, but did you know that there will be trails for ALL skill levels? The park is under construction now and when completed will offer 8 total miles of trail for beginner to professional level riders. Located on 100 acres off of Taylor Road just a mile from IHP, the park will connect to the existing 42 miles of the Urban Wilderness trail system via a pedestrian/bike bridge over Redbud Road. The park and bridge are expected to be completed by the end of the year. For more information and construction updates, visit www.legacyarks.org.

In other exciting news, several new businesses coming to south Knoxville include Alliance Brewing Co. and 3 Bears Coffee in the former laundromat at the intersection of Sevier Avenue and Island Home Avenue. Plans are also in the works for Trailhead Beer Market in the former Kat’s on the River location on Island Home Avenue.



Archer gives 4th of July neighborhood picnic his approval.



Members of the AMBC pose for a picture at Meads Quarry before their weekly Tuesday night group ride.

IHPNA President's Message

As my term as president comes to an end, I look both backward and forward on our neighborhood.

Island Home shows a hopeful energy in that we are a community that is diverse in many ways. We are young and old and all stages in between. We are athletic and not so athletic. The list could go on. But one thing I have observed is a passion for this neighborhood. We may differ in the details, but the desire to protect and grow the neighborhood is strong.

Over the past two years as president and longer as treasurer and Easter Bunny, I grew to know many of the neighbors. I wrote an article for the newsletter several years ago comparing the neighborhood to a family. The past two years have reinforced that observation. I see genuine concern for neighbors.

Moving to the future, I took interest in a recent email string trying to count the children in the neighborhood. One sign of stability and vibrancy is the continuation of families. Our Christmas and Easter children's events have grown in numbers reflecting these attributes.

The list of candidates for the board is a reflection of the neighborhood with established long time neighbors assuring continuity institutional memory mixed with new neighbors bringing fresh thoughts and energy.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as president.

Jim Staub

New Development **Chris Field**

In 2012, Atlanta-based developer John Gumpert presented plans to build a 219-unit apartment complex on the property located immediately outside of our columns. The initial plans faced opposition from many of our neighbors based, in part, on its size, overabundance of surface parking, and lack of connection with surrounding properties.

As a concession, in June of 2013, Mr. Gumpert and the City presented a second plan that contained 85 fewer units. The reduction was achieved by not developing south of the railroad tracks. While the initial site plans showed nothing south of the tracts, a notation labeled that area as "phase II." When questioned about the notation, in June of 2013, the City responded that all planned development must be presented at the outset. Indeed, the South

Waterfront Code requires the developer to "clearly designate" and "describe" all future phases of development.

Rumors are now circulating that more units will be built south of the tracks. Regardless of the accuracy of these rumors, this raises the question of whether the code would allow Mr. Gumpert to carve off the back portion of the property and submit new plans for its development (e.g., to build more apartment units). Recently, the City would not commit to ruling this out. Such a code interpretation could allow Mr. Gumpert to construct a complex similar to what was presented in 2012, despite the intervening concession of fewer units. The City Law Department is currently analyzing this issue, and we will keep the neighborhood apprised of its conclusion.

Centennial Celebration **Nancy Campbell**

Tent, table and chairs already in place and the Birdwell-Browns willing to extend their garden hospitality one day. What better time to celebrate Island Home Park's 100 years with a neighborhood Ice Cream Social? Sunday afternoon, June 7, we enjoyed ice cream, lemonade, and visiting as we examined Island Home Park history items. Our neighborhood centennial booklet, printed to accompany the Knox Heritage Trolley Tour the night before, was available. Inspired neighbors could add to our ongoing history with their own stories:

"My parents moved here in 1962 along with me and my brother Da-

vid. We grew up in Island Home, had several other relatives that also lived in the neighborhood. All the Jordans came from the little house that was next to Ijams. My grandmother was friends with Alice Ijams. My family has lived here for a long time. This is home. Margaret Jordan Webb, 2111 Maplewood Dr.

"My husband Pete Kuntz (then boyfriend) and I moved into the "smurf house" rental the summer of 2009. Our first evening was filled with lightening bugs, and we met kind neighbors right away. The next day, all of the neighborhood children paraded down the Boulevard for the 4th of July celebration. We knew right away that this was a special place!" Celeste Carruthers, 2245 Island Home Blvd.

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How to Make a Pile of Money

by Skip Scalf

If nothing else in this world, Harry Harris Galbraith and Essie Plyley Galbraith knew how to make money. In 1905, they purchased the 600 acres of land known as the Island Home Farm from the estate of Perez Dickenson for \$18,750. Then, they started to sell.

In 1911, Harry and Essie established the Island Home Park Company and sold the company 117 acres of the farm for \$60,000. The company then subdivided and sold the acreage as individual lots.

In November 1922, the Galbraiths sold 125 acres of the farm to the State of Tennessee for \$300,000. The site was to become the campus of a brand new school, the Tennessee School for the Deaf and Dumb. In addition to the \$300,000 payment to the Galbraiths, the State committed to the payment of an additional \$265,000 in the form of three annual installments of \$88,333 over the next three years. The State also transferred the deed for the old school, the Asylum School for the Deaf and Dumb, to the Asylum Avenue Development Company. The development company had been established by Galbraith two months earlier.

In addition to the monies paid and property transferred and as a part of his contract with the state, Harry and Essie Galbraith were allowed to live in the Perez Dickenson home until construction was completed on the new school in 1924. (Otherwise, they might well have been left homeless.)

Centennial Cont.

"In 2014, I experienced a big surgery that left me very limited in what I could do for myself. During that time, a large storm knocked out our power. While my husband was away and I was helpless at home, our neighbor Bill (2200 IHB) filled the cooler on my porch with ice so I could keep frozen food from spoiling. It was a simple, yet significant, gesture that proved to me there is no place like Island Home."
Samantha Lane, 2147 Maplewood Dr.

The asylum property was bordered on the north by Vine Avenue, on the south by Western Avenue (as odd as that seems), on the east by Walnut Street, and on the west by Broadway. It was a prime piece of property and the City of Knoxville wanted it. As one might well imagine, the Galbraiths were willing to sell. In June of 1924 "a deal was struck" as they say in the business and the city bought the property by paying \$202,000 to the Asylum Avenue Development Company and assuming the three notes from the State of Tennessee payable directly to H.H. Galbraith. It would take a great deal of time and effort to determine the amount of money made from the initial sale of lots in Island Home Park. And, it would take a good bit of research to determine the monies made from the sale of the 400 acres remaining after the 200 acres for the school and the neighborhood were subtracted from the 600 acre Island Home Farm. But, in just a few short paragraphs, \$18,750 has turned into \$625,000 for Harry and Essie and \$202,000 for the Asylum Avenue Development Company. That's a total of 827,000 1920's dollars. And, according to DollarTimes.com, those 1920's dollars would equal \$11,224,827.98 in 2015. That constitutes a pile of money by any standard.

There are some wonderful pictures of the Tennessee School for the Deaf construction process at http://tsdeaf.org/about_tsd/tsd_pictures/construction/construction.html.

"Charlene and I were walking this morning (6-7-15) and met John Cullum at the Keck house. John's sister Caroline and Charlene's mother were best friends. John asked where we lived and he said that he and John Ward used to play touch football in our side yard. He also said that he went to school at our house for a brief time." Ernie Gammon, 2000 Island Home Blvd.

Congratulations

Christie and John Kennedy of 2135 Maplewood, welcomed baby Leo Osmond on July 18. Leo weighed in at 9lbs 11oz and measured 23.5”

Megan and Mike Martin of 2247 Maplewood, also welcomed a baby on July 18. Molly Jewel weighed in at 8lbs 11oz and measured 19.5”

Cat and Bob Dziejewski of 2010 Spence, welcomed baby Wallis Mae on July 23. Wallis weighed in at 7lbs 8oz and measured 19.25”

All the moms and babies are doing well and enjoying delicious meals brought by wonderful neighbors. There’s no place like Island Home!

We would love to hear from you!

Please send newsletter material to

Joanna Pennoyer at

joannapennoyer@bellsouth.net

or call 865-382-1682.

Memoriam

Long time Island Home Park resident **Jane Cowart** passed away on May 13, 2015. Mrs. Cowart had been a fixture on Island Home Blvd. since the 1960’s. She enjoyed gardening and entertaining on her lovely and spacious front porch. Her daughter, **Candy Archer**, granddaughters **Chloe and Lucinda Archer**, and great-granddaughter **India Archer**, all Island Home residents, continue her legacy. The Island Home Park Centennial Ice Cream Social was dedicated to Mrs. Cowart.

Mae Love Kelly Malcolm, resident of Island Home Boulevard, died August 7, 2015, in her 100th year. Matriarch of a large family, she lived with her daughter Ida Webb. Recently, she had been zipping around in her motorized chair admiring her garden and greeting neighbors with news of her upcoming centennial birthday. IHPNA will make a donation in her memory to an appropriate charity.

Garden Club

The first meeting of the very informal IHPNA Garden Club will be at 3:30 on August 30, at the home of Sue Wrisberg. All are welcome.



Local bikers show off thier patriotism in the annual IHPNA Fourth of July Parade.

Sign up to receive neighborhood emails by sending a request to Greg Congelton at gregleton@comcast.net.

Officers	
President	573-3425
Jim Staub	thestaubs@gmail.com
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Bobby Graham	bgrahamtn@gmail.com
Past President	573-5469
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Your Area Representatives			
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A special thanks to Graphic Creations for providing printing services for the Island Home Neighbor!

For emergencies, call 911. Other concerns call the KPD non-emergency number, 215-7268

Visit us online at <http://www.ihpna.net>