



Gold Coast & Hamburg Historic District Association 2005 Newsletter

Welcome to Your Neighborhood!

By Dani Trout

Welcome to the first issue of the Gold Coast & Hamburg Historic District's quarterly newsletter! As part of an effort to strengthen our neighborhood relationships, we will be putting out a newsletter every quarter to the entire neighborhood. We want everyone to know what is happening in the group as well as the neighborhood.

The planning meeting on Saturday, January 8th went well, with many new ideas for the 2005 year and beyond. We have identified many new projects we would like to look into further.

As you all probably know, we are moving forward on the Ripley St. stairs project (see PJ's progress report below), with our goal to begin this summer. While that will take the majority of the group's resources for the current year, we are looking to the future by building a list of desired projects.

The quarterly meetings will again be taking place at a rotation of people's homes. We will be having a meeting on Feb. 6th, 6:30p.m. at 629 W. 6th St. Whether or not you are a member, we sincerely hope to see you there. New faces and fresh ideas are always welcome. If a project which interests you isn't on the list of topics, come anyway and bring your ideas/concerns to the group. We're all interested in making this neighborhood a better place and can only accomplish this if we work together.

Progress on Ripley Stairs

By PJ Slobojan

It's long been a vision to "fix the Ripley Steps." It became the vision of the committee to remove current curbs and steps, replace with new curbing, steps, retaining wall with limestone liners, historic lighting and iron railings on both sides of Ripley from 6 to 6 1/2 St. The project comes at a cost of about \$170,000.

We received a grant from Riverboat Development Authority (RDA) for \$60,000 and will soon know if the City of Davenport will match funds and oversee the project. In the meantime application is being done for other grants to complete the project. It is our hope that we can embark on this project in this summer of 2005.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Feb. 6th Quarterly Meeting
6:30 p.m. Social
7:00 p.m. Meeting
629 W. 6th
- ❖ April 16th
Park/Steps Clean-Up Day*
- ❖ April 30th
Clean Sweep & After Party*
- ❖ May 1st Quarterly Meeting
6:30 p.m. Social
7:00 p.m. Meeting
810 West 6th St
- ❖ June 2005
Neighborhood Yard Sale
- ❖ August 7th
Ice Cream Social/Meeting
- ❖ September 11th
11-4 Home Tour
5-8 After Party
- ❖ November 13th,
3:30 - 7 p.m.
Annual Membership
Meeting / Progressive Party

* For details please call PJ at 326-2894

"The only limits to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

Topics for Feb. 6th 2005 Meeting

Projects

- ❖ Ripley Stairs
- ❖ Develop digitally stored history of the neighborhood to allow access to materials by everyone

Community Work/Beautification

- ❖ Clean Sweep
- ❖ Stairs/Park Clean-Up

Fundraisers

- ❖ Home Tour
- ❖ Neighborhood Yard Sale
- ❖ Membership Meeting
- ❖ Antique Sale (2006)
- ❖ Ticketed Dinner (2006)
- ❖ Grants Task Force

Communication

- ❖ Phone Tree
- ❖ Quarterly Newsletter
- ❖ Website

Organizational Excellence

- ❖ Written Procedural Manuals
- ❖ Internal Audit

Information/Opinion Gathering

- ❖ Brown St. Stairs
- ❖ Signage to identify West of Gaines as part of neighborhood
- ❖ United Neighbors - Homeowner Assistance Day
- ❖ United Neighbors Meal Donation
- ❖ Lighting - identify and advocate for needed areas
- ❖ Neighborhood Watch

Please note that these topics will be discussed, but are not necessarily committed to as of yet. Goals are for 2005 and beyond.

Featured Home

Editor's Note - Each newsletter we will be featuring history and/or news about one home in the neighborhood. This home will also be the location of the next neighborhood meeting. Come to the meeting 15-30 minutes prior to the start time and you'll get a tour!

The House that Jens Built

By Charlie Stone

During the mid 1800's construction began on what was to become the home of Jens Lorenzen at 629 West 6th street. The home was built in two phases, the first being a somewhat ordinary 2 story rectangle. The second phase of construction re-oriented the flow of the house to face the river and added some very dramatic touches, including two towers, a sublevel making the rear of the house 3 stories, and curved solarium facing the Mississippi river.

To the best of our understanding, somewhere in the 1950's or 1960's the house was turned into 10 apartments; 2 in the basement/sublevel, and 4 each on the first and second floors. During the 1990's the house was purchased by Steve Dunkin and Sean Noel, who began the renovation of the home. They located a lady who, in the 1940's, lived in the house as a teenaged girl. She provided some old photos of the house and helped Steve in reconstructing the original floor-plan.

In late 2004, Charlie Stone and Danielle Trout purchased the house from Steve and Sean and have continued the reconstruction of the home. Through a small miracle, after 100 years, a charcoal portrait of Jens Lorenzen still sits on a mantel in the parlor of the house. Charlie and Danielle hope to return this home to its former beauty and splendor under the supervision of Jens himself.



Beautification Report

By PJ Slobojan

The beautification committee has set its goals for 2005:

- 1) Continuation of work at the Gold Coast park with upkeep and planting another tri-color beech tree;
- 2) Raise remaining funds and do work at the Ripley steps;
- 3) Continue leaf bag distribution;
- 4) Correspond with city about possibility of city funded payment of historic light bills and their possible future contributions to neighborhood projects;
- 5) Naming of long-range beautification goals.

The Gateway Redevelopment Group

By Jack Haberman

The Gateway Redevelopment Group (GRG) was formed from the old Hamburg Historic District Homeowners Association by a group of neighbors with the desire to save abandoned homes in the Hamburg District. The Jipp home and grocery at the corner of 8th and Gaines is our first project.

Last year we raised over \$7,000 in our neighborhood and received a \$500 grant from Alcoa Employees and Community Credit Union, a \$2,500 emergency grant from RDA and a \$5,500 Emergency Grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa. With these funds plus donated services from TriCity Electric, Rush Rolloff hauling, Scott County Waste Commission, Iowa Illinois Termite and Pest Control, United Neighbors and over 400 volunteer hours we were able to stabilize the Jipp and have it removed from the City's demolition list.

This year we are looking forward to receiving the State's Historical Site Preservation Grant. This is dollar match grant for up to \$49,150, which will allow us to do a complete historical restoration. If all goes as planned, the Jipp will house our own **Architectural Rescue Shop (ARS)** by September 2005...

This non profit shop will give us a place to collect, store, repair, display and sell old architectural items harvested from all over the city. The profits will be used to maintain the Jipp and fund other renovation projects in our neighborhood. It will also be a place to show the history of the Jipp family along with the history of our neighborhood.

Your support of donated architectural items as well as volunteer hours is needed more than ever. Please contact Jack Haberman at 326-3290 or Marionjack@peoplepc.com for more information.

What Can I Do?

By Dani Trout

Have you ever looked at something in your neighborhood and thought "Someone should fix that?" Well, you're probably right, but problems don't get magically fixed while you sleep. We have a large group of people who care about our neighborhood and are doing their best to make this a great place to live. But as with any project, more help is always wanted and sometimes desperately needed. It doesn't matter what you enjoy doing or what you are good at, you can help.

We are looking for volunteers in a number of areas. We always need help with beautification projects, making phone calls or delivering fliers. We could also use help from people with expertise in fundraising, web site design, grant research, or a number of other areas.

Whether you're a renter or a home-owner, you have an interest in making this neighborhood the best it can be - and how could it be at it's best without you?

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
-Eleanor Roosevelt

The 2005 Neighborhood Directory is published. If you have not received one yet, please contact PJ at 326-2894.

The neighborhood Home Tour is scheduled for September 11th. We are looking for people who would like to show their home, as well as volunteers to help with the effort. There is a meeting on Monday, January 31th at 615 Ripley. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sara Bartholomew at 322-8911 or online at sbartholomew@jtmconcepts.com

"Your legacy should be that you made it better than it was when you got it."
- Lee Iacocca



Gold Coast & Hamburg Historic District Association Mission Statement

The Gold Coast and Hamburg Historic District Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 in the State of Iowa. Its membership includes people residing or owning property within the boundaries of the Hamburg Historic District. The Hamburg Historic District is one of Iowa's largest historic districts and received national designation as an historic district in 1984. The neighborhood was home to many of Davenport's early German settlers beginning in the mid-19th century. A portion of the neighborhood is located in Davenport's Original Town section, within the earliest boundaries established by the city when it was chartered in 1836.

Beginning in the 1960's, the neighborhood suffered decline and decay as downtown businesses faced economic setbacks and competition from suburban expansion. Beginning in the 1980's, people began moving back into the neighborhood and reclaiming it. The Gold Coast and Hamburg Historic District Association's goals include maintaining the history and diversity of the District, assuring protection of historic buildings and structures, and preserving the written history of the neighborhood.

Board Members

Marion Meginnis, President marion.meginnis@wqad.com
 Dennis LaRoque, Vice-President dlaroque@machlink.com
 Cristina Bucksbaum, Treasurer wrogers@yahoo.com
 Sara Bartholomew, Secretary sbartholomew@jtmconcepts.com
 Terry Genz, Member-At-Large terryble64@hotmail.com
 John Smith, Member-At-Large kieransmith@peoplepc.com
 John Dodd, Member-At-Large johnfjdodd@aol.com

Fundraising Efforts

By Dani Trout

One of the largest obstacles to our neighborhood's goals is the massive price tags attached to the projects we'd like to be working toward. We are extremely grateful to the grant which has made the Ripley St. stairs project a possibility, but we can't count on getting grants for all of our projects. At our planning session on Jan. 8th, we discussed a few new ideas for the group to raise money besides the existing home tour. One idea is to sell Davenport souvenir merchandise, but we need ideas on original items we could have made to bring awareness to our neighborhood. If you have ideas or expertise in fundraising, please let us know!

Do you know of something you'd like to share with the neighborhood? The next newsletter is scheduled to be distributed in April. E-mail DaniTrout@yahoo.com or better yet, come to the Feb. 6th meeting!