

## Newsletter December 2002

### JAIL NEWS

We have applied for a Department of Historic Preservation and Architecture Grant to assist in the renovation of the Jail's built-in box gutters. It is a 50% matching grant and the total is \$21,500 with our organization needing to match their funding of \$10,750 with \$10,750 from our funds. We should know by February if we will receive funding. In any event, the gutter issue needs to be addressed and any suggestions and efforts you might give, would be greatly appreciated. All donations are fully tax deductible.

We plan to have a late January garage sale at the Fairgrounds. So, if you didn't get a chance to hold that garage sale this past summer or fall or if you just want to clean out that garage or those closets, please call any board member and we will pick up your donations which are tax deductible. You may also drop off items at the jail. If you would like to assist, please call Tina Chafey at 342-6082. We will be contacting you by phone the first couple of weeks in January to remind you about donations. Our plan is to hold the garage sale on a Saturday from 8:00 - 4:00.

Correction: Jailbird Antiques "IS" accepting consignments.

### KENNEDY LIVING CENTER UPDATE

It is our understanding that CSC has an arrangement with the CARS organization which involves leasing the older hotel portion to them in two years. The City has placed an indefinite stay on any demolition of the 1890 section. We are hopeful that steps will be taken to prevent further deterioration. We have also volunteered to take the necessary steps in putting it on the National Register but they decided not to pursue the nomination at this time.

### MINERAL WATER SIGN

The great news is that the support for the sign has been tremendous. MCHPS was requested to be a receiver for the funds and we have set up a separate account for its donations until they can be utilized.

There has also been support to renovate the clock and the chimes in the tower of the courthouse.

### 2002 HOME TOUR

Mark your calendars for the yearly Home Tour which will be held December 8, 2002 from 3:00 - 6:00. We are also in need of volunteers to act as hosts and hostesses for each of the houses. If you would like to help, please contact Tina Chafey (342-6082). The current list of homes is:

739 E. Washington Street  
109 S. Jefferson Street  
1089 E. Harrison Street  
660 E. Washington Street  
590 E. Morgan Street  
389 E. Washington Street

Tickets will be available starting the week of November 24. Please watch the paper for details.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The board briefly discussed the potential for a Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for the City of Martinsville. Even though a majority of the town is on the National Register, this does not prevent a building from being torn down. An HPC would act similarly to the Zoning Commission or Planning Commission with published meetings held each month. The mission of an HPC is to establish Historic Districts. The districts that the board discussed were Conservation Districts. Once a Conservation District is established, then prior to demolishing a building, moving a building or constructing a building, it must be approved by the HPC. In most cases, 70% of the building owners involved in a potential district must approve the district. A Conservation District could consist of one building, one side of the street, both sides of the street, a block, two blocks, etc. You might ask, "What positive effect would a Conservation District have on me?" In a business area, no one could tear down a building unless approved by the HPC. In addition, any new buildings would have to be approved by the HPC prior to being built. In a residential area, unfortunately some things happen to homes through "Acts of God" (i.e., storms, fires, etc.). If you live next to a house that is destroyed, would you want to see a home built that does not fit into your neighborhood and as a result could potentially decrease the value of your property? Major additions to existing homes would also have to be approved if these homes or buildings were in a Conservation District.

If you have any interest in becoming a member of a potential Historic Preservation Commission, please contact a board member and let us know of your interest. The only criteria for being a member of the Commission would be that you live within the City Limits and that you have a positive interest in preservation. The board is considering approaching the City Council to recommend that Martinsville create one of these Commissions. We would greatly appreciate your input.

## MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE DUE JANUARY 1, 2003

Just a reminder that memberships will be due January 1, 2003. We are enclosing a self-addressed envelope in addition to a membership form for your convenience. We would also like to know your thoughts and concerns and would appreciate it if you could possibly take the time to respond to our questionnaire and enclose it with your dues.

## ITEMS FOR SALE

The following items are available for sale at the Jail:

Jail Booklet \$5.00  
Morgan County Interim Report \$15.00  
Jail Magnets \$4.95

## SAD NEWS

In addition to damage that many of you might have experienced with the recent storms and tornados, it is with regret that we discovered that the Hastings Schoolhouse also fell victim to the storms. All that is left is a pile of brick and we have asked Terry Maxwell to notify us when we can come to rescue what bricks are left.

## MCHPS NEWS

The Board recently elected Joe Mills Vice President and welcomed two new members, Jackie and Randy Marsh from Monrovia in addition to Del Chafey. Congratulations

Joe and welcome to Jackie and Randy and welcome back Del!

Board Members

Tina Chafey, President (342-6082)  
Joe Mills, Vice President (342-0391)  
Terry Bell, Secretary (352-0551)  
Mark Stuttgen, Treasurer (349-1537)  
Del Chafey, Director (342-6082)  
Randy Marsh, Director (317-996-3980)  
Jackie Marsh, Director (317-996-3980)  
Sally Goss, Ex-Oficio

Morgan County Historic Preservation Society  
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