

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association

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Decatur's Original Boulevard District

The Clokey Park Neighborhood developed just after the Civil War. Our boundaries run west from 22nd Street to Jasper St and south from East Eldorado St to Wood St.

The purpose of the Clokey Park Neighborhood Association is to improve the quality of life, proactively address juvenile delinquency, support revitalization and stabilization efforts, and effectively network as residents and neighbors for a better neighborhood.

The Clokey Park Neighborhood Association began on July 31, 2007 at a neighborhood meeting held in Clokey Park organized by Jason Butterick with the support of Dove, Inc. Community Services.



Join Our Association

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association is seeking members.

The association offers annual membership plans for individuals and businesses/institutions. Individual annual memberships are \$10 a year. Business/Institution annual memberships are \$25 a year.

Membership in the Clokey Park Neighborhood Association is open to any property owner, active business organization, and resident within the official boundaries, as well as persons or groups with an interest in enhancing the health, well-being, and quality of life.

Membership benefits include:

Complimentary subscription to this quarterly newsletter.

Voting privileges in neighborhood

leadership and direction of neighborhood.

Pride in supporting your neighborhood and neighborhood group.

Opportunities to engage in the next chapter of success in the Clokey Park neighborhood.

To join, fill out an application at a Clokey Park event, or online at our website: clokeypark.org

Become a Member

Whether as an individual or business/institution, show your support by becoming a member today.

CLOKEY PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Join your neighborhood organization.
- Participate in a friendly walk each Sunday at 4 pm.
- Support revitalization and stabilization efforts and activities.
- Learn some of Clokey's Lost History

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Clokey Park Neighbor

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2019

Welcome to the Neighbor!

Meet your neighborhood newsletter!

The Clokey Park Neighbor first edition was in September 2010, and it was sometimes monthly, sometimes quarterly, and sometimes not at all.

We think quarterly is a good place to start.

One of the "perks" of becoming a paid-membership participant, whether as an individual or business/institution is your subscription to this neighborhood-centric journal of events, opportunities, and news.

We want to highlight the good of our neighborhood, showcase residents who are making or desire to make a difference, and celebrate our business accomplishments and

establishments.

Your participation is key to our success in these endeavors. If you know something good is



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happening in our neighborhood, let us know, share a contact, even give a copy of our newsletter to someone

considering joining our organization. Every little effort can produce a good and unexpected result.

With the relaunch of both our organization and this newsletter, it is our hope and expectation that we will be able to partner and encourage more good, more pride, and make a difference to revitalize our neighborhood.

We all live here.

We may even work here or nearby.

Tell us your story.

Share your good news.

Inform us of your challenge and struggle.

Let's meet and become good neighbors!

From the Neighborhood President

The start of the *Neighbor* is just one of numerous ways the Clokey Park Neighborhood Association is responding to the City of Decatur's neighborhood revitalization plan underway.

I participated in all but the last two meetings of this potentially

game-changing initiative that began with community meetings held at MacArthur High School last fall.

With several months and no word, it would be easy to conclude that whatever was shared and discussed, did not

matter to city staff and officials. That would be untrue.

I didn't expect it, but my enthusiasm for working together for a better neighborhood, a better quality of life for our residents and businesses needed it. More is to come! -Jason

Meet Your Neighbors: The Butterick's



Patrick, Jason, & Amanda Butterick

Our first neighbor profile is what many may say is the First Family of Clokey Park.; Jason, Amanda & Patrick Butterick.

Jason Butterick purchased 1953 E Prairie in February 1999. Soon after moving in, he began to look for an active neighborhood group. Finding no such group existed, he began talking with Francie Johnson of Dove, Inc. Community Services to develop a neighborhood organization.

Life got in the way for a little while when Jason married Amanda in 2001. The two first met as students at Millikin University in 1997. Jason graduated from Millikin University in 1998 with a Bachelors of Commercial Music degree; Amanda in 1999 with a Bachelors of Science in Accounting.

Their lives were changed with the arrival of Patrick in 2003. Jason restarted his interest in forming a neighborhood

organization while beginning his studies at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN in 2004.

The first meeting was held on July 31, 2007 in Clokey Park.

Jason serves as Pastor of Prairie Avenue Christian Church. Amanda works at the Illinois Department of Revenue. Patrick is currently a Sophomore at Eisenhower High School.

“There is nothing wrong in our neighborhood that cannot be overcome by what is good and right in our neighborhood.”

East Main Street repair and paving completed October 2018



Third Thursday Meetings

The Clokey Park Neighborhood Association has moved its meeting schedule from 4th Mondays at 6:30 pm to the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. The move was suggested to encourage better attendance of programs and activities, as several neighbors expressed commitments on Monday evenings.

There is one exception to the “Third Thursday” schedule, and it is actually our next neighborhood meeting. With the Third Thursday falling on Maundy Thursday during the Christian Holy Week, it has been rescheduled for the 4th Thursday in April, April 25th.

All meetings are open to the public and any neighbor, business, or organization

interested in the health, well-being, and quality of life of Clokey Park neighbors. Meetings are held at Prairie Avenue Christian Church.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- Thursday, April 25
- Thursday, May 16,
- Thursday, June 20.

East Main Street Improvements

East Main Street received needed pavement and sidewalk improvements this past road repair season.

Since February 2016, a local motor fuel tax was approved by Decatur City Council to address the worst of the streets

in various neighborhoods of the city.

The historic brick pavement has been sealed beneath asphalt, with sidewalk curbing and accessibility issues corrected.

Other efforts to make East Main safer included the

installation of stop signs on the east and west boulevards at each block.

Most of the streets in the Clokey Park neighborhood have their original brick pavement underneath asphalt.

Neighborhood Fund Established



You can give to your neighborhood group and receive a charitable tax deduction.

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association has established a named fund with the Community Foundation of Decatur & Macon County for the purpose of receiving charitable gifts to benefit the association's mission. Currently, the

Foundation of Decatur & Macon County. Seeking 501(c)3 status for Clokey Park Neighborhood Association alone is cost prohibitive.

Contributions given in the name of the Clokey Park Neighborhood Association Fund will be part of the investment portfolio of the Community Foundation. 100% of your contribution

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association is not a 501(c)3 organization, but will benefit from having a fund with an established 501(c)3 organization, the Community

will go to support Clokey Park Neighborhood Association programs. It is expected that our named fund will make us attractive to local philanthropists and also eligible for grants that require 501(c)3 status to qualify.

While cash is the most common gift, gifts of stocks, bonds, retirement funds and life insurance or will bequests can also be granted to the benefit of the Clokey Park Neighborhood Association.

For more information about our fund and about donor opportunities, please contact Community Foundation of Decatur & Macon County: 217-429-3000.

Contributions can be given at any Clokey Park event or directly to the Foundation at their address: 125 N Water, Suite 200, Decatur IL, 62523.

Be sure to note the contribution to be for the benefit of the Clokey Park Neighborhood Association Fund

Sunday Evening Walks Begin

An effort to consistently meet, talk, and listen to neighbors will begin each Sunday at 4 pm, weather permitting.

Neighbors and community partners will be joining us at the East Eldorado McDonalds (1835 E Eldorado) to walk a section of our neighborhood for about one hour.

This activity is one of several responses following the tragic

death of 2 year old Ta'naja Barnes from neglect at 1845 E North Street..

Surveys will be available for neighbors willing to share information and issues impacting their lives and their block. The goal of completed surveys is to connect needs to available programs or assistance, distribute neighborhood events, flyers, and activities, and encourage involvement.

Upcoming Sunday Evening Walks Schedule (Weather Permitting)

- 4pm—5 pm
- April 7, 14, 21, 28
- May 5, 12, 19, 26
- June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

If Walls Could Talk: 1850 E William

East William Street history is being bulldozed into oblivion.

On January 22, 2019, the City Council took final action towards the demolition of 1850 E William Street, which has been abandoned and open to the elements for over 10 years.

When it was built in April 1922, it was the proud home of James

Galloway, a long-time employee of the Staley Company. When he died in 1942, he was then the longest serving employee in company history.

Mr. Galloway was president of the Pines Community Association and one of the first directors of the Decatur Park District when it was established in 1924.

Over a span of 20 years, it has been estimated that Galloway was responsible for raising over a quarter of a million dollars for local organizations.



RIP: 1850 E William