The Christmas program for 2017 will be held on December 7, 2017, at Hawthorn Bank Community Room, 3600 Amazonas Dr, 6:00 – 8:00pm. The Jefferson City Public School Elementary EER students will present “The Local Living Landmark Project.”

The Elementary EER (Exploration, Enrichment and Research) program serves “gifted” students in grades 3-5 from public, private, and home school settings with above average IQ. Students qualify for this program by IQ testing. Ms. Ruthie Caplinger teaches this portion of the program at Southwest Early Learning Center. Research has suggested that if gifted students are not challenged in their curriculum from ages kindergarten through fourth grade, several learning and behavioral issues could occur. The EER program provides some of the intellectual challenges they need. One of the classes Ms. Caplinger added to her curriculum is the Local Living Landmark class. This class is meant to instill in the students the long and interesting history of Jefferson City as the state capital of Missouri and the seat of Cole County. The preservation of our history enriches our lives and enables us to understand who we are today. It creates tourism and helps our community economically.

Ms. Caplinger had her students learn about our Jefferson City history by using primary sources at the Missouri State Archives, the Cole County Historical Society, and a historical tour thru Jefferson City on the Trolley. Several HCJ members and other local experts joined them in the classroom to share their knowledge of Jefferson City.

The students have practiced their research and writing skills and used critical thinking to determine the best materials to create displays to present at the HCJ Christmas program. These skills are some of the goals of the EER program. They gained an appreciation for our historic structures and institutions while becoming familiar with the organizations that promote their preservation. The students are looking forward to sharing the information they found with members of HCJ and hope to hear HCJ members personal stories about the buildings on display.

This is a repeat performance hosted by HCJ featuring the EER students. There will be refreshments and live music and is open to members and the public. Co-chairs are Janet Maurer and Marilynn Medley.

HCJ is a 501c3 organization. Your donations are tax deductible! Visit our web site at www.historiccityofjefferson.org
Historic City of Jefferson

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You can now support HCJ when you place your online purchases on Amazon through the AmazonSmile program! Start your shopping experience at http://smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to HCJ! For more information and to sign up, go to smile.amazon.com and choose Historic City of Jefferson as your charitable organization.

HCJ Advocacy and Participation in the Community

HCJ was founded in 1983 with the primary mission to protect historical properties and record the history of places and people. I believe 2017 has been a “banner year” in that mission! Besides offering our “usual” education presentations and events, we continue to monitor and maintain an active voice in many local issues that involve preservation, including the following:

East Capitol Avenue - The deterioration of many historic buildings in the East Capitol Avenue area has been of grave concern. The City Council voted unanimously to accept the East Capitol Avenue Urban Renewal Area Plan after a formal Blight Study documented the decay. The Jefferson City Housing Authority continues to move forward, using legal channels to address this area (www.jchamo.org/Urban Renewal tab). The City Council passed the Rezoning and Overlay District Plan for Capitol Avenue in April, which includes site design and building standards for this district and halts demolition requests in this area. (www.jeffersoncitymo.gov, Planning and Zoning page)

Historic Southside - Capitol Region Medical Center spearheaded the development of a long-term plan to revitalize the area in and around the Old Munichburg neighborhood, building on the existing strengths of the area and preserving its history. To review, go to www.jeffersoncitymo.gov, Planning & Zoning, Historic Southside/Old Munichburg District & Neighborhood Plan.

East McCarty Street - Talks continue in the effort to save the historic area around the 600 block of East McCarty.

Historic Preservation Ordinance - see updated information on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Other Community Efforts – 1) HCJ will be renovating two properties in our community: 224 East Dunklin and the Caretaker’s Cottage at the National Cemetery. 2) Through the HCJ Foundation, we are donating up to $20,000 to assist home owners in renovating older properties. 3) HCJ and the Thomas Lawson Price Society have committed funds to help with repairs in the Old City Cemetery. 4) We participated in the Salute to America celebration by sponsoring the Heritage Village. 5) When visiting the Missouri State Penitentiary museum in the lower level of the Jefferson City CVB (Marmaduke House), note that items from the Mark S. Schreiber collection are now in the hands of the Historic City of Jefferson.

By being a member of HCJ, you show that these preservation issues are important to our community. With this continued involvement, your help is needed! Consider volunteering to assist with our activities. I encourage you to take an active part in voicing to our city leaders that preserving our past matters!

HCJ President Tammy Boeschen
HCJ Acquires 224 Dunklin!

Historic City of Jefferson is happy to announce its recent acquisition of 224 East Dunklin Street! Thanks to the generosity of Sam and Linda Bushman, this Folk Victorian house built in 1915 will be rehabilitated and repurposed.

An Open House on October 22 gave visitors a chance to see the project before the rehab and to weigh in with their suggestions. This project will also serve as a demonstration of how to rehab a house and provide support for or inspiration to others who may want to get involved in rehabbing an old house. An attractive, solid stone and brick house, the HCJ Board has committed up to $37,000 to its rehabilitation. Some work will have to be done to reverse changes to the house that made it more suitable for past commercial use and rental on the first floor. Other issues are general repairs and touch-ups.

The Bushmans owned it for about fifteen years during which time it was a photography studio.

The HCJ Revolving Fund committee will direct the rehabilitation with Jane Beetem as chair of this committee. The concept of a “revolving fund” is to acquire and rehab old properties, sell them, then use this capital to reinvest in another property and repeat.

The HCJ Board will explore options for the repurposing of 224 East Dunklin Street.

Historic Preservation Ordinance Update

The Historic Preservation Ordinance, originally proposed by HCJ in 2014, has now been extensively reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), the City of Jefferson, and various legal counsel. The link to the current revision is http://www.jeffersoncitymo.gov/live_play/history_heritage/historic_preservation.php. The key points are the public notice, right of the HPC to say “no” if the building is 100+ years old or in a designated district, and more concrete review criteria. Appeals would go to the City Council.

The Ordinance is scheduled to be discussed at the following meetings. All meetings are open to the public; just being in the audience shows our City Council and members of committees that this is important. Go to the City website (www.jeffersoncitymo.gov) and click on the Calendar for meeting details, agendas, and packets. You may also submit comments by emailing JCPlanning@jeffcitymo.org, subject line “Proposed Demolition Ordinance.”

- November 9 – Public comments will be taken at the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting, 5:15 pm, City Hall.
- November 14 - Historic Preservation Commission, 6 pm at City Hall.
- December 4 or 5 - City Council meeting (6 pm at City Hall). The ordinance bill to be introduced to the City Council.
- December 18 - Public Hearing before the City Council (6 pm, City Hall). The bill will be read again, and a vote is expected.

Preservation of buildings is one of the main focuses of this organization (remember the historic Old City Jail, demolished in the cloak of darkness?) We have fought long and hard for this - your opinion and participation are greatly appreciated!
The threat of rain did not deter the over 400 visitors to HCJ’s Annual Home Tour. Clouds parted and rain ceased just in time for the September 17th event.

This popular annual tour is HCJ’s main fundraiser each year, providing support for operating expenses and preservation projects. See President Tammy Boeschen’s message on page 2 for more details of HCJ’s many projects.

These yearly tours would not be possible without a large force of volunteers! Planning, advertising, signage, and many docents are needed to guide visitors through the houses, requiring over 100 volunteers! Coordinating all this without a hitch this year was Homes Tour chair, Janet Gallaher.

Please be sure to patronize our many wonderful Homes Tour sponsors! See page 5.

The very core of the success of this event is the home-owners who graciously open their properties. Many, many thanks to them:

- Michel and Donna Deetz
- Laurelanne Bellezzo and Chris Huckleberry
- Darryl and Connie Huckleberry
- Tony and Jenny Smith, James and Laura Cole
- Lincoln University
- Michael and Laura Ward
Thank You Sponsors!

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LU President Mike Middleton and wife Julie

Mayor Tergin taking selfie
The following is Part 1 of 2 on Alleys in Jefferson City. This unabridged version is available only in this special on-line publication. An abridged version is in the print edition of this issue.

The Laying Out of a City and Alleys

Following the Civil War, Jefferson City’s residences were widely scattered, according to architect Frank Miller, within the boundaries of the Missouri River, Dunklin Street to the south, and the Catholic cemetery to the west; the eastern edge was undefined in early 1870s. Paved streets did not exist until the 1880s with sidewalks usually of boards and occasional brick or flagstone; otherwise mud. By 1889 the city had two good streets from the capitol, ending at the penitentiary and the cemetery and one good wagon road. The Missouri River bridge was opened in 1896; the capitol boasted a brewery and ice plant and “lighted by forty arc lights that burn all night.” [NRHP Capitol Avenue Historic District]

The majority of streets in the Capitol Avenue Historic District (CAHD) had been laid out by Daniel M. Boone and Major Elias Bancroft earlier in the 19th century to strict dimensions of 80-120’-wide streets and 400-sq-foot parks. Streets were divided by 20-foot wide alleys, a narrow lane or passageway running behind buildings. The uniqueness of the state capital’s alleys was the building of dwellings alongside the narrow dirt lanes rather than just pedestrian paths from one road to another. Unfortunately though, no allowance was made for water drainage on the city’s steep streets, nor for a clean accessible water supply; in 1855 lots #76/77,82/83 reserved for natural spring-water collection had been sold off for a proposed seminary on Main and Lafayette. And therein in the mud lie the stories from the past!

A common expression “slavery dies hard” speaks to the plight of former slaves trying to eke out a living and to locate decent housing in the decades after the Civil War when many former slave owners did not easily accept the labor system, much less the humanity of their slaves and servants, from whom they had benefitted (Burke’s On Slavery’s Border). Informal codes of behavior, later called Jim Crow laws, were erected in Missouri to keep blacks in their place in all aspects of society, but especially in unhealthy, segregated housing and in low-paying, unskilled occupations. Historians show that, even years after Reconstruction, Missouri’s blacks lived in crowded city ghettos rife with unsanitary conditions, crime, and vice, such as St. Louis’s Clabber Alley and Jefferson City’s Hog Alley.

In addition to Hog Alley, two late-nineteenth-century notorious Missouri capital alleys were Harmonie Hall and Polecat Avenue, but little has been preserved of their history, nor their exact location. The musical dance hall, Harmony Hall, was owned by Henry A. and Louisa Bragg, and sat on an alley behind their real estate on Madison Street; however, in 1875 the hall was sold by J. S. Fleming at public auction for an unpaid deed. Sixty-five years later, the Jefferson City Post Tribune listed the KWOS radio station programming in March 1939 including the Friday 5:00 pm musical program from Harmony Hall, most likely a nationally syndicated program. Historian Sean Rost, who has written on Hog Alley and its vices, reported local newspaper accounts of Harmonie Hall Alley showing a dirty, slum-like appearance, hoping for a cleansing rain shower.

Polecat Alley or Avenue was noted for numerous assaults and thefts attributed to its female residents, according to Rost, probably ladies of the night. Editions of the Jefferson City Daily Tribune in 1877 regularly reported on assaults and thefts attributed to Polecat Alley occupants. These alleys, thereafter, soon disappeared from local accounts, most likely when the residents moved to Hog Alley.

Most of the long and narrow lots in the District still extend today from the street to a rear alley that originally allowed carriage houses with parking for wagons and stabling for horses. These structures eventually transformed to garages and storage buildings for businesses fronted on the main streets and then dwellings to house the African American servants to the Capitol Avenue mansions.

(Continued on page 7)
Sanborn Maps: A View of the Capital

The Sanborn Fire Maps provide the colorful details of the capital's alleys from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1885 “Hog Alley” was located in a three-block mud puddle between and parallel to E. Main (now Capitol) and E. High Street, sitting 25 to 30 feet below High Street half a block away; thus all the rain and waste water ran freely between and behind buildings and down Jefferson and Madison Streets into the alley pool. The name was changed to Commercial Way in 1915, stretching on the east from the old Carnegie Library on Adams to the parking lot of the Jefferson (Bear) Office Building on the west. If you are walking past Bones Restaurant & Lounge, you are walking in the second block of “Hog Alley.”

The western two blocks of Hog Alley, named for the scavenger hogs searching out garbage scraps, provided what Sanborn called “Negro Dw’gs (Dwellings).” In 1885 the dwellings on the alley’s south side between Jefferson and Madison (#16) include six “Negro Dwellings” (two brick, four frame one-story structures) with a concrete Tailor shop and brick Barber shop facing the alley. On the north side of the alley, an L-shaped two-story brick and a much smaller one-story “Negro Dwelling” are located down from a Cabinet Shop facing Jefferson and a two-story brick Cigar Shop facing Madison. Note the A. M. Becker’s Lumber Company taking up ¼ of the block facing Jefferson Street and three two-story brick dwellings and a Carpenter shop, formerly the M.E. Church, facing E. Main. The five-story brick Madison Hotel holds several shops on the ground floor (bar, billiards, barber) and the three-story brick City Hotel take up most of the block on each side of Hog Alley’s Madison Street entrance.

Again, noting the Sanborn Maps, the second block of Hog Alley (Bones Restaurant Alley) between Madison and Monroe Streets, sitting 10 feet above High Street, holds a furniture and undertaker business, cabinet and print shop in addition to a sausage factory. On the west side are a brick two-story dwelling, a framed one-story “Negro Dwelling,” and a concrete carpenter shop and framed shed. The alley continues across Monroe to Adams Street as the ground again sinks to 20 feet below Main (Capitol) Street, so now the rain washes down into the alley from the other direction. As you walk or drive Hog Alley today, notice the ground elevation.

Mud and Vice in the Alleys

Jobs were limited in the Capital after the Civil War, especially for freed slaves, a trait that continued into the next century. Most blacks who could find employment worked as laborers and domestic servants for the middle and upper-class white families living and doing business in the streets east of the capitol, or for the penitentiary. Living in the wooden alley dwellings behind the mansions ensured cheap, albeit unhealthy and (Continued on page 8)
unsafe accommodations, but continued employment. The city, of course, ignored the crowded, unsanitary conditions, as the police ignored the crimes in the alleys (Jeffries, From Hog Alley to the State House). According to Gary Kremer’s research (Heartland History I), the 1880 census lists 635 blacks living in Jefferson City with 82% in the downtown area, with the highest concentration in Hog Alley.

As recently as the 1920s, according to a Missouri Negro Industrial Commission housing survey noted by Kremer, the majority of housing units (small frame shacks) were built in the alleys where flooded muddy passageways to the dwellings were almost impossible to reach and where, ironically, “eighty per cent of the homes are without [indoor] water.” The reason for the deplorable living conditions was few occupational opportunities for blacks affording them the ability to accumulate funds to become property owners on city streets.

Reporting on the capital city’s roads and walkways at the turn of the century, Julius Conrath wrote that “after a rain, High Street, Main Street and in fact all the streets were seas of mud... Hogs wallowed on High Street in the mud.” [NT 21 Nov 1965] Actually, the name came from the city’s hog pens, where hogs liked to wallow in mud, housed in the alley. Earlier The People’s Tribune [May 1882] decried the state of the capitol’s backstreets: “Hog Alley is not only an intolerable nuisance but the lowest and vilest colonize [sic] there. Each filthy habitation is a den of sin and insult to the decency and morality of our people.”

Sitting in the center of the business district, Hog Alley was surrounded by eight saloons that contributed to gambling offenses as well as a transient population moving into the city from the riverboat landing and train depot within two blocks. The City Hotel, corner of E. High and Madison Streets, on the front side of Hog Alley, became a focal point for drunkenness and fighting in 1867 when an argument outside one of the saloons on the lower level escalated into a black/white fight with thrown brickbats. The fights and drunkenness were carried into the alleys behind the bars and hotels, spreading their “immoral” reputation.

In addition to crime, Hog Alley became the city’s unofficial red-light district as prostitution was viewed as a “necessary evil” during the 19th century. Dependable employment in the capital was especial-
the Capital for theft, prostitution, and failure to pay the city dog tax. In the late 1870s, Barnes and other local prostitutes took over the abandoned Fort Jackson as a brothel, naming it the Old Boyse Residence for one of its owners, Elizabeth Boyse. Fort Jackson was torn down in 1882 after several raids. Court records show that Barnes moved to different residences, all appearing in arrest records as houses of ill repute, over the next four years, finally being sent to the city workhouse just north of Hog Alley and Fort Jackson near Lohman’s Landing. Rost points out that even though Barnes was cited as the “face of vice” in the city for drunkenness and prostitution, she was not involved in any major court cases. Sadly, Bettie Barnes committed suicide at age twenty-seven. Sadder yet was the local paper’s news of her death, reflecting on the city’s prejudices: “Bettie Barnes, the notorious colored wench who has disgraced this town for a number of years, yesterday took a dose of morphine.” (People’s Tribune 27 April 1881)

Lizzie Collins’s crib*, another notorious prostitute, was identified by Rost on an 1885 Sanborn map as one of three “Negro Dwgs” on the south side of Hog Alley towards Jefferson Street. The historian follows several other local prostitutes, culminating in the city’s mayor Cecil Thomas who led the battle against Hog Alley and recurring vice, cracking down on streetwalkers and venereal disease, finally suppressed in the 1920s in another violent chapter by federal agents and the Ku Klux Klan.

Jerry Jeffries, in writing a history of the Jefferson City police department, writes about Miss Sally Smith, a prostitute apprehended late one night in July 1882 as she “strolled” in Hog Alley. Apparently, Sally resisted arrest “with a flurry of obscenities and vile oaths,” finally being subdued by Officer Archie Drake, the city’s first African American policeman. According to the court’s report, Sally pleaded guilty, posted bail for the fine and court costs, and eventually was released [p 10]. Jeffries, however, does not relate the crime that Sally committed beyond walking in Hog Alley.

Toward the end of the 19th century, Hog Alley had become a dangerous place due to lack of maintenance and minimal health standards by the city and property owners. Biographer Harper Barnes writes about Philip Jordan, the African American manservant and companion to David Rowland Francis, governor of Missouri and US ambassador to Russia. Jordan, an orphan, had grown up on the tough backstreet called Hog Alley in the 1880s that routinely contained “drinking, gambling, and fighting with fists and knives.” Jordan apparently was addicted to alcohol and to “the wild side of life,” and could not resist the temptations of Hog Alley in his early years. Yet, he became Francis’ indispensable companion, accompanying him to Russia, becoming fluent in the language and expertly navigating social issues of the country for Francis. Unfortunately, very little is known about Jordan and his letters outside of a brief mention in the Francis biography Standing on a Volcano.

The Demise of Hog Alley
In 1882 a local physician mistakenly diagnosed smallpox among the Hog Alley residents following the death of three children from one black family, erupting in panic in the city. The black residents were driven out of their homes only to be forced away from supposed security in neighboring Cedar City by gunfire. The dwellings were boarded up and alley entrances were blocked by armed guards to imprison the remaining residents, feared to be spreading the disease. The coroner’s jury determined that the children’s deaths were caused, not by a contagious disease, but by “inflammation of the stomach by a corrosive substance.”

Jefferson City’s People’s Tribune (May 1882) offered an explanation for Hog Alley’s “intolerable nuisance,” blaming the disgrace on “all that is filthy, low, mean and vicious of the colored population . . . found in this alley.” No blame was laid at the feet of the property owners on High and Main (Capitol), nor the wild hogs, nor the city’s sanitation office; but the alley was labeled as “the breeding place for all manner of diseases that have their origin and flourish in the midst of filth.” The coroner’s verdict should have vindicated the alley residents.

However, it was too late for the unfortunate African Americans who were blamed for the city’s lack of health and safety governance. The Hog Ordinance was enforced, several alley structures were razed, some streets were paved. The Alley was still called an “undesirable, dangerous, and immoral element” as late as 1936 when the Post-Tribune asked “Is Hog Alley Coming Back?”

*Crib; name for prostitutes’ rooms within a bordello

(Continued from page 8)
due to suspected hideouts for criminals and the numerous “tipplers who prefer bottle in pockets to the bar.”

Rost identifies three events contributing to the notorious alley’s demise. An election eve riot, November 1904, between black and white inebriated locals began in Grant Tolbert’s pool hall/boarding house in Hog Alley, spilling out into the streets with black rioters taking refuge in the alley. Police actions toward the rioters varied according to either the Democrat or Republican-backed newspapers.

A second contributing factor was a city-wide sanitation campaign in 1905 to clean out the alley’s gambling dens and prostitution houses. The purifying process had actually persisted since 1882 following the public’s unfounded fear of a smallpox outbreak. Panic ensued as the public looked for a scapegoat in Hog Alley, labeled as a “den of sin” by the local paper. Rost credits the 1906 murder of Montana Chappell in the Higginbottom home in the alley between two black acquaintances as the third camel’s straw in closing Hog Alley. The city police department had recently reported about one hundred inhabitants in Hog Alley with daily “trouble that provoked police arrests” (Jeffries 21).

No blame for the “intolerable nuisance” was laid at the feet of the property owners on High and Main who profited from the alley house rentals, nor the unsanitary wild hogs and uncollected garbage, nor the police ignoring the crimes, nor the violence-inciting racist headlines from the local newspaper. The alley was labeled as “the breeding place for all manner of diseases that have their origin and flourish in the midst of filth.” The Hog Ordinance was enforced, most alley structures were razed, some streets were paved, signs were posted at alley entrances to keep “undesirables” out, and Hog was sanitized to Commercial Alley. By 1915 the alley residents had moved on to other neighborhoods around East Elm, Lafayette, Dunklin, and Chestnut Streets, rebuilding their lives around the “Foot” and the newly established Lincoln Institute, quickly becoming the “Harvard of the West.”

Of course, not all alley residents were criminals or ladies of the night. The 1880s census records reveal many Jefferson City families living on E. High and E. Main (Capitol Ave) employing well-respected blacks as domestic servants twenty years after the Civil War. For instance, Louis Lambert, lumber merchant, at 329 E. High listed Fannie Smith, age 22 and Newton Wright, age 18 as servants. At 289 E. Main (Capitol Ave), Wm Q. Dallmeyer, merchant, listed Mahala Carter as servant. These domestic servants most likely lived in the alley dwellings behind the large homes in which they worked. An interesting story is told by Dr. Robert Young that Uncle Billy Hart, a freed slave on the James Hart estate, Callaway County, and respected body servant of the Mo Supreme Court in 1901 lived in a rear alley log house in the 400 block of E. Main. [p 58] The 1908 City Directory lists several African Americans residing at #111 Rear E. High, addresses for the dwellings or boarding rooms on Hog Alley: S. Bennett, Oscar Blood, and Mrs. J. Davis.

Within the next twenty years, a number of
black-owned businesses sprouted in the vicinity of Hog Alley, attesting to the respectability and responsibility of the African American community. **Howard Barnes**, known as one of the best cooks in the city, and **John Lane**—former slave and current businessman, minister of Second Baptist Church, and member of Lincoln Institute Board of Trustees—operated “Delmonico’s,” a hotel/restaurant at 212 Madison, just around the corner from the Alley.

Another restaurant and hotel in the 200 block of Monroe near the Alley, also employing city blacks, was the “Silver Moon Hotel and Cafe,” a hotel where African Americans could stay in a racially integrated capital. The hotel was operated by **Gabriel R. Nash**, then **Mrs. Nora Evans**, and finally by **Robert W. Stokes** and his widow **Emily Stokes**, culminating in almost fifty years as a black-owned business in the heart of Jefferson City. Sharing the former Hog Alley was the Menteer Bottling Company, according to a Summers Collection photo. Both of these historical buildings were destroyed for parking lots.

Except for a few garages, alley dwellings no longer exist in the Capitol Historic District as they served a temporary purpose for segregated black families employed in the Capitol Avenue mansions that fronted the alleys. The dwellings have lost their purposes and their stories.

Alleys that remain downtown include Cedar, Parsons, Commercial (formerly Hogs Alley), and Handley, most now signposted as Ways. One historical alley in the Capitol complex is Wall Street or Way, running from Washington to Monroe, splitting High Street from E. McCarty. In their Images of America: Jefferson City, **Dr. Joseph Summers and Dottie Dallmeyer** include a 1924 photo of the Capitol Telephone Company, since razed, in the 300 block of Madison Street on the alley now known as Wall Way. However, little history remains of Wall Alley. On the other hand, some alley houses in Old Munichburg still exist as they often served as housing for extended family members or for new immigrant families to get settled.

Old Munichburg alley houses will be covered in Part 2 of this series on Alleys of Jefferson City in the February 2018 HCJ newsletter.

**For further reading at your local libraries:**
Barnes, Harper Standing on a Volcano: The Life and Times of David Rowland Francis, 2001
Jeffries, Jerry. From Hog Alley to the State House: History of the Jeff City Police Dept, Marceline, Mo. 1998.
Young, Dr. Robert; Zeihmer, editor. Pioneers of High, Water and Main: Reflections of Jefferson City; 1997.
Getting to Know You

Janet Gallaher has been an HCJ member for three years and a Board member for one year. She is a retired pediatric physical therapist having worked 30 years with the Special Learning Center and JC Public Schools. Janet serves on the HCJ Oral History program and more recently as chair of the hugely successful HCJ Golden Hammer Homes Tour this year achieving record fund-raising and attendance!

1. Why did you join HCJ?
I attended the Civil War Tour and was fascinated by all the history in Jefferson City. There was a membership table there and I wanted to be part of this impressive organization.

2. What do you like best about being a member of HCJ?
HCJ is a group of proactive, “can do” individuals. I’ve enjoyed meeting and learning from this knowledgeable group of people who stay current on issues affecting historic Jefferson City.

3. Do you have a favorite HCJ program or activity?
I am a firm believer in “fixing it up” rather than “throwing it away.” The Golden Hammer Award recognizes property owners who renovate their homes and subsequently improve their neighborhoods. The Golden Hammer Award Homes Tour was a wonderful opportunity to showcase these homes and let the public enjoy the rejuvenated homes. Also, the Oral History Project which records the stories of local people for future generations is another favorite.

4. If someone asked you the benefits of HCJ membership, what would you say?
Jefferson City is a wonderful place to live. The richness of its history must be carried forward for our grandchildren. HCJ members are focused on preserving historic resources of our Capital City. Older homes and historic places have character that can’t be bought and are tangible ways of telling stories of the past.

5. What do you think is the most effective way for HCJ to achieve its historic preservation mission?
HCJ’s President, Tammy Boeschen, and other members do an excellent job of passing along information to educate and to raise awareness of Jeff City preservation issues that require public support. The recent designation of the historic overlay district on Capital Avenue is an example of progress made when supported by interested groups and individuals. Educating and advocating are powerful tools to help preserve our history.

6. What one thing might HCJ members be surprised to learn about you?
I helped rebuild my grandparents’ century-old smokehouse at our Tanner Bridge Road home after moving the old sycamore boards from their farm in Millwood, Mo. Our builder/friend showed me how to build trusses for the roof and frames for some additional old windows donated by a neighbor. Grandpa’s smokehouse became a neighborhood project with other unwanted items contributed: a table from Pappy’s hayloft and Mrs. Teague’s wood burning stove. It took lots of hands and camaraderie to complete our own small historic preservation project.

HCJ gets a “thank you” from City Hall for donation to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Act.

Michelle Brooks gives talk on “62nd Regimen U.S. Colored Troops” to HCJ members.

“Can this window be saved?” Jane Beetem asks the audience at “How to Re-hab Part 3.” The answer was, “yes!”
On a beautiful street overlooking the city, this distressed house needed some TLC. Built around 1930, 706 Swifts Highway now looks almost new thanks to renovations by Charlie Frank and family (right). The project was funded in part by the Jefferson City’s Residential Rental Facade Improvement program.
SAVE THE DATE!

HCJ Christmas Reception
“The Local Living Landmark Project”
Thursday, December 7, 2017 - 6:30 PM
Hawthorn Bank Meeting Room – 3600 Amazonas
Presented by the EER students

Looking back . . . . . . Moving forward

Golden Hammer - Laura Ward
Newsletter Editor - Jenny Smith
Education and Programs - Donna Deetz
Finance - Tim Morrow
Publicity - Vicki Schildmeyer
Membership - Jim Kreider
HCJ Foundation President - Nicholas M. Monaco
Social Media - Laura Ward
Oral History - Janet Maurer and Bruce Bates
Webmaster - Dave Boeschen

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