



# Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's spring season 2009

Volume 2, Issue 2

## COMING UP

### May 23 Foundation Garage Sale 7 a.m. – noon

Do you have good, saleable items to donate to the Foundation for our May 23 garage sale (it's the community-wide sale in Ste. Marie)? We will accept antiques, furniture, appliances (working please!), linens and glassware/dishes. (NO CLOTHES). A tax donation letter will be provided, and we will even pick up items from your house (provided you are nearby). Or feel free to mail us something to sell.

Thanks to **M/M Jud Cameron** who made a special trip to Ste. Marie from theis Sullivan, IL, home to deliver some great sale items, including a beautiful Amish-made entertainment cabinet.

We will accept items at the Foundation House every Sat. during May from 8 a.m. – noon. Call **Dottie Valebert Rumpp** 618-455-3248 for pick-up info or if you would like to volunteer to help us. The money will be used on Foundation House renovation (desperate need right now. See below.).

### June 20 Garden Walk

**1 – 4 p.m.**

The Community Club sponsors a garden walk every couple of years, and this one is a “don't miss” event.



Six gardens will be featured, including **Francis Yager's** unique garden which started with a small plot and has expanded

to front, back and side gardens around his house - growing like Topsy and using plants mostly acquired from relatives and friends. Some of his paths and steps are made of sawdust from the local sawmill and from his own cabinet shop hobby.

In contrast, Bob and Tammy Fry's garden has a six-over 150 varieties of hosta on a large corner lot rimmed with large maple and varieties of redbud trees.

Another garden uses small space to ultimate advantage, with an elevated flower garden edged with flagstone.

The Garden Walk, hosted by the Ste. Marie Community Club is free, but a \$5 donation (per person) donation to the Community Club is suggested. Maps may be picked up at Village Hall or at any featured garden.

For further information, call Susan Phillips 618-455-3493.

### Lending Library Opens

Ste. Marie once more has a lending library! Several years ago, Posmaster Kathy Yager put a couple of bookshelves inside the PO, and soon books were passed around town like wildfire. Unfortunately, USPS officials did not approve (“not like other post offices”) so the books had to do.

Fortunately, the Ste. Marie Village Board has come to the rescue, offering the outer lobby of the Town Hall as a space for the lending library. Ste. Marie residents are readers, so many books have been donated to this new entity.

The library is open on Tues. and Thurs. mornings from 8 – noon for now. Run on the honor system with volunteers, the library is open to all area residents.

### Tables and Chairs (and more) for Foundation House

Thanks to the following who heeded our call for a donation of \$200 for a wet of table and four chairs:

**Kerry and Shannon Lynch**

**Marge Hartrich**

**Dorothy Hahn Family**

**Janet Faltemier Sitkewich**

We still need three more sets.

Other donations include the following:

**Will Handzel** bought and installed four smoke alarms over Easter weekend. **Mark Handzel** brought in a dehumidifier to help with dampness in the basement.

**Tara Lynch** donated a new 8' x 10' wool capret in honor of her mother's birthday. Thanks to all.

## Stone Family Special Gift



*Anna Lou Stone--  
super volunteer at the  
Foundation House.*

**Anna Lou Stone** had a special request for her nine children last December. “No Christmas gift for me this year,” she informed them. “Instead, I want all of us to join together to make a donation to the Foundation.”

And they did! The Foundation received a \$1,000 check from the Stone family in February – a most welcome donation at a time when funds were getting low.

“I’m sure Bud (husband/father) would be proud to see the Sainte Marie Foundation working for the village where he served as mayor for 12 years”, says Anna Lou. “He wanted Ste. Marie to be successful, and the Foundation is helping it do just that.”

We thought many of you would like to know what has happened to those popular nine children:

**-Mark** (Amy) lives in Robinson where he works for Marathon Oil. His twins Nicky and Amy are both married. He also has a son and three daughters.

**-Diane** (married to Rick Houdasheldt) lives in Oblong where she owns **Henpeck Merchantile**, a lovely gift shop featuring traditional wares and furniture (bookcases, cabinets, etc.) that Diane finishes herself. She has two daughters.

**-Susan** (married to Tony Madlem) lives in Oblong where she is office assistant to the superintendent of schools. She has a son and daughter.

**-Steve** (Rosemary) is a civil and computer engineer who lives in Springfield, IL where he has his own computer company. He graduated from the U. of I. and has two sons and a daughter. (*Thanks, Steve, for helping us get our website.*)

**-David** (Gina) is another U of I computer engineering grad who still works for his alma mater as a computer programmer. He has one son and two daughters.

**-Julia** (married to Dave Turner) of Bloomington, IL is also a U of I grad – in English, not engineering! She is a busy business consultant with a son and daughter.

**-John** (Michelle) is a Newton resident and civil engineer (yes, U of I again!) with Connor and Connor Engineering. He has one daughter and three sons.

**-Michael** (Sheryl) is a South Lyon, MI, resident working for Honeywell. He has a mechanical engineering degree (yep, U of I again) and one son and two daughters.

**-Brenda** (Heath Womack) lives in Crosby, TX where she works in the computer division of Anadarko Oil. She and Heath have two sons.

Thanks to all for your support.

## Foundation House Update

The Foundation House interior has taken on a new look in recent months. The first floor is now quite livable; in fact, it is downright lovely! What it took – lots of \$\$\$ and the help of many volunteers.

Our First Visitors - **Will Handzel** and family from MI were the first overnight visitors over Easter, doing a trial run of how the house might function as a family gathering place. Consensus: It’s great! Renovation work continues, and minor improvements were suggested. Relatives of two Ste. Marie families will use the first floor (two bedrooms, LR, DR, bath and kitchen) for their guests on weekends during May and June.

Volunteers are our heroes! Special thanks to **Maxine and Maurice Calvert** (who are the best house painters in the county though they are quitting as soon as the house is done!), to **Ron Kirts** who is responsible for keeping all the mechanical things working, to **Marvin Ochs** for volunteer carpentry work, to **Annette Reis Lynch** for unending wallpaper removal (one room had at least 8 layers!!) and to the cleaners, scrapers and “whatever you need” workers in recent months – **Bob Helregel, Dottie and Robert Rumpp, Glenda Reis Schwartz, Anita Reis Steber, and Anna Lou Stone**. Also, special thanks to **Hartrich Meats** for providing lunch on the workdays.

What’s next? We HAVE to repair holes and rotten wood in the outside fascia this spring. A total repair would cost about \$5000; we are patching for now and will hopefully be able to get by with less than \$1000.

-We are still trying to solve water problems in the basement by grading the soil away from the house. New gutters would help, but the cost is prohibitive right now.

-We need landscaping (since everything had to be removed last year to fix the foundation blocks). Could you donate perennials/shrubs/trees? Help plant them?

-A dining room window must be replaced... unrepairable plaster must be removed ...the lovely sun porch needs paint and repairs...the old garage roof is caving in...the list goes on and on. It is a challenge, to say the least! But those of us involved feel privileged to be a part of this special renovation. Come see what we have done! Donations are always welcome. Want to volunteer? Contact **Maxine Calvert** 618-455-3227.

Our "museum" plans: We hope to start hanging historical pictures and old documents throughout the house within the next few months.

Anyone interested in using the house - contact **Sandy Hartrich** 618-455-3575 or [sjh@psbnewton.com](mailto:sjh@psbnewton.com) for further information.

### We Get Letters

Thanks for the notes/letters (and welcome donations) from former Ste. Marie residents:

**Viola Barthelme Creighton**, Urbana, IL wrote: "I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoyed the newsletters you sent." Viola is 88 years young, a daughter of Lester and granddaughter of Lewis Barthelme. She attended the Ste. Marie grade school (then a parochial school) as well as the two-year high school taught by Chris Ablinger. She graduated from NCHS in 1939 and has only returned to Ste. Marie for infrequent visits, funerals, etc. She would like to hear from us and especially wants to know about "that swimming pool in Ste. Marie." We will be in touch!

### News Notes

**Army Captain Steve and Amanda (Zuber) Huber** (Germany) just purchased **Gina and Steve Fox's** house at the southeast edge of Ste. Marie. "We may not be back right away," said Mandy, "but we knew we wanted to be in Ste. Marie once Steve's army career is over." The Fox's are moving to Newton and will be sorely missed.

**Houses for sale:** There are still several really nice homes for sale in Ste. Marie. Check them out.

**Artists Wanted:** If you are an artist with Ste. Marie roots, we invite you to exhibit at our Hometown Celebration on Sept. 5. See brochure for details.

**Pianist James Litzelman** (Washington, DC) recently gave a benefit concert at his alma mater, Eastern Il. U. He is a piano professor at Catholic University of America. Impressive!

**Ste. Marie Improvements:** 1) Village residents voted to join the Wade Fire District (Newton) -- so no more fire department in Ste. Marie. 2) Water is now provided by EJ Water of Dietrich, eliminating the need for the Ste. Marie's wells along the river. 3) A new lending library is now open in the lobby at Village Hall. We congratulate the village on these great improvements.

**Condolences to Eufala Bigard** and her four daughters (and their families) on the death of husband/ father **Eugene** in early April.

Special thanks to **Lyle Hazle**, son-in-law of **Joyce Ablinger Mast**, whose donation to the Foundation was matched 3 -1 by his employer, the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**. If your employer has a matching gift program, we will happily fill out the forms.

**Dorothy (Keller) Hahn** recently told us that three generations of her family have worked as carpenters on the Foundation House. Her father **Joseph Keller** built the kitchen cabinets (still in great condition too) and did other work for the Kirts family. Dorothy's son **Larry** worked with his two sons to renovate three of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor rooms, replace the front porch floor and do roof repairs. They will also be doing the fascia work this spring. Question: Are carpentry skills inherited???



(Picture above) **Matt and Amy Tarr**, with children Wade and Dava, receive a Welcome Bag from Ste. Marie Community Club representatives, **Janet Hartrich and Susan Phillips** (far right). The Foundation provided the bag and a *New Resident's Guide to Ste. Marie* to 13 families who moved in during the past two years

### **Hometown Celebration on Sept. 5, 2009**

It was *Come Back Home* last year; this year the name is **A Hometown Celebration**, but our purpose is still the same – to provide an event that welcomes all former Ste. Marie residents, their families and friends to a lively event in our super little hometown. Those of you who were with us last year raved about the day. ***Please note: you must make advance reservations for the lunch (timed entry this year).*** Check out the enclosed brochure.

New this year: 5K run at 8 a.m. and art exhibits by Ste. Marie-born artists. Artist **Cindy Sheridan Carlson** (Urbana) suggested this new activity for the event. Contact us if you would like to exhibit your work. You will need to bring your own set-up.

Send us **WEDDING PICTURES (new and old)** for our historical display. The wedding didn't have to be IN Ste. Marie – just so there is a connection, such as a groom from Ste. Marie, or if you now live in SM, etc.). And don't be shy. It will be so much fun to see your picture in our display. Deadline: July 1 please!!

When you give us a picture, please include: ***Date and location of wedding, names of those in picture/s (including maiden names of Ste. Marie women, please!) and your current address.*** Send before **July 1** so pictures can be printed for an attractive display.

Choose **one** of the following to get the pix to us:

1. Scan and send via e-mail to Annette Lynch at [lookamazing@consultant.com](mailto:lookamazing@consultant.com)
2. Have pix copied at Wal-Mart or your local drugstore and send to the Foundation.
3. Drop off original to **Kathy Slankard** at **Sainte Marie State Bank** and we will scan and return your original photo to you. (*We actually would prefer NOT to handle your precious pictures, so this is the least desirable option. #1 is preferred*)

Join the 2 p.m. parade! Help your grandchildren decorate a bike or wagon. March with the American Legion. Think up a new entry for yourself and family (non-motorized). Prizes awarded, and it's lots of fun. Call event chairman **Kathy Yager** 618-783-2918 for a Parade Entry Form.

The Sainte Marie Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Send comments to writer/editor Pat Reis, [patreisprpr@yahoo.com](mailto:patreisprpr@yahoo.com). The Foundation is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, duly recognized as an Illinois charitable corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**Sainte Marie Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 186**  
**Sainte Marie, IL 62459**

See [www.saintemariefoundation.org](http://www.saintemariefoundation.org)  
for current news & updates

**Don't forget:**

**Get items ready for the Foundation to sell on May 23 at the Ste. Marie Garage Sale. Call for pick-up 618-455-3248.**