

HIGHLANDS DOUGLASS NEIGHBOR

PUBLISHED BY THE HIGHLANDS-DOUGLASS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

THE STORY OF DOUGLASS LOOP

By Ed Flynn

The Highlands-Douglass neighborhood is bordered to the east by our Douglass Community Center and to the west by the historic “Douglass Loop.” Taylorsville Road and Speed Avenue mark our southern and northern extremes. As is clear from the photos, the topography of the Loop has changed little over the last 80 years as it continues to occupy a central social and commercial role for the entire Highlands area.

Abe Lincoln and a Little Loop History

In the early 1800’s, the area surrounding the present-day Highlands-Douglass and Belknap neighborhoods was rich farm land owned by, among others, the Zimlich family. By early-to-mid-century the “Bardstown Pike,” provided a state-of-the-art link from Louisville to My Old Kentucky Home, conducting more and more traffic from the growing city on the Ohio to the rolling hills to the south and east. Exactly two miles out the Pike from its point of origin was a stagecoach stop and inn called “Two-Mile House.”

In August of 1841, Abraham Lincoln is said to have stopped

and perhaps spent one or two nights at Two-Mile House when he visited the slave-holding Joshua Speed family at their plantation, Farmington. It was most likely during his three-week visit there that the young Illinois lawyer first observed, first-hand, the horror of human bondage. It was probably here at Farmington that he developed his deep, abiding and most far-reaching loathing for the institution of African slavery.

Also, during this time, Abe was in a state of deep personal despair, having broken off his relationship with his true love, Mary Todd of Lexington. His visit to his old friend Speed served to revive his spirits and he eventually returned to public life, rekindled his bond with Mary, and scaled the course of events to attain his place in history.

Why “Douglass Loop”?

Douglass Boulevard is named for the prominent businessman, George Douglass, whose 19th Century mansion,

(Continued on the next page)



1941



2020

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DOUGLASS LOOP

(Continued)

“Woodbourne,” still graces the grounds of Douglass Boulevard Christian Church. What might be less well-known is why Douglass Loop is called a “loop.”

The term “loop” harkens back to an earlier era in the history of our City when streetcars formed the backbone of public transportation. In 1912, a downtown streetcar line was extended out Bardstown Road beyond its Highland Avenue terminus, all the way to Douglass Boulevard. It was there that the streetcar route “looped” around for its return trek toward the downtown area. Thus, the Douglass “Loop” was born.



*A Typical 1940's Louisville Trolley
(Shown near downtown)*

Beginning in the early 1920's, this “loop” area began to develop as a commercial center as storefronts, businesses and shops took shape along Dundee Road. By 1935, Bernard Dahlem had razed an old clapboard structure on the site and built what became Steiden's grocery, a neighborhood icon for many years. Also included among the early stores were Datillo's Fruits, Kurz Meats, Winn-Dixie and Taylor Drugs.

In recent years, the Bardstown Road side of the Douglass Loop has become home to Havana Rumba, Graeters Ice Cream and Heine Brothers Coffee. Numerous other shops and stores line the Dundee Road side of the Loop. Foot and motor traffic continue to circle the loop, but neither Abe Lincoln, Joshua Speed, George Douglass, nor clanging streetcars have been spotted there for quite a while.

References: *Courier-Journal, Encyclopedia of Louisville*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,



*Sherry Cornell,
President*

As this newsletter goes to print, it is hard to know what the future holds. Standing in line to get into the grocery store, masked faces, the hunt for toilet paper stock, all of these have become routine. I never used Clicklist before the pandemic because I enjoyed going to Kroger; Invariably I would run into a neighbor or two, and we would stop for a moment to catch up. I miss those days, and I miss my neighbors. I do see their kindness in rainbows plastered about the neighborhood. Every teddy bear and sidewalk chalk message reminds me of their good hearts. Your good hearts.

The HDNA board continues to meet virtually and communicate via phone and email. We want to know how we can serve you. What we can do during these difficult times to continue to build community and support you all. It is unlikely that we will be able to have the Ice Cream Social this year or the Jazz Fest or even the Tree Planting. We are delaying the decisions on those events as late as possible holding onto the slimmest thread of hope. You will know as soon as possible.

I've read many things about how this will change our society. Some predict changes for the better, some for worse. I certainly do not have a crystal ball, but I think our neighborhood will continue to be kind. Neighbors will continue to care about each other, to reach out, to visit, to help one another. We do not know how or when this will end, but I look forward to seeing you and being able to stop to say hello. We have a lot to catch up on and toilet paper to buy!



A NOTE ABOUT THIS EDITION

Ed Flynn, Editor

As the COVID-19 pandemic was unfolding here and around the world, the HDNA Newsletter staff deliberated long and hard over how to handle this Spring/Summer edition. Given these extraordinary times it did not seem appropriate that we would offer the regular bi-annual newsletter with features about typical neighborhood goings-on and events. Nor did we feel it appropriate to approach our regular advertisers during a time when many of them were struggling with temporary closings and curtailed services.

We considered a number of options including forgoing the present issue of the newsletter altogether. We entertained the possibility of an abbreviated version, dedicating the entire issue to the pandemic and other special courses of action. Finally, we decided that a more or less standard newsletter might constitute a welcome diversion from the media's 24/7 drumbeat of sad, scary virus news.

Thus, we are offering a mix of features in this issue, some of them pandemic-related but most of them not. Further, because of the stresses on our business community, and as a "thank you" for their past support, we are running all of the ads in this issue free of charge to our usual advertisers.

So, we hope you enjoy this modified Neighbor newsletter. We extend our best wishes to all of our Highlands-Douglass neighbors as well as to everyone in the greater Highlands area and Louisville at large.

Stay safe. Keep your distance. Stay home (until it is safe to return to your normal routine). Together, we will get through these tough times!





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THE GIVING PANTRY

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN ... TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

By Jennifer Vandiver

A food pantry has been established on the property of Douglass Blvd. Christian Church facing Douglass Blvd. Along with other organizations in the Metro area, The Giving Pantry is a “safety net” to help combat hunger among our Highlands neighbors. The items in the pantry are free and available to ANYONE IN NEED.

If you would like to help stock our pantry, we ask that you bring your donations to us at Douglass Blvd. Christian Church. We welcome any of the following acceptable donations:

- Applesauce
- Canned beans.
- Canned chicken.
- Canned fish (tuna and salmon)
- Canned Meat (SPAM and Ham)
- Canned vegetables.
- Cooking oils (Olive and Canola)
- Crackers
- Pasta (canned or dry) and pasta sauces.
- Canned and frozen meats and fish.
- Meat alternatives (peanut butter, soy, assorted nuts)
- Canned goods (beans, soups, and stews)
- Dairy (fresh, canned, and powdered milk)
- Canned vegetables and fruit.
- Whole grain cereals.
- Infant foods and baby formula.

Please join us in helping to address hunger in our neighborhood.

POLLINATOR GARDENING

by Shelley Piquard

As some of you may know, there has been a large decline in insect populations including pollinators such as bees and butterflies. There are many causes including habitat destruction, use of pesticides, urbanization, etc. Here are some ways we can help pollinators in our own backyards. The Xerces Society (xerces.org) has loads of additional helpful information on creating pollinator-friendly yards.

1. Plant native perennials, bushes and trees. Examples include milkweed, bee balm, goldenrod, asters and coneflower. Try to include spring and fall blooming plants as well.
2. Avoid pesticide and insecticide use. Home gardens can thrive without pesticide use. A call to the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension at (502) 569-2344 can help you identify your pests and suggest a management strategy.
3. Leave the leaves! I understand folks not wanting to leave leaves in their front yards, but back yards are a great place to leave them. Leaving leaves and other trimmings in your garden through the winter and into late spring provides shelter for butterflies, moths and bumble bees. Leaves also act as a mulch and can suppress weed growth. We can also leave some downed branches, stems of pithy plants, and patches of bare ground for nesting sites.
4. Lose the lawn. Lawns offer little support for pollinators and are the single largest irrigated crop in America. Decreasing the size of the lawn by increasing native perennial beds means less mowing and less watering as well.

To learn more about pollinator gardening, visit the Xerces Society, a non-profit environmental organization that focuses on the conservation of invertebrates considered to be essential to biological diversity and ecosystem health.



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- Growing your customer base among area residents.
- Gaining exposure through our biannual newsletter, The Neighbor.
- Complimentary presence on the HDNA website.
- Showing your support of HDNA's activities with a business membership decal.
- Gaining exposure at HDNA events and activities.

**For details on becoming an HDNA Business
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As you frequent the many stores, shops and business establishments around the Highlands area, be sure to look for the HDNA decal prominently displayed on the front door or window. The decal indicates that the particular establishment is an active Business Member of our Association. It represents a financial commitment to the neighborhood and to supporting the programs and activities of HDNA. Be sure to thank them for their civic spirit and generosity.

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MEET LT. ROB KING

by Pam Sullivan Masters

Rob King has served as the Lieutenant for the Fifth Division of the Louisville Metro Police Department since August 2019. Lt. King says he relies on his 13 years of LMPD experience in responding to the current needs during the pandemic. He has served in the Fourth Division (including Smoketown, Iroquois, and University of Louisville) as well as the Ninth District Mobile Unit, helping to reduce crime in neighborhoods such as Shawnee and Russell. With his knowledge of how people react during times of stress, Lt. King is proactive in his approach.

Lt. King learned early to juggle responsibilities as he worked at Ford for ten years while actively engaged in raising his children. He attended night school to pursue his dream of a career in law enforcement.

Lt. King emphasized the importance of being vigilant about outsiders in our neighborhood at this time. If you see someone who appears to be doing something that does not seem legitimate, "Call it in," he says. A car will be sent to check out the situation. Less immediate situations, such as a bicycle theft, graffiti, or other non-threatening scenarios should be reported, but residents need to exercise patience with police response times.

Routine, on-going police patrols continue in our neighborhood. Cherokee Park bustles with young people, including teenagers hanging out in the park. Police monitoring of the park has increased to address a lack of safe distancing during the pandemic and increased unsafe and illegal behavior each week. Lt. King reports that night-time patrols have increased to reduce the probability of break-ins in area restaurants and businesses.

Lt. King explained that in addition to the general shortage of police in the city, Fifth Division officers have been assigned to assist with protecting hospitals and assisting with prisoner transfers. Each officer is

working overtime and all earned vacations and days off have been put on hold. The Lieutenant notes that the extra work and long hours are especially hard on those with young children.

How can the neighborhood help during these pandemic times? It is crucial that officers remain healthy and, since so many masks must go to healthcare workers, the police often run short of needed masks. Lt. King said the donation of masks, even if they are not N-95's, would be accepted and appreciated in the Division as the officers strive to keep us safe during the war against COVID-19.

Lt. King is clearly committed to maintaining safe neighborhoods in the District as demonstrated by his attendance at various neighborhood association meetings where he introduced himself personally. Most valuable of all, he continues to provide the kind of on-the-ground leadership we need during this time of crisis.

We are fortunate to have the dedication that Lt. King brings to serving our district in this time of unusual stress and work overload. We are grateful that he took the time for this interview.

Thank you, Lt. King, and thanks to all of your officers for your service to our community!

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HDNA REFORESTATION PROJECT

Tree Planting Update

by Barbara Berman

The Highlands Douglass Reforestation Project is hoping to plant up to 125 canopy trees next October 24-25. Of course, we will be following all Covid-19 guidelines that are in place as we plan the process and at the time of planting. So far, we have planted about 950 trees with the aid of MSD grants and we would love to surpass 1000 trees. We welcome requests from anywhere in our neighborhood but our priority streets next Fall are Valetta, Millvale, Castleberry, Wrocklage, 2300 and 2500 block of Woodbourne, Carolina and Grasmere.



We will be planting a variety of tree species, including Black Walnut, American Linden, Sugar (Silver) Maple, Black Cherry, Big Leaf Magnolia, Hackberry, Hickories (various species), Northern Pecan Persimmon, Tulip Poplar, Sycamore, White Oak for corners, Post Oak and others. The cost to homeowners is \$35 for 1 tree, \$25 each if 4 or more. This includes a 7-foot tree, planted, mulched and a water bag. As an incentive, if you have 2 canopy trees in the front or 2 in the backyard, we will plant a decorative tree in that area.

We need and welcome volunteers to help with the following tasks: distributing flyers; canvassing homes; ordering trees; making paper tags and ordering metal tags; contacting Before You Dig; unloading, sorting and tagging trees; delivering trees to homeowners; planting and mulching trees. Most of these tasks require little or no particular physical strength.

To order one or more trees or to volunteer, please contact Barbara Berman at barbaraberman2@gmail.com.



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We offer daily teledermatology visits. During the COVID-19 pandemic we are available for in-person urgent or emergent visits.

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See you soon.

Heine Brothers' Coffee

Douglass Loop is open for carry-out & delivery Monday - Sunday from 7am-7pm.

We're carrying our full menu, and offer contactless payment (and rewards!) with our HB Perks app.

Kerns Korner

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Park Community Credit Union

Although branch lobbies have closed, all drive-thru lanes are still in full operation as well as online and mobile banking, ATMs, and ITMs to give members full access to their funds.



JOIN THE HDNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HDNA Board Members are elected each year by the membership at the annual meeting in January. Board members volunteer to serve for three-year terms of office and agree to participate in monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. Most serve on one or more of our standing committees (Executive, Finance, Membership) or on one or more of our ad hoc project teams (Big Rock Jazz & Blues Fest, Reforestation, Newsletter).

We invite you to explore becoming a Board member by contacting us at info@highladsdouglass.org

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HDNA BOARD MEETINGS
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We welcome everyone in the neighborhood to join us at one of our monthly Board Meetings. There is no better way to keep abreast of what is happening in the neighborhood, and we invite all neighbors to participate. Meetings are held at 6:30PM on the first Wednesday of each month (EXCEPT JANUARY) at the Douglass Community Center, 2305 Douglass Blvd. You are invited to drop by anytime to help us plan neighborhood activities and to present/discuss any topics that pertain to our area.

**HDNA IS ON FACEBOOK,
 TWITTER, NEXTDOOR,
 INSTAGRAM AND THE WEB**

You can keep up to date with events and news from the Highlands-Douglass Neighborhood on Facebook.com/highlandsdouglass, on Twitter@HDNA40205 or Instagram www.instagram.com/highlandsdouglass. You can also find a wealth of information about our neighborhood on our web page at www.highlandsdouglass.org On our website you can find information about:



- HDNA as an Organization
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- Our Bylaws
- Douglass Community Center
- Events and Activities
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For just \$15 per household per year, you can become a member of the Highlands-Douglass Neighborhood Association. Your membership will help us serve our community by:

- Working with your Metro Council representative to improve our neighborhood.
- Promoting safety and security in our area.
- Bringing neighbors together by sponsoring events and activities such as the Big Rock Jazz & Blues Fest, Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social, Speakers Series and Reforesting the neighborhood.

To join, please mail your check for \$15 to the Highlands-Douglass Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 5194, Louisville, KY 40255 or go on line to highlandsdouglass.org/membership and pay with PayPal.

