

FOUNDERS' GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ISSUE NO 3 | FALL EDITION – AUGUST 2024 | VOL 23



Feel free to bring chairs, blankets, beverages, snacks, etc., both days!

Back and bigger than ever By Matt Lollar, Event Organizer

The lineup is set: 18 talented acts. The food trucks are scheduled, porta potties ordered, and everything else is ready for the 12th annual FGNA Palooza! Come out to see your favorite musicians over the two-day neighborhood music fest.

Friday, September 6

Music: For those who have missed Friday nights in the past, make plans to come this year! Neighbor Bones Bach has a wonderful stage built onto the back of his garage at 1223 E Washington that will be the setting for a full night of music. Thanks to Drew Goss for handling sound!

Food truck starts 6 p.m.: For the first time we'll have a food on Friday. Special thanks to Brett Barbour for allowing FGNA to use his driveway at 1221 E. Washington for *Healthy in a Hurry* to set up shop. There is gate access from the backyard to the driveway, so you won't miss any of the show while ordering!

Saturday, September 7

Music: Starting at noon there will be wall-to-wall continuous music on two stages at 1304 E Grove, from 13 performers (3 new to FGNA Palooza). Even if you cannot attend the entire day, make plans to pop in as your schedule allows.

Thanks to Bridget Lantz for handling sound on the Grove Stage this year and Chris McGough for sound on Founders' Stage. Having talented neighbors volunteer as sound engineers has been key for Palooza to grow to such heights!

Food:

- **Noon to 2 p.m.:** Back by popular demand is *Peeler's Ovenworks* pizza buffet, owned by our neighbor Kevin Loeske. (No need to bring anything other than a donation.)
- **Starting at 5 p.m.:** *Bay Area Mexicana* will again be selling their fare at the end of the driveway.

Face painting & glitter tattoos: Available for the kids (and young at heart!) from around 2-5 p.m., thanks to Expressions Body Art & Design. (Tips accepted)

FRI., Sept 6

At Bones Bach's,
1223 E. Washington

5:00 twang

6:00 The Groupset

7:00 Blue Sun Band

8:15 Ricky King & Tyler Walls

9:15 Matt Sneed

SAT., Sept 7

At Matt Lollar's,
1304 E. Grove

Noon Herold's Memoir

12:20 Gina Hunter & Doug Bieber

12:40 Captain Marvelous & The Madmen

1:40 Martha Tyner & Jim Stanlaw

2:00 The Readers

3:00 Bill Givens

3:45 Wildermore

4:45 Dan Basham

5:30 Geoff Beran & The Mystery Van

6:30 Drew Goss

7:30 Monarch

8:15 Slow Dog

9:00 Hillbilly High-Rise

Read on, **PALOOZA** — page 4

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

Wow, is it just me or has this summer really flown by? And it's been a busy one!

- The quarterly meeting had what appeared to be record attendance, where we learned a lot about Rivian and their relationship with the twin cities
- Many pizzas were enjoyed at Summer Solstice along with tattoos for the kids (and some adults)
- The annual 4th of July parade had over 150 participants - a fantastic turnout since the weather was looking kind of dicey in the morning. Special thanks to the Schulzes for hosting the potluck afterward.

- The July social featured the first trivia contest. We had positive feedback on this and look to continue it at future socials, possibly with themes related to the months in which the socials are held.



And the biggest event is coming in September. Matt Lollar has pulled together an amazing cast of bands for the Palooza, which will be held on September 6 & 7. All the details are in this month's newsletter.

Seeing the construction happening in the neighborhood is a double-edged sword. It's nice to see the streets being repaved and curbs put in place, but it's also been disruptive to traffic. I feel for the folks on Taylor and Jackson between Moore and Mercer who have been without a street for months. I'm sure once complete, it'll be worth it.

As we wrap up summer activities, I'd once again encourage you to get out and participate. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, as well as have a good time. I hope to see you out there!!

Visit the OHS Architectural Salvage Warehouse for all your old house needs!

214 E Douglas, Bloomington
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Old House Society

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 and State streets is a member invited to join any and all events. No dues are required, and 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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Neighbor spends spare time on the track

Picture it: You're navigating a series of curves at high speed, dialed in with precision. Pushing it a little harder on the straighter stretches, navigating around another driver and keeping an eye on one coming up behind. This isn't a Saturday afternoon on Veterans Parkway. This is neighbor Roger Johnson behind the wheel of a 376-horsepower Porsche on one of the many circuit tracks he's visited across the country.

For him, there's a certain mental challenge involved in this hobby – both on and off the track.

"I'm drawn to trying different things," Roger said. "I really like to learn and figure stuff out on my own."

Roger and other car, truck and motorcycle enthusiasts are invited to share their passion for beautiful and powerful vehicles at a mini car show as part of the Sept. 13 FGNA Happy Hour Social.

Neighborhood roots

The longtime Founders' Grove resident was first a child growing up on the corner of Washington & Warner; now a father of two grown children who lives with his wife, Jen, on Grove Street.

The Johnsons left town for 25 years and came back in 2008, into a home just restored by the late, great David Beich. They love the neighborhood's diversity – the people, even the birds. "Growing up, I thought we had just blue jays, cardinals and robins," Roger said. "But the number of birds we really have just blows my mind."



By Sonya Embry,
FGNA News Editor



Racing roots

In the 1980s, Roger was into motorcross. Later he learned to work on VW Beetles and restored a few. "2017 is when the track itch really started," he said, after friends gifted him a "Porsche track experience" in Atlanta.

Things sort of naturally progressed from there after Jen's brother was looking to get rid of a sports car. Turns out that 1986

Porsche was something a little special. It was originally owned by Tom Cruise, who bought it when filming "The Color of Money" with Paul Newman in Chicago in 1986 – just before "Top Gun."

Roger bought, restored and sold it during the pandemic. Then he acquired a gray 2012 911 Carrera S, and later a red 2015 911 GT3.

In 2021 he really got into what's called "High Performance Driver Education." Roger's driving takes place in a controlled environment – initially with an instructor in the passenger seat. There are defined rules, like for passing other cars. So Roger was able to establish a comfort level over time. These days, even Jen gets behind the wheel sometimes.

Out on the track, Roger

is anticipating and reacting to all the things that could go wrong. "It is about the speed, but you also have to get the car braked to make the next turn," he said. "And sometimes you need to know how to just bail." ... As in, when you can't make a turn and have to hit the grass.

It's a stress you can kind of feed on, he says. And it has made him a much better driver on public roads, too.

Come see all kinds of cool rides... Car Show & Happy Hour, 6 p.m. Sept 13

Please bring a vehicle if you've got one to show! At the Halperin's, 1213 E. Washington.

****Small parking lot next door is reserved for show cars.****

More details on back of newsletter

Continued... **PALOOZA** (from page 1)

Personal aside from Matt Lollar:

I am proud to live in a community that celebrates live music the way FGNA and the greater Bloomington-Normal area does. The weekend after Palooza, the White Place neighborhood hosts its annual **White Place Street Fest on Sept. 14 from 2 to 10 p.m.** Event organizer & Ward 4 City Councilman John Danenberger has extended an invitation to the FGNA (cash donation for attendees requested). It's amazing to have two neighborhoods in Bloomington put on music festivals every year!

With ongoing support from sponsors, performers, sound engineers and audience members, Palooza will keep coming back stronger and better every year.



Wildermore performing at the 2023 FGNA Palooza.

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Fall Tree Planting Tips By Julie Murphy, FGNA resident & gardener



As summer begins to fade, residents of Founders' Grove await the show of brilliant color displayed courtesy of our neighborhood trees! Leaves change to gorgeous reds, oranges, yellows and even purples, making our daily walks even more enjoyable. Some of us may admire a tree or two and consider adding one to our home. Even though spring is thought of as prime planting time, fall is actually one of the best times of year to plant a tree:

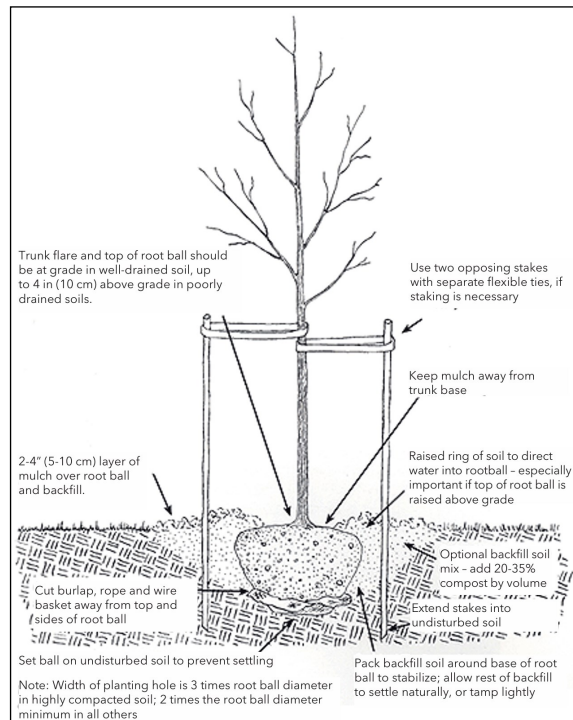
- Cooler fall temperatures place less stress on a newly planted tree than a tree planted in the spring, with incoming summer heat.
- Even though autumn rains tend to be less plentiful, they are beneficial to the newly planted tree. In cooler weather, the rate of water evaporation from leaves/stems is slower, providing less heat and water stress.
- Spring is a time of growth for a tree, whereas fall is a time of slowing growth and putting resources into the root system. A well-established root system is critical to a tree's longevity.

When deciding on a tree for fall planting, keep in mind that a few trees are best planted in the spring, so check planting directions carefully for a tree you wish to plant. Also learn what types of disease, fungi, bugs, etc., are common for different trees so you can watch for any signs of trouble.

Steps to promote success if you plant this fall:

- 1. Choose the correct tree for the location.** What type of soil is present at your chosen site? How much space do you have considering the tree's mature height and spread? How much sunlight will reach the tree each day? (Most trees require full to partial sun.) What types of characteristics are important to you in selecting a tree? Does the tree flower or fruit? What is the fall leaf color? Is there any winter interest?
- 2. Call JULIE (811) before you dig.** Illinois law requires calling for underground utility locations at least 2 working days prior to digging.

- 3. Dig a hole at least 2 times wider than the root ball** – or 3 times if you are planting in compacted soil.
- 4. Be sure the tree is straight** once it is in the hole. Look at it from at least two vantage points to be certain the trunk is truly vertical.
- 5. Confirm the tree is planted at the proper depth** by ensuring the root flare is visible above ground when the soil has been put in place. Water thoroughly.
- 6. Create a 2-3" mulch bed** around the tree, keeping all mulch well away from the trunk of the tree to promote tree health.
- 7. Water the tree daily for the first 1-2 weeks** after planting and then every 2-3 days for the next 3-12 weeks or until the first freeze.



Planting trees contributes to the overall health and beauty of our area, and fall can be a great time to add a tree to your landscape!

Image source: TLC for Trees

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SEPTEMBER

Thurs., Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. – Quarterly Meeting for all residents: Mayoral candidates

- **Speaker:** Come out to hear from some candidates running for Bloomington mayor.
- **Where:** Centennial Christian Church, 1219 E. Grove St.

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 6 & 7 – 12th Annual FGNA Palooza Outdoor Live Music Fest



- **Fri., Sept. 6** - Music starts at 5 p.m. and Healthy in a Hurry food truck starts at 6 p.m. At Bones Bach's backyard stage, 1223 E. Washington.
- **Sat., Sept. 7** – Music starts at noon, with continuous acts until 10 p.m. in Matt Lollar's backyard, 1304 E. Grove. Peeler's Ovenworks starts serving pizza at noon & Bay Area Mexicana starts at 5 p.m.
- *Full details on front cover*



Fri., Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. – Mini Car Show & Happy Hour Social

- **What:** Come admire some cool vehicles - and please bring 'em if you got 'em to show! We're planning prizes for "FGNA Choice Award," "Most Unique" and "Best Vintage." There will be a 50/50 drawing.
- **Food & drink:** We'll also do the usual snacks to pass and BYOB. Bring a six-pack of beer or donation to participate in a "beer pull."
- **Where:** The Halperin's, 1213 E. Washington St.
 - * If you are a participant showing a vehicle, please park in the small lot next to the Halperin's.
 - * If you are a spectator and drive, please park on the street.

Would you consider hosting a happy hour in 2025?

Is there something about your place that might be interesting to neighbors? A cool man cave, she shed, garden, remodel or restoration? Socials are usually the 2nd Friday of most months. If interested, please contact a Board member or email: fgnabloomington@gmail.com

RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

- Play cards at **Euchre Club**.
- At **Music Guild**, share songs from bands/artists around a monthly theme.
- **Mystery Book Club** usually meets 3rd Thurs of month; **Washington Street Book Club** the 1st Tues
- For more info, email fgnabloomington@gmail.com

Events, dates & times listed are to the best of the Board's knowledge at time of printing

To stay up to date on the latest, watch for FGNA events on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FoundersGrove), visit fgna.org or sign up for email updates by contacting Bob Dawson at bob@dawson1.com.

Know of an interesting neighbor to feature in the newsletter? Email sonyajeremy@yahoo.com