



## DGNA NEWSLETTER

Issue 104 P October, 2005

*Join us for the next DGNA meeting on Thursday November 3rd at 7:00 PM at the Vrooman Mansion on the corner of Clayton and Taylor. Become involved in your neighborhood. All residents of Dimmitt's Grove are welcomed.*

### Oscar Mandel House Restoration Moves On

The November 15th one year anniversary, of the Oscar Mandel House move from 507 E. Washington to 402 E. Grove, is quickly approaching. In the months that have ensued, since the house move, a great deal of progress has been made in the restoration of the house. Following is a summary of work completed, work in flight and work yet to do. Take into consideration the phrase "The devil is in the details" when reading the following—for every piece of major work called out, below, there are often many precursor tasks that take a significant amount of planning, time and effort.

All foundation work is complete, including reapplication of original brick to the house's front façade, installation of original limestone window sills and the rebuilding of the house's original limestone front porch and steps. Front porch frame, floorboards and ceiling are yet to be installed. The original basement windows will be restored/rebuilt and installed. Original limestone front walkway has been temporarily set. A footing has been poured for the front walkway steps. We're contemplating having the Grove St. city sidewalk replaced and a driveway approach poured.

Final grade has been done on the yard and we're looking at hydro seeding part of it, in the next couple of weeks. The yard to the east of the house will not be seeded in the near future, to allow work space for contractor Gary Calhoon, who is doing roof, gutter and exterior wood repair work. This is also the area where the garage will be constructed.

*Continued on page 2*

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DG?

#### DG Family Chili Cook-Off

This year's Chili Cook-Off will be held Sunday Oct. 9 at Marie Litta Park from 3:00 to 5:00. Jamie and Kelly Mathy, Diana Krieg and Dawn Peters will be hosts. Drinks, bowls, utensils, cups and napkins will be supplied. Please bring your soon to be prize-winning chili in a crock pot to share with your neighbors and friends. If chili's not your thing, please bring a dessert or side dish. Chili will be judged at 4:30 in three categories: Spiciest, Most Unusual and Best Overall.

#### Fall Traveling Social

Come and join us for a wonderful evening of food and friends. The Fall Traveling Social is set for Saturday November 12. The event begins with appetizers at Melanie Hunter's home at 603 E. Grove from 5:00 – 6:00 pm, Then we join Julia Sutherland in her home for soup at 501 E. Olive St from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Laura Wheaton at 402 E. Jackson will be serving dessert from 7:00 to 8:00. All hostesses would sincerely appreciate it if we would bring a dish or appetizer to share. Wondering what you can bring?

Please contact our hosts Melanie at [oxylux@yahoo.com](mailto:oxylux@yahoo.com), Julia at [jlsutherland@verizon.net](mailto:jlsutherland@verizon.net), and Laura at [laurawhea@excite.com](mailto:laurawhea@excite.com) Hope to see you there. Also, bring a neighbor, we'd enjoy meeting more of our DG residents!!!

### Kudos to Sally Graumlich:

Planner & Visionary  
Good Organizer of people & details  
Committed to Dimmitt's Grove  
Humorous, Welcoming, Generous  
Thoughtful, A good friend to many  
A good neighbor, Good listener  
Animal lover  
An ambassador for our neighborhood  
A friend who will be greatly missed

## Oscar Mandel House *from page 2*

As evidenced by the shroud of scaffolding that has encompassed the house, since mid-July, a great deal of exterior work is in progress. The asphalt roof shingles and underlying original slate were removed and a new synthetic slate roof is being installed. Box gutters on the front half of the house have been rebuilt and all soffits have been repaired. Copper half round gutters will be installed on the back half of the house. Rotted/split cedar sidewall shingles have been removed and will be replaced with new cedar shingles. The 3rd floor gable on the west side of the house was recently reclad in new cedar shingles. Crown moldings and trim are being repaired/replaced when necessary. The upper stories of the west side of the house are currently being prepared for new paint. We're hoping to paint the exterior of the upper stories this fall and work on the first floor in the spring.

On the interior of the house, all electrical and plumbing systems have been replaced and meet or exceed current code standards. Duct work for forced air heating and cooling systems is also in place as are the two furnaces and two air conditioning units. Furnaces were placed in the attic and the basement to minimize damage to existing plaster walls when installing ductwork and vents—the two unit system also allows for zonal temperature control. Note: The original hot water heating system (boiler and radiators) had been removed, prior to our involvement with the house, and retrofitting a new hot water system was not feasible.

The back stairs, leading to the basement, have been rebuilt. The kitchen ceiling that was lowered during a 1930s remodel was removed to allow for electrical and plumbing work, and will be returned to its original height. The ceiling in the 1/2 bath on the first floor has also been removed and will be raised. The kitchen backsplash was removed to allow for installation of electrical outlets (the countertop and backsplash, re-finish work for electrical, plumbing and heating/cooling systems remains to be done. We have some live outlets on the first floor, basement and exterior of the house, but installation of remaining outlets, switches and lights awaits plaster repair in those areas. Heating/cooling vents on the second floor also await some plaster work prior to installation. Except for a lone toilet, in the 1st floor 1/2 bath, we have none of the bath/kitchen fixtures set—you guessed it, more plaster work AND tile work.

*Dawn & Diana*

## Wesley United Methodist Church

Would like to invite  
Our neighbors in Dimmitt's Grove  
To help celebrate the  
Renovation of the Church  
Beginning with a  
Re-dedication Service on  
Sunday, October 2

At 9:00am.

Associated with the celebration

Is a concert by

**FERNANDO ORTEGA**

On Saturday, October 8, 7pm

Tickets available at Berean Bookstore

To cap off the celebration

We are having the bi-annual

**BAZAAR**

Wednesday, October 12

9:30am to 8pm

Lunch and Dinner are served

Advance tickets needed for dinner

We hope our neighbors will  
Join us for the festivities!

*Your Representative To Bloomington City  
Government*

**Karen Schmidt**

**Alderman, Ward 6**

409 East Grove Street

Bloomington, IL

Home 829-6318 - Work 217-244-2070

karens@uiuc.edu

## Trucks On Grove & Front Streets

Some time ago Grove and Front Streets were designated as 'No Through Truck Streets'. This has been a success story, thanks to the City staff, our neighbors Modahl and Scott and the DGNA.

We encourage you to take note of trucks that continually use these streets, as through streets. Please note the name of the company operating the truck, the truck number or license if you can and the times & dates it has been seen.

Obviously, there will be an occasional driver who is lost and does not know where he or she is going... those drivers are not the problems; it is the drivers who continually use the streets when they should not.

If you notice a truck(s) that continuously abuse the "No Through Trucks" sign, please contact me (Bob Russano) at [bobrussano@yahoo.com](mailto:bobrussano@yahoo.com) or 828.3417. I will then forward the information to the city. We have had wonderful help from the City in working with this problem.

We do not include City trucks in this watch. They are usually performing tasks locally or just outside of our area and are always a welcomed sight.

I want to take a moment to thank the City employees who work on the trucks servicing our area. In the 30 years I have lived on East Grove Street, their service has been great, so a big 'Thank You' from all of us in Dimmitt's Grove.



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## The Philip Jacob Jung House at 103 S. Clinton

In 1880, Philip Jacob Jung, a marble cutter began his partnership with Hamer Higgins at 225-229 E. Front. Monument dealers, their business thrived until the late 1950s. Philip J. Jung, who lived at 713 E. Front, hauled sand from the Mississippi River to his lot on the southwest corner of Front and Clinton Streets. Using a block-making machine from Sears and Roebuck, Jung built his foursquare house in 1910.

If a competition had been held among the burgeoning middle class of the early twentieth century for "Most Popular New House Type," the Foursquare would have won hands down. The style is sensible, trustworthy, not too exciting, but nice to have around. It features solid, two story fronts, no nonsense hip roofs, blunt dormers, overhanging eaves, and deep plain front porches. A simple floor plan usually consists of a room at each quadrant of the house.

Being a practical man of German parentage, father of five and a widower with two daughters living with him in 1910, the Foursquare must have appealed to Jung. It was the most house for the lowest cost with a dignified appearance. Conventional, yet contemporary. Substantial, not flashy. A monument of a house.

Jung's daughters, Grace and Hazel lived out their lives in the house. Hazel lived there until 1988.

In the early 1990s, Debbie and Scott Olbert spent three and a half years renovating the house. Two new bedrooms were added in the attic, the kitchen was completely redone; the master bedroom replaced a sculpture studio. Stenciled area rugs decorated the hardwood floors and wound up the walls from the first to second floors. (This article is adapted from text found in old DGNA files)



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## Library Events

### October

**Saturday, October 1 -**  
**Lasya Sudha School of**  
**Indian Dances** will give a danc  
recital in the Community Room  
2pm.



**Tuesday, October 4 - Breast Health and You.** Megan Traynor from the McLean County Health Dept. will cover breast cancer facts and figures, risk factors, and methods of early detection: mammograms, clinical examination, and breast self exam. There will be door prizes, light refreshments, and lots of informative handouts! 7pm in the Community Room.

**Wednesday, October 5 - Classic Drama Film Festival.** 1:30pm in the Community Room. A merchant's two beautiful daughters fall in love with the same handsome young man William (Richard Hart). He favors the gentle sister Marguerite (Donna Reed) but her sister Marianne (Lana Turner) sees great potential in him and persuades him to obtain a commission in the Royal Navy. Set in the early Victorian era, backgrounds for this film include New Zealand and the Channel Islands. Call 828-6091 x1 for movie title and length.

**Thursday, October 6 - Books and Bites.** Nonfiction Book Club for Adults. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer, at Lincoln Leisure Center 12-1pm.

**Thursday, October 6 - Human Rights Video Project.** *Life and Debt* explores the effect of the International Monetary Fund's policies on developing countries through Jamaica's experience with the organization. No discussion. 7-9pm in the Community Room. More information about the films is available at <http://dev.humanrightsproject.org/index.php> All movies and programs at BPL are free and open to the public. A complete list of the videos is available at: <http://www.bloomingtonlibrary.org/as/adv/nvr.htm>

**Friday, October 7 - Game Fest for Young Adults,** 1-4

& 5-8pm in the Community Room and Technology Room.

**Tuesday, October 11 - Bloomington Bookies.**

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. A monster assembled by a scientist from parts of dead bodies develops a mind of his own as he learns to loathe himself and hate his creator. At Lincoln Leisure Center, 7pm. New members are welcome.

**Wednesday, October 12 - Healing Arts Series - Yoga with Debra Risberg.** Join Debra Risberg, Certified Kripalu Yoga teacher and owner of Main Street Yoga, to learn about the ancient science of yoga and to experience how yoga can relieve stress and tension. 7pm in the Community Room. Please register by October 5, 828-6091, ext 1.

**Wednesday, October 12 - Classic Drama Film Festival.** 1:30pm in the Community Room. British Agents Ralph Denistoun (Ray Milland) and Richard Byrd (Bruce Lester) are held captive in Nazi Germany just prior to the start of World War II because of their knowledge of Hitler's poison gas formula. They escape and travel separately, with a prearranged meeting destination to obtain the formula from the professor who perfected the formula. Lydia (Marlene Dietrich), a

*Continued next page*

### WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Services at 9:00 and 11:15AM  
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Sunday School held at 10:15AM  
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gypsy woman who is traveling in the Black Forest, disguises Denistoun as a gypsy and helps him reach his destination. Call 828-6091 x1 for movie title and length.

**Thursday, October 13- Human Rights Video Project.**

*Books Not Bars*, which deals with juveniles and the justice system, will be shown for this month's Socrates discussion program. 7-9pm in the Community Room. More information about the films is available at <http://dev.humanrightsproject.org/index.php> All movies and programs at BPL are free and open to the public. A complete list of the videos is available at: <http://www.bloomingtonlibrary.org/as/adv/nvr.htm>

**Thursday, October 13 - SOCRATES @ YOUR LIBRARY**. Join us for philosophical dialogue on timely topics. *Books Not Bars*, which deals with juveniles and the justice system, will be shown for this month's Socrates discussion program. 7-9pm in the Community Room.

**Friday, October 14 - Teen Anime Movie Night and DDR** - Join your friends for a free evening of snacks of some of the greatest anime films. DDR will be from 6-7, and then the movie will start at 7pm in the Community Room. The movie will be *Stellvia Foundation 1, v. 1*. This program is intended for 12-17 year olds. Parents/guardians must decide whether the movie is appropriate for their daughter/son.

**Tuesday, October 18- Bloomington Bookies**. Second session added due to popularity! *Frankenstein* by Mary

Shelley. A monster assembled by a scientist from parts of dead bodies develops a mind of his own as he learns to loathe himself and hate his creator. At Lincoln Leisure Center, 7pm. New members are welcome.

**Wednesday, October 19 - Classic Drama Film Festival**. 1:30pm in the Community Room. Idealistic Jefferson Smith (James Stewart) is appointed to complete the unexpired term of a U. S. Senator. He finds himself battling ruthless politicians out to destroy him. Clarissa Saunders (Jean Arthur) assists him in his battle. Call 828-6091 x1 for movie title and length.

**Thursday, October 20 - Master Gardener Program**. Penny Feehan presents *Houseplants*, 7pm in the Community Room. Each program will allow 1 hour for the presentation, and 1/2 hour for discussion and questions. Refreshments will be served, no registration is required.

**Saturday, October 22 - Open House for Teachers** - For all Bloomington-Normal teachers. Learn about databases, teacher pack cards, class visits, and more! From 1-3pm in the Community Room. No registration required. For more information, please call (309)-828-6091, x243 or x258.

**Tuesday, October 25 - How to Buy a Telescope**. The Twin City Amateur Astronomers will showcase a variety of telescopes, and their owners will discuss the pros and cons of each type. The telescopes will be set up so you can actually see the telescopes in action, and make


*Continued next page*

  
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side-by-side comparisons. This event is free, open to the public, and suitable for people of all ages. 7-8pm.

**Wednesday, October 26 - Healing Arts Series - Tai Chi with Dr. Jiong Gu.** Tai chi is a non-combative and slow form of martial art, and is described as a form of Chinese movement therapy that uses slow, graceful, relaxed movements, plus meditation and breathing techniques. 7pm in the Community Room. Please register by October 19, 828-6091, ext 1.

**Wednesday, October 26 - Classic Drama Film Festival.** 1:30pm in the Community Room. Mysterious events only vulnerable young Paula (Ingrid Bergman) experiences make her fear she is losing her mind. This is exactly what her treacherous husband Gregory (Charles Boyer) hopes for. Brian Cameron (Joseph Cotton) is the only one who will assist her. Call 828-6091 x1 for movie title and length.

## November

**Wednesday, November 2 - Classic Drama Film Festival.** 1:30pm in the Community Room. Struggling to raise funds for a new cathedral, the preoccupied young clergyman (David Niven) neglects his family and his loving wife Julia (Loretta Young). Only divine intervention (angel Dudley played by Cary Grant) can save their marriage! Call 828-6091 x1 for movie title and length.

**Thursday, August 4 - Books and Bites,** Nonfiction Book Club for Adults. *All Over but the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg, at Lincoln Leisure Center 12-1pm.

**Tuesday, November 8 - Bloomington Bookies.** *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson. In 1954, Ishmael Chambers, a local reporter who lost an arm in the war, covers the murder trial of a Japanese American fisherman, whose wife had been Ishmael's childhood sweetheart. At Lincoln Leisure Center, 7pm. New members are welcome.

**Wednesday, November 9 - Healing Arts Series - Reiki: Ancient Healing in Modern Times.** Join us as Keturah Herdmann teaches the history and principles of Reiki, an ancient Japanese healing technique. 7pm in the Community Room. Please register by November 2, 828-6091, ext 1.

**Thursday, November 10 - SOCRATES @ YOUR LIBRARY.** Join us for philosophical dialogue on timely topics. This month's topic will be "Gratitude." 7-9pm in the Community Room.

**Friday, November 11 - Teen Anime Movie Night and DDR** - Join your friends for a free evening of snacks of some of the greatest anime films. DDR will be from 6-7, and then the movie will start at 7pm in the Community Room. This program is intended for 12-17 year olds.

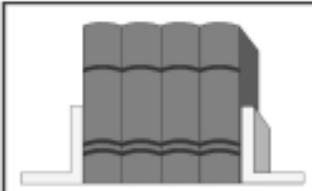
Parents/guardians must decide whether the movie is appropriate for their daughter/son.

**Saturday, November 12 - Harry Potter Film Festival!** The first of the Harry Potter films will be shown at 10am, and the second in the series will begin at 1pm. Both movies will be shown in the Community Room.

**Sunday, November 13 - Harry Potter Film Festival!** The third movie in the Harry Potter series will be shown at 2pm, in the Community Room.

**Tuesday, November 15 - Bloomington Bookies.** Second session added due to popularity! *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson. In 1954, Ishmael Chambers, a local reporter who lost an arm in the war, covers the murder trial of a Japanese American fisherman, whose wife had been Ishmael's childhood sweetheart. At Lincoln Leisure Center, 7pm. New members are welcome.

**Thursday, November 17 - Master Gardener Program.** Eileen Grotbo & Robin Ringenberg present *Dried and Holiday Decor*, 7pm in the Community Room. Each program will allow 1 hour for the presentation, and 1/2 hour for discussion and questions. Refreshments will be served, no registration is required. For more information on any of these programs, please contact an Adult Services staff member at (309)-828-6091.



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## Opportunity to Earn \$500 for DGNA

John Eckley of ODC has offered our neighborhood an opportunity to earn a \$500 referral fee for bringing him a buyer for the house at 710 E. Front. It is zoned (requires a special use permit) for a first floor office, with 6 off street parking spots. The second floor has a 1200 sq. ft. apartment. It could easily be 2 apartments or could be made back into a single family home. It needs no major mechanical work. The asking price is \$99,900. If you have an interest or a friend with an interest, please call John at 820-0723 or email him at [jeckley@odcworks.com](mailto:jeckley@odcworks.com). Be sure to mention Dimmitt's Grove to qualify for the donation to our neighborhood association treasury if a sale comes from your lead.

## ARE YOU NEW TO DIMMITT'S GROVE?

Welcome to our wonderful neighborhood! We would like to drop off a *Welcome Packet* to help you get to know our neighborhood better. The packet includes: name of your DGNA block captain and officers, a historic walking tour guide, City and garbage pickup information, and more. If interested, please call Pamala Eaton at 829-3424 for your Welcome Packet.

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# DGNA Meeting Minutes

Sept 1, 2005

Submitted by Melanie Hunter,  
for Sharon Warren.

The meeting was called to order by Terri Clemens, President, at Bloomington Public library 205 East Olive St. Minutes from July 2005 were approved.

## Old Business

Terri Clemens reported that funds were in the process of being dispersed to property owners for completed sidewalk projects. A total of 9 people are on the list this year for sidewalk replacement grants, but only two have turned in their requests for reimbursement. Future funding for sidewalk grants were discussed and, due to lower revenue received for the 'Day in Dimmitt's Grove' event this year, we will continue with our current program. Sidewalks that are in dangerously bad condition may be reported to the city in the future, with offers of neighborhood grants to help force replacement of cases that endanger pedestrians. Further input on this matter will be up for discussion at a later date.

The traveling social hour held on July 30th was a huge success and very well attended.

Bob Russano explained restrictions for truck traffic traveling through Front and Grove St, as well as addressing recent excessive noise from motorcycles.

Terri Clemens reported on vandalism at Clayton and Mill streets and theft reported on Taylor St.

## New Business

Dana Kowalewski, owner and operator of the Vrooman Mansion, addressed the meeting with questions regarding any opposition to increasing the amount of events held at the mansion. Currently, the mansion is allowed two per month, or 18 per year (30 people or more). The business would like to increase the number of

events they are allowed to host and to change the number of attendees at events that are considered to be large events to 50. They would like to be able to accommodate bus tours, which travel via Bloomington Normal and generally, visit for 2 hours or so. Any change in licensing would be for Dana and Pam's business and would not pass to new owners in the event of a sale of the property (which is not planned). It was suggested that the business should contact all immediate neighbors surrounding the mansion initially with this proposal in order to gauge support before taking their request to the city.

The next Dimmitt's Grove Meeting will be held on Nov.3rd at The Vrooman Mansion on the corner of Clayton and Taylor at 7pm.

# DETAILS

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