

FOUNDERS' GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ISSUE NO 3 | FALL EDITION – AUGUST 2025 | VOL 24



13th Annual
FGNA

PALOOZA

September 19 & 20, 2025

FRIDAY
home of Bones Bach,
1223 E Washington St.

- Bones Bach Stage = BBS
- Pickled Beats Stage = PBS

5:30-6:30 on PBS
Twang

6:30-7 on BBS
Slow Dog

7-8 on PBS
The Groupset

8-9 on BBS
Nate Wiggins

9-10 on PBS
**Geoff Beran
& The Mystery Van**

SATURDAY
home of Matt Lollar,
1304 E Grove St.

- Grove Stage = GS
- Founders' Stage = FS

11:30-11:55 on FS
(Not) Really Human

11:55-12:10 on GS
Open Mic
with accompaniment by Drew Goss

12:10-1 on FS
**Captain Marvelous
& The Madmen**

1-1:45 on GS
Bill Givens

1:45-2:45 on FS
Skiffle Pop

2:45-3:45 on GS
Drew Goss

3:45-4:45 on FS
Wildemore

4:45-5:30 on GS
**Ricky King
& Tyler Walls**

5:30-6:30 on FS
Blue Sun Band

6:30-7:15 on GS
Dan Basham

7:15-8 on FS
Monarch

8-9 on GS
Matt Sneed

9-10 on FS
Hillbilly High-Rise

It's festival time...

The tradition continues this fall, with 18 live local music acts over two days in two Founders' Grove locations!

Feel free to bring blankets, chairs, snacks, beverages, etc.

FRI, SEPT. 19 is 5:30-10 pm at 1223 E. Washington, home of Bones Bach.

- **Healthy in a Hurry Food Truck** will offer dinner for purchase about 5:30-7:30 pm.

SAT, SEPT. 20 runs 11:30 am - 10 pm at 1304 E. Grove, home of Matt Lollar.

- **Peelers' Pizza Oven** will serve a pizza buffet (donations accepted) from 11:30 am - 2 pm.
- **Bay Area Mexicana Food Truck** will arrive at 5 pm to offer dinner for purchase.
- **Face painting & glitter tattoos** available 2-4 pm by Expressions Body Art & Design (donations accepted).
- **Create your own custom art** at a Pendulum Paint Booth about 3-6 pm. You pick the colors, pour paint into a swinging pendulum cup above a flat canvas, set it in motion, and watch your masterpiece come to life in spiraled patterns. It's hands-on, fun and totally unique. You'll get a box to store your print while it dries. This booth is run by FGNA resident Nate Owen. 100% of donations go to help care for his sister Keisa, who is battling ALS.



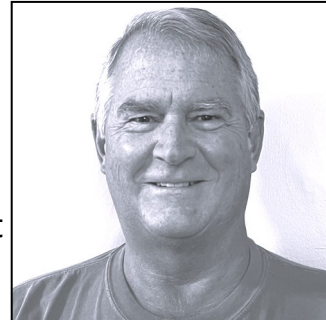
HOT OFF THE PREZ - By Todd Vincent on Grove, Board President

I hope everybody has had a wonderful summer so far. The board listened to you and, based on the survey responses, initiated some kid-friendly activities. The magic show was a big hit, with over 60 people attending, and a lot of families turned out for the pool party too.

We have some exciting events coming up as well that you can find details about in this newsletter, including FGNA Palooza, a puzzle exchange, an opportunity to drive your car on a race track, and the usual regularly scheduled activities. It won't be long until the weather gets crisp and Halloween is just around the corner.

Your board continues to strive to provide activities you're interested in, and unfortunately, we've had to cancel or postpone some that seemed to generate less interest. As always, we'd love to hear from you with any comments, suggestions, or anything you'd like to see more (or less) of in the neighborhood. We also appreciate volunteers to help carry out ideas, too.

We look forward to seeing you out in the neighborhood and at events. Hope to see you there!



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About Founders' Grove Neighborhood Association

FGNA is a 501c3 organization formed to enhance the community in which we live. Every residence on and between Oakland, Mercer, Washington & State streets is a member invited to join all events. No dues required: Activities are funded by donations.

Donate by:

- Cash in FGNA jars at events; or QR code available to pay digitally
- PayPal to fgnabloomington@gmail.com
- Venmo: @FGNABloomington
- Check to: FGNA (c/o Neil Gridley), 1219 E. Washington St., Bloomington, IL 61701

GOALS

- Celebrate and preserve our neighborhood's unique character and history.
- Promote communication and a sense of community between neighbors, with many social gatherings.
- Keep neighbors informed about city projects that may affect them and give our neighborhood a voice in city decision-making.
- Keep the neighborhood safe and traffic under control.
- Help our neighborhood schools & businesses thrive.
- Share expert info on topics of interest such as gardening and home restoration.

2024-2025 FGNA Board

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HELLO, NEIGHBOR! Meet the Heikens, who light up Grove Street each fall

By Jen Johnson on Grove Street

Origins

Lisa and Brad Heiken met at St. Louis College of Pharmacy and moved to Bloomington after graduation. Brad worked for an El Paso family pharmacy (later CVS) for nearly 20 years. Now, the two pharmacists practice locally from one end of BloNo to the other, at OSF St. Joseph and Carle BroMenn.

Getting to FGNA

Lisa grew up in a 1950s-era home in a mature neighborhood in Champaign. In Bloomington, Brad was open to more options than Lisa. "I wouldn't let him buy anything but an old house." She wanted the space and uniqueness from her childhood.

In 2012, they bought a 1920s Prairie Style home now shared with a lively puppy named Poppy and their 9-year-old son, Landon, who keeps them busy enjoying his baseball games.

FGNA Fun: Halloween Light Show

When asked about their favorite FGNA activities, their answers came easily: Easter Egg Hunt, Pizza in the Grove, the 4th of July parade - before they laughed and quickly added Trick-or-Treating and their Halloween light show.

Since 2014 during October evenings, their spooky front yard tombstones flash colors timed to music broadcast on 88.9 FM radio.

Brad begins selecting new songs in summer as the design evolves each year. In August, he hinted at Ozzy Osbourne's music in the mix. In any case, thanks to the Heikens for helping our neighborhood shine brighter!



Trunk or Treat: From 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Halloween, **Centennial Christian Church** will again host this event in their east parking lot, 1219 E. Grove.

Neighbor to Neighbor Classifieds

- **Bunker's Pet Sitting:** Reliable, affordable and dependable. Experience with dogs, cats, reptiles, birds, fish, hamsters. References available. Call or text: 309-706-4907.
- **Babysitting, mother's helper, pet-sitting, yard work or helping people with special needs.** Contact Katie Graehling, age 30, at penguinqueen14@hotmail.com.

To submit a free one-time classified ad: Email sonyajeremy@yahoo.com

Know of an interesting neighbor to feature in the newsletter?

A cool house project to share? Email sonyajeremy@yahoo.com with details.

Driving enthusiasts: Cruise down Route '66 and then make laps on a race track

When: Sat., Sept. 13

What & where: To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Mother Road, Roger and Jen Johnson invite FGNA neighbors to unite on a drive north on Historic Route 66 to the Autobahn Country Club - the Midwest's premier motorsports park with a 3.8-mile road racing circuit (3795 Centerpoint Way in Joliet).



You can bring any car onto the track - it doesn't have to be a race car. It could be a minivan! No motorcycles or motorhomes.

This experience is limited to about 15 vehicles. RSVP by Sept. 6 to RFJOHNSON1413@GMAIL.COM for more details, menu options and questions.

Plans for day: The tour will begin at 8 a.m. from the south end of Menards parking lot in Normal. The drive up Rt 66 should take about two hours. We'll arrive and check in as a group. Your optional preordered /prepaid lunch (\$12-18) will be served at 11 a.m. in the club house. About noon we'll head to our cars and line up on the racing grid to be led onto the track for a 30-minute driving session. A pace car leads the group while you make "touring laps." No passing. Speeds are typically 50-60 mph. No experience required. No helmets required. No drag racing allowed. Safety first.

Puzzle enthusiasts: Exchange old puzzles for new on Sept. 27

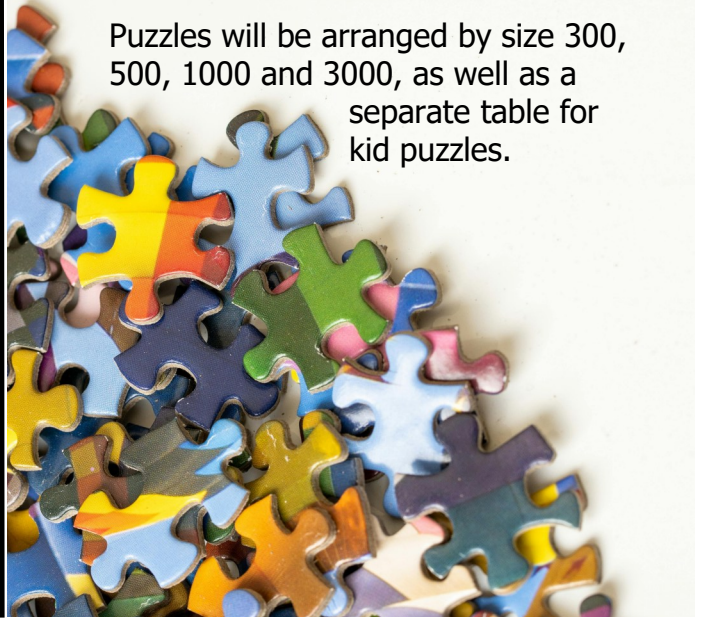
What: Stock up on puzzles for winter! This will be similar to our annual plant exchange: Come and leave puzzles and take puzzles. You do not have to bring one to take one!

When: 10 am-1:30 pm Sept. 27, rain or shine

Where: 1922 E. Jackson, Sue Anderson's home

Details: When bringing puzzles, please have the box secured and note any missing pieces.

Puzzles will be arranged by size 300, 500, 1000 and 3000, as well as a separate table for kid puzzles.



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Refresh summer porch pots for fall

By **Sue Anderson & Julie Murphy**, FGNA residents & gardeners



Late summer has arrived, the tell-tale signs are here: School has begun, days are getting shorter, and Labor Day is almost here. A time of transition! In our outdoor space, one area in need of a transition to fall is our summer porch pots. Here are a few tips to keep the best of summer while adding a fall flair to your pots, for a much needed "refresh."

Begin by taking a look at plants in your pots

- Remove annuals past their prime.
- Deadhead and cut back annuals that are still thriving. A few that last well into cooler months are: petunia, marigold, geranium and zinnia.
- Add some new potting soil and a slow-release fertilizer to support continued growth.

Consider key components

- Remember the old adage about creating an attractive container? You need a thriller, a filler and a spiller to create a balanced pot.
- The thriller is a tall eye-catching plant placed at the back or center of the pot.
- The filler plants are medium height and fill in around the thriller, adding color and texture.



- The spillers are more vine-like, cascading over the edge of the pot, creating a trailing look.

Replace the fillers

- The plants to most likely remove and replace for fall are fillers with added color and texture.
- Plants that are good choices are: aster, dusty miller, chrysanthemum, lamb's ear, pansies, ornamental cabbage/kale, ornamental pepper or snapdragon. And many other choices!
- Some larger plants, like aster or mum, can be divided and used in multiple pots.
- Be sure to consider the light and moisture needs of the plants that are added, and be mindful the days are getting shorter. Do your pots need to be moved to receive enough sun?

Tend the thrillers & spillers

- Often, it will be thrillers (spikes or ornamental grasses) and spillers (creeping Jenny, ivy or vinca vine) that will remain in our pots from the summer. Trim them as needed with a garden scissors to give a fresh look.

Spice it up

- After refreshing and updating your pots, consider adding a few fall decorations: a small pumpkin/gourd, a burlap ribbon or mini straw bale?
- Step back and look at your revitalized porch pot!



SARAH DUTTA, MD

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SEPTEMBER

FGNA CALENDAR

Thurs, Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. – Quarterly Meeting for all residents: Downtown Streetscape

- **What:** A representative from the City of Bloomington will discuss the vision and plans for a Streetscape project to reimagine the Downtown Bloomington experience. If you're interested in more details before the meeting, see downtownforeveryone.com.
- **Where:** Centennial Christian Church, 1219 E. Grove St.

Fri, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. – FGNA Happy Hour/Social on Grove St.: Cool garage, garden!

- **Where:** Roger & Jen Johnson's, 1413 E. Grove St.
- **What:** Come visit with neighbors as you check out the Johnsons' recently remodeled "sports car haven" garage (with fun lighting, artwork, even coffered ceilings!) as well as their "gardener's haven" landscaped patio (with waterfall, a new garden shed, even banana trees!)
- **Bring:** Snack to share, BYOB, cash for 50/50 drawing.

Fri & Sat, Sept 19-20 – FGNA Palooza Outdoor Live Music Fest

- **What:** 18 local music acts entertain over two days, with food available.
- **When & Where:** *Full details on front cover*
 - * Friday - 5:30-10 p.m. at 1223 E. Washington, home of Bones Bach
 - * Saturday - 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. at 1304 E. Grove, home of Matt Lollar.

Kid Friendly

OCTOBER

Sat, Oct. 11 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. – Outdoor showing of "Fantastic Mr. Fox"

- **What:** Come early for fall craft stations for kids before the movie.
- **Where:** 1221 E. Washington St., home of Brett Barbour

Family Event

Fri, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. – Outdoor showing of "The Big Lebowski"

- **What:** Matt will make pitchers of White Russians to pair with the movie.
- **Where:** 1304 E. Grove, home of Matt Lollar

Sat, Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. – Children learn to decorate cookies with Christine

- **What:** Children (age 7+) learn cookie frosting techniques. Parents welcome to participate too.
- **Register & fee by Oct. 19:** Email fgnabloomington@gmail.com to sign up. Limit 10 kids; possible 2nd session. Pay \$5 by Venmo: @FGNABloomington or PayPal: fgnabloomington@gmail.com
- **Where:** 108 Fairview Ave., home of Leisa Barbour

Kids Event

SAVE THE DATE

December Happy Hour – 6 p.m. Fri, Dec. 12 at the home of Mike & Nancy Schulz!!

It'll be like old times! Mike & Nancy will again open their home, 1322 E. Grove, for this traditional event!

Details are best of Board's knowledge at time of printing. Stay up to date on these & recurring monthly events at facebook.com/FoundersGrove, fgna.org or sign up for email updates at bob@dawson1.com