

Preservation News July 2002



LATEST ON THE KENNEDY LIVING CENTER

Members of the board have been working jointly with Laura Wright of the Community Foundation Center in an attempt to stop the wrecking ball of the oldest portion of the Kennedy Living Center (formerly Martinsville Sanitarium). The CSC is unable to utilize the oldest portion of the complex at this time and unless a use can be found for the oldest section, the plans are to demolish it as soon as possible. As this building is one of two of the remaining sanitariums left standing in the “Artesian City”, it is our fervent hope that an organization will step up and assume responsibility for its use. Because the CSC cannot afford the maintenance, utilities nor renovation of this portion (according to the board of the CSC), their only option is to demolish it.

Meetings have been held with Historic Landmarks of Indiana jointly with Morgan County Preservation Society and the board of CSC in an effort to convince them that a use can be found for the older section and not to rush in and tear it down. According to the CSC, a suitable use must be found for the older section prior to their August 1 deadline in order for them to meet their grant deadline.

In an effort to assist with preservation of the building, we are in the process of nominating the older section to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you share our concern for this valuable Martinsville landmark, please contact any member of the MCHPS or CSC board and voice your concerns. If you have any thoughts as to a use for the older section, please contact us as soon as possible as time is of the essence.

(CSC Board Members: Amanda Bailey, Linda Barnett, Linda Brooks, Marshall Gregson,

Larry Judd, Larry Kuntz, Barbara Martin, Dennis Mills, James Mosier and Martin Pursel)

JAIL NEWS

A temporary fix has been made to the leaking box gutters on the west side of the jail which should resolve the leak problem temporarily. We are in the process of raising funds in order to fix the problem permanently.

If you haven't already done so, please stop in and take a look around Jailbird Antiques and Hummingbird Heaven. Tina and Judy are now accepting consignments of quality antiques.

Brochures will also be available for \$5.00 detailing the history of the jail and some interesting inmates in addition to photos.

Summerfest 2002

It was a wonderful day for Summerfest. Many of Jailbird Antiques' dealers contributed items for the Silent Auction. The huge water barrel was indeed a conversation item and the Silent Auction was termed a success by raising \$250 toward the upkeep of the jail. We plan to hold another Silent Auction during Fall Foliage Festival with items up for bid located at the jail for preview. If you have any items you would like to donate, please contact Tina at 349-1949.

Board Members

Tina Chafey, President (342-6082)
Terry Bell, Secretary (352-0551)
Mark Stuttgen, Treasurer (349-1537)
Joe Mills (342-0391)
Kari Price, Ex-Oficio
Sally Goss, Ex-Oficio
Del Chafey, Ex-Oficio
Joanne Stuttgen, Ex-Oficio

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held at Suzanna's on May 21, 2002 and, as expected, wonderful desserts and drinks were served. Three board members of the Community Service Center (Laura Wright, Linda Brooks and Dr. Larry Kuntz) were present to discuss their problem with the older portion of the Kennedy Living Center. A feasibility study was performed on the center and it was decided that the newer portions could, in fact, be utilized for a homeless shelter. Dr. Kuntz relayed his concern regarding expansion in the future.

Unfortunately their future expansion plans do not include the older section. They agreed to take our concerns to their board at their next meeting. Joanne gave an update on the National Register nominations. The Mooresville Commercial Historic District has passed its initial review. Cedar Point Farm is pending. Three properties were listed in the 2001-2002 timeframe: Lambs Creek Bridge, Lake Ditch Bridge (Monrovia) and Elm Spring Farm. Several fund raising projects were suggested: a ball, garden tour, bicycle tour, flea market, benefit auction. If you have any suggestions, please contact a board member. The treasurer's report at that time indicated that we have \$2195.30.

MCHPS NEWS

It was with regret that we learned of Sally Goss' new opportunity and move to Atlanta, Georgia. We extend to her our heartfelt appreciation for the time she has spent with the Morgan Co. Historic Preservation Society in addition to her many other interests. We have also ensured that she will remain in touch. Thanks again, Sally and Good Luck! After receiving Sally's resignation, the board elected Tina Chafey as President of MCHPS. We would also like to warmly welcome Joe Mills as our newest board member.

The Morgan County Interim Report which lists the historic properties of Morgan County (in addition to their designation) is now available for purchase at the jail for \$15.00. Suzanna's Café has moved to 590 E. Morgan Street (the old Hummingbird Heaven location). Her hours are Monday – Friday 10-3 and Saturday by appointment.

We are actively looking for new **board members**. Meetings are held at the jail the 3rd Tuesday of each month starting at 6:00 PM. If you are interested, please contact Tina Chafey at 349-1949. We would also like to be aware of any other buildings in our community that are in danger of demolition. If you know of any, please contact a board member immediately. Thank You!