Upcoming events

**February 3**—Voting Day
Proposition A will decide fate of 3% lodging tax

**February 8**—"Hidden in Plain Sight—Art Treasures of the Missouri State Capitol" program by Bob Priddy
1:30pm, Capitol Rotunda. For reservations call 632-2818

**March 20**—HCJ Annual Dinner Meeting, Central United Church of Christ, Social hour starts at 5:30PM

**April**—Golden Hammer Award program resumes.

**June 7**—HCJ Annual Homes tour

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**HCJ Annual Dinner Meeting**

Theme: “Looking Back—Moving Forward”
March 20

The highlight of the Historic City of Jefferson’s year is the Annual Dinner meeting allowing members the opportunity to catch up on current organization activities and to enjoy socializing with old and new friends. This year promises to be no less enjoyable and informative. Plan to join your friends on Friday evening **March 20** at the Central United Church of Christ at 118 E. Ashley in Old Munichberg. The social hour will begin at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM, a business meeting and installation of officers at 7:00 and a program at 8:00 PM. The Rev. Stephen Buchholz will give tours of the historic church during the social hour.

The program for the evening has not been decided but will compliment the evening's theme: “Looking back—Moving forward”.

Lutz’s BarBQ will be catering the meal. You will be receiving by mail your invitation and opportunity to make your reservations. More information on the program will be available also on our web site. Hope to see you there!

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T. L. Price Society: New HCJ Membership Opportunity

The Thomas Lawson Price Society (TLP) is a newly formed special group within HCJ, named after the first Mayor of Jefferson City. The TLP Society is a new and important way for members to make significant contributions to advance the HCJ mission beyond the payment of dues. The society was created so that HCJ can become a more influential and proactive advocate of our endangered architectural heritage. To be a part of this society and its important effort, a $1,000 pledge is required, payable in five annual installments of $200 each, or in a lump sum, if so desired. The elite members of the TLP Society will be recognized by HCJ and participate in special events and programs, as they are developed. The charter members will be introduced at our Annual Dinner meeting, March 20. You can join this prestigious group using the membership application form. These were recently mailed to members, but may also be found on our web site: www.historiccityofjefferson.org. We hope you will consider adding your name to this exclusive list!

Visit our web site at www.historiccityofjefferson.org
HCJ Retreat Sets Goals
For Growth and Success

It was a cold night in January, but that did not stop leaders of HCJ from gathering in a conference room in the beautifully restored offices of Penman and Winton, just above Chez Monet on High Street. The purpose of the meeting was to chart a course for the future of the organization in the coming months. Facilitator Stu Murphy guided our discussion and three priorities emerged. I would like to share those with you:

**Fundraising**

HCJ has many programs and activities, but like any worthy endeavor, the organization needs proper funding if we are to realize our dreams. We realize that membership dues and activity fees help, but we have to find new streams of income if we are to be successful in our work. The board and assembled leaders set a goal of raising $25,000 in each of the next three years to fund our operations. It is hoped that membership in the new Thomas Lawson Price Society, corporate sponsorships of HCJ programs, and paid advertising in our newsletter and on our Web site might help us reach our goals. And long term, creation of the new HCJ Foundation will also help, providing planned giving opportunities for those who wish to leave bequests or memorials to HCJ.

**Attitudes**

It is critical that we change community attitudes about the importance of historic preservation in our community. Actually, we can see fruits of that labor already as downtown facades are brought back to former glory and developers seek to revitalize entire blocks of historic buildings, most notably in the Old Munichberg area. The CVB tells visitors, “You’ll Feel the History.” We want to make sure that remains the case for generations to come.

**Membership**

We have a very vital base of committed members who are passionate about our history and about historic preservation. But we need to enlist more of our friends and neighbors as HCJ members, and we need to ask our members to become active in our programs and events. But, please, don’t wait to be asked. Volunteer to be of help! It will be good for you, and for HCJ.

One thing you can do is plan to attend our Annual Meeting on Friday, March 20. It is the best opportunity of the year to mix and mingle with your fellow members and to learn first hand what we are doing to strengthen our organization and to move forward. See you then!
Historic Preservation Commission Has Tough Job:
Recent Demolitions Requests Threaten Old Neighborhood

The Jefferson City’s Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has the disagreeable task of reviewing demolition requests of buildings within the city limits that are over 50 years old. Often times, the houses in question are blighted and architecturally insignificant. But not always. Although the HPC routinely advises against demolition of structures that appear structurally sound and are deemed architecturally and historically significant, it is only a recommendation and ultimately the owner can demolish whatever they want. These recent requests for demolition before the commission are particularly disturbing as they are significant both in their location and their architectural styles. They are all in reasonably good condition.

Top right: 506 Mulberry—A 1940s Swiss style.
Above: 504 Mulberry—An 1880s Queen Ann

The owner bought both of these properties together to tear down for parking for a strip mall on Elm street located behind the properties. These properties are located on the north-western edge of the Old Munichberg district.

1117 Jefferson St. (above center) 1119 Jefferson St. (above)
These stone and brick Swiss style cottages were built in the 1930s and located at the north-east edge of the Old Munichberg district. Memorial Baptist Church. owner (located up a hill SE of properties) requested demolition permit because “Cost of upkeep and potential renovation and disrepair is not beneficial to the church.”
Much has been written about life inside the walls of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) during its 167-year history. Today we will look at the neighborhood and community outside the walls.

A Neighborhood and a Community

One might expect an institution like a state prison to have a negative impact on the neighborhood around it. However, that does not appear to have been the case in the area surrounding MSP. This was a community. Individuals and families lived in the area and interacted with their neighbors. There were stores and other services for residents.

Who Lived in the Neighborhood?

Until approximately 1920, the street we now call East Capitol Ave was known as East Main. For clarity, we will use the current name, East Capitol Ave., unless presenting a direct quote.

A variety of occupations were represented by residents of the community outside the walls of the prison. Cherry St. had the homes of two former mayors of Jefferson City. Along East Capitol Ave. between Cherry St. and Lafayette, lawyers, newspaper editors, businessmen and state workers resided. Farther west on East Capitol Ave. entrepreneur businessmen who owned businesses located in the prison built large and impressive homes outside the walls. There were doctors, builders and people who worked in factories living in this area. Two buildings in the 700 block of East Capitol Ave., 700 and 722 East Capitol Ave., were owned by the Department of Corrections and used as residences for the Superintendent of Prisons and the Warden at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Early in its history, the area was not well populated. Other than the prison, which opened its doors in March 1836, there were few homes in the area. Ford’s History of Jefferson City, written in 1938, included an excerpt from a manuscript written by Frank B. Miller, an architect who designed many important buildings in Jefferson City and Missouri. Mr. Miller described Jefferson City in the late 1860s and early 1870s. Mr. Miller could only recall one building in the 700 block of Main St.

“I will start at Cherry Street and to save time I will take in the cross streets to High and mention only those houses on Main Street of which I can name the occupants. I will start with Dr. Davison’s house on the corner of Cherry and Main. This was the only house in this block that I can remember. There may have been one more. There were no houses on Cherry Street to High. In the next block west on the south side of the street were the homes of J.S. Fleming and W. W. Dallmeyer, both engaged in the banking business. There were none on Lafayette Street.”

Owners of 718 East Capitol Ave. and the dates they owned the property were identified in the property abstract:

Elwood Kirby owned the property August 3, 1868 – March 13, 1871

W.C. and Lucy Boone owned the property March 13, 1871 – October 19, 1885

Jacob C. Fisher owned the property October 19, 1885 – April 18, 1899

Frederick E. Giesecke owned the property April 18, 1899 – May 24, 1913

Stokes M. Griffin owned the property May 24, 1913 – May 9, 1921

Happy and Cornelia Watts owned the property May 9, 1921 – 1967

(Continued on page 5)
The above property owners were a diverse group. Elwood Kirby was a newspaper editor, and must have been quite the bachelor. The following editorial was written about him in his own paper, the People's Tribune on April 22, 1868, after his marriage:

"Another Benedict. Another reduction of the Bachelor corps. Kirby, we never thought it of you. A few weeks ago we were profoundly impressed with your "words of wisdom," advising the masculine portion of the community to remain ever in a state of single blessedness. We began to consider the latter state infinitely preferable to a life of double wretchedness. But now! How shall we express ourselves? Kirby, you have gone and done it, went back on your sage admonitions, and so, good-bye."

W. C. Boone was the librarian at the Supreme Court in 1873 when he and his wife Lucy held the first meetings of the First Christian Church in their home at 718 East Capitol Ave. In the 1880s Mr. Boone operated a chair factory inside the prison. It should be noted that the house that the Boones lived in was a different house than the one currently located at 718 East Capitol.

The 1897–98 Jefferson City Directory shows Jacob Fisher living at 718 East Capitol Ave. and his occupation as lawyer and editor of the Republican Courier.

According to the 1900 U.S. Census, Frederick E Giesecke manufactured shoes. By 1908 he had opened a livery. Ads for the Giesecke Bros livery stable could be seen in the Jefferson City Tribune.

Frederick E. Giesecke was a son of Frederick Giesecke who owned the Giesecke Shoe Factory. At one time this factory was located inside the prison walls. It later moved outside the walls to 1101 East Capitol Ave, where the building still stands.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Stokes Griffin was a car salesman.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Hampton M Watts (Happy Watts) was an assistant salesman at a clothing factory. By 1935 he was listed in the Jefferson City Directory as a manager at the Jefferson City Mattress Factory.

People involved in a variety of occupations purchased this one property at 718 East Capitol Ave., across the street from the prison. Perhaps they were not afraid of the presence of this institution.

In a future article we will discuss other areas outside the walls, the residents and their memories of this unique area of Missouri’s capital city.
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3RD

This single issue ballot will ask voters to renew the 3% lodging tax. The revenue generated from this comparatively low tax on hotel guests provides the operating budget for our Convention and Visitor’s Bureau.

HCJ HAS POSTCARD BOOKS FOR SALE

This special collection is available at Samuel’s Tuxedo, 236 E. High St. and at a discount to HCJ members. Proceeds will benefit various HCJ programs.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To proactively preserve our historic resources and create an environment that makes preservation a central focus for the future development in the City of Jefferson.

Visit our Web site at www.historiccityofjefferson.org