

LINCOLNVILLE NEWS

*Keeping you informed of what's
happening in St. Augustine's
historic Lincolnville.*

SUMMER 2016 • ISSUE 6

Keep Your Eyes on the St Benedict the Moor School Building

By: Thomas J. Jackson

Hello Neighbors!

The St. Benedict the Moor Preservation Association Inc., desires to preserve the history of the historically significant building. It has a very unique history encompassing one of the first schools dedicated to educating the children of freed African American slaves, built by a wealthy heiress destined to become a canonized saint. It is a history of courageous Catholic women. The Preservation Association seeks to draw attention to our story in an effort to raise funds for the restoration and preservation of the original St. Benedict the Moor School building so as to preserve the current message of its past.

St. Benedict the Moor School was built in 1898. The school building, originally named St. Cecelia's, is located at 86 Martin Luther King Avenue in the Lincolnville National Historic District of St. Augustine, Florida, the oldest city in the United States. The students at St. Benedict the Moor School were educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph who came to St. Augustine from France for the sole purpose of educating the newly freed blacks of the Diocese. The school is associated with one of the first legal cases in Florida dealing with civil rights and desegregation. In 1916 three of the Sisters of St. Joseph were arrested for teaching black children at St. Benedict the Moor School.

This old school building is a rich treasure trove of history and we will work tirelessly to see it restored. Our mission is to have a multi-functional space, which will tell the stories of Saint Katherine Drexel, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and local African American history and its involvement with the civil rights movement. Additionally we plan to provide community space for use by the Lincolnville community for educational and community purposes.

Several months ago the Friends of St. Benedict Association (FOSB), with permission from the Diocese and the assistance of A. D. Davis Construction, applied for and were awarded a small matching grant from the State of Florida. We are excited to say that there has been a tremendous amount of work going on behind the scenes preparing to stabilize the building. Subsequent engineering reports revealed more extensive foundational damage than was originally thought, which set back the initial timetable. You will however soon be seeing some activity on the site as we continue Phase I of the restoration process.



St. Benedict Catholic School, circa 1925¹



View of the same building today

The scope of work for Phase I of the project was amended to now include stabilizing and re-shoring of the current walls to prevent catastrophic collapse during the process of stabilizing the foundation and restoration of the remainder of the current structure. Subsequent work will build on this initial stabilization and re-shoring. It has become an undertaking that will require enormous dedication and scarce resources, but we are committed to the project and with support from various sections of the community it will happen. The historical, educational and socially significant role that the building and the Sisters of St. Joseph played in the Lincolnville community and in the lives of many African American children who grew up within, make this dream project one worth keeping alive.

If you would like to be involved or would like to make a donation, please contact us at Friends of St. Benedict, 86 Martin Luther King Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084, e-mail tomjack@aug.com or like us on Facebook.

1. Photo by Richard A. Twine, ca. 1925, Courtesy of the St. Augustine Historical Society

THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLNVILLE'S SETTLEMENT— SEPTEMBER, 2016

BIRTHDAY PARTY, SEPT. 16; THE 37th LINCOLNVILLE FESTIVAL, SEPT. 24-25; PARADE AND DEDICATION OF DR. ROBERT B. HAYLING FREEDOM PARK, SEPT. 24.

150 years ago, in 1866, Lincolnville was founded by recently freed slaves and later played a major role in the Civil Rights Movement. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was called by local dentist Dr. Robert Hayling to come to the aid of the residents of St. Augustine in their fight for equality. The Lincolnville community served as the centerpiece for the movement led by Dr. King in St. Augustine, which caught national attention and helped trigger the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"We are celebrating the **37th year** of the historic **Lincolnville Festival** and ask all of St. Augustine and our visitors to join us," invites Festival

supporter, Rev. Ron Rawls of St. Paul AME Church.

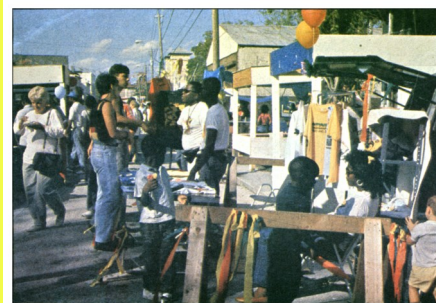
This popular event, initially called the Washington Street Festival originated in 1979 on Labor Day weekend. From the beginning, its objective has been the revitalization of the Lincolnville community.



The Palace Market, Washington Street, 1925¹

Around 1981, the name was changed to the **Lincolnville Festival**. This year's Festival celebrates an important milestone for the neighborhood.

To tell the entire story of



Lincolnville Festival on Washington Street, 1989²

Lincolnville's history, from Native American hunting ground, to today's fast-growing community, a historic timeline will be presented to the City by Lift Up Lincolnville Revitalization Corp. and installed in The Galimore Community Center hallway. "We invite everyone to attend the debut of the timeline on Friday, September 16th during a 150th Birthday Celebration fundraiser at the Galimore Center from 6 to 9pm. There will be food, drinks, music and dancing, plus a huge birthday cake, so we hope everyone will come out. "We are raising funds so we can carry on the tradition of keeping the Festival free," said Rawls.

This year's Festival is scheduled for **Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25, 2016** a week after the Birthday celebration. The location of the Festival is at Eddie Vickers' Park, 399 Iberia Street.

For more information about becoming a sponsor, for receiving a vendor application for the Festival go to

www.mylincolnville.com and click on the related tabs. To reserve tickets or find out more about the Birthday Party, please contact Alice Long Owens at 904-829-3918, or e-mail office@saintpaulfamily.com.

◆ ◆ ◆ LETTER FROM THE LCRA STEERING COMMITTEE ◆ ◆ ◆

New Steering Committee Member : Reverend Rory Hermann

"I'll be back!"

By : Rev. Rory Hermann

Thirteen years ago Marilyn and I departed Lincolnville for Gulf Breeze (Pensacola), Florida. My church body thought I was too young to permanently retire (after my Navy career of 22 years). I received a request to serve a church in Gulf Breeze, which I did for twelve years before retiring the second time.

We had purchased a small, new home on Keith Street in 1998 for our daughter who attended Flagler College. When she graduated Marilyn and our son moved into the house while I finished my career as a U.S. Navy chaplain at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay (GA). When I retired I moved into our Keith Street home. When we departed Lincolnville I stated just like Arnold in the original *Terminator* movie, "I'll be back!"

Marilyn missed St. Augustine so much that I bought her a print of the Tripp Harrison painting of St. Augustine. When I prepared to retire for the second time we made plans to return to the St. Augustine area. We considered some of the huge, new developments in St. John's County. We toured some beautiful homes but the communities lacked character, heritage and trees. The developers had clear-cut forests and erected neighborhoods in a sterile environment. We returned to St. Augustine, Lincolnville, once again. When we luckily happened upon the builder of our first home and who owned a vacant lot on De Haven Street, we took that as a "sign" that Lincolnville was where we were meant to live. We built a home and moved back last June.



Why Lincolnville? We love the trees, the architecture, the eclectic mix of neighbors, and its heritage. We value our unique community filled with history, tradition and an exciting mix of neighbors. We appreciate the ability to walk "uptown" to restaurants, concerts, parades and lights. I look forward to serving as a member of the Lincolnville Community Re-development Area Steering Committee and working alongside the other committee members and our neighbors as we seek to eliminate blight, retain long-term residents, improve mobility, enhance green space and recreational areas and preserve the heritage of our community.

Sincerely,
Rory M. Hermann
rorylcra@gmail.com

Community Bulletin Board

LCRA'S NEW LOGO



A new logo for the LCRA was unveiled at the Steering Committee's regular meeting in June. Maribel Angel, an artist and graphic designer who has lived in Lincolnville for many years, created it. The elegant design showcases one of Lincolnville's

most notable features, the steep-pitched roof and decorative gingerbread of Victorian architecture that can be seen throughout the neighborhood. Angel has generously donated her talents to many neighborhood efforts over the years including the Lincolnville Community Garden and Dr. Robert Hayling Freedom Park.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LINCOLNVILLE MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

The following events will be happening at the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center this fall:

- ◆ Tribute to local jazz musician and Lincolnville Festival organizer, Doug Carn kicks off the fall schedule of events on September 4th
- ◆ Potter's Wax Museum likeness of Ray Charles bust unveiling, birthday bash and jazz concert on September 23rd
- ◆ Oral History of Lincolnville residents, short film and gala on October 23rd

Other events with dates to be determined include:

- ◆ Gator Tales, a docudrama on pioneering black students at University of Florida
- ◆ A reading party for youth
- ◆ Kenny Seabrook jazz soloist performance

Please visit the LMCC website at LincolnvilleMuseum.org for updates and future events.

ONE-WAY PAIRING OF MOORE AND POMAR STREETS

The March 2016 LCRA Steering Committee regular meeting was dedicated to parking and traffic issues where the Committee, staff, and the public discussed potential solutions addressed in the Lincolnville Redevelopment Plan. At that meeting, the Steering Committee recommended moving forward with the process of converting Moore and Pomar Streets to a one-way pair. At this point in the process, the Second Reading of proposed Ordinance 2016-23, Amendment 24-13 for converting Moore and Pomar to one-way traffic is scheduled to be heard by City Commissioners on August 22, 2016. If approved, then new signage should be installed within 30 days.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2016 AT 5:30PM

Location: *Alcazar Room, City Hall, 75 King Street*

The City of St. Augustine invites the public to attend a meeting on the Historic Preservation Master Plan for St. Augustine. The purpose of this meeting is to host a discussion with the consultant team leading the project, Preservation Design Partnership LLC, and the Historic Architectural Review Board. Please attend to ask questions, contribute your ideas and comments, and meet our consultant!



Lincolnville CRA Information

THE LINCOLNVILLE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Lincolnville Redevelopment Plan guides the actions of the Community Redevelopment Agency, as it outlines the overall goals for the neighborhood's improvement, as well as the specific redevelopment projects and programs. You can find the Lincolnville CRA Plan online at the City of St. Augustine's website: www.staugustinegovernment.com, under "My Government", "City Boards", and then "Lincolnville CRA Steering Committee"

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nicholas Noloboff (Chair)
Nathan Baer (V-Chair)
Reverend Rory Hermann
Carolyn O. Wright
Theresa Segal

MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and take place on the **first Monday of every month at 7pm** at the Willie Galimore Center, 399 Riberia Street
***September meeting will take place on September 19th ***

CONTACT US

To contact the Lincolnville CRA, please call or email Erin Minnigan at: 904-209-4283 or eminnigan@citystaug.com

**City of St. Augustine
Lincolnvill Community Redevelopment Area**

FIX-IT-UP & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The City of St. Augustine Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has designated two home repair programs to help residents in the Lincolnvill Area with essential home repairs. The Fix-it-Up Program provides up to \$7,000 for minor repairs, and the Emergency Assistance Program provides funding up to \$10,000 for immediate emergency repairs. The program is funded by the CRA for eligible households. Eligibility review and construction services are provided by the St. Johns County Housing Partnership, Inc.

PROGRAM BASICS

Both programs are intended to assist low-income, owner-occupied households with essential home repairs. The home must be within the boundaries of the Lincolnvill CRA. Applicants will have to meet all eligibility requirements administered by St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc. Available funds will be prioritized for life and safety essential repairs.

APPLICANTS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CITY BEFORE ANY PROJECT IS STARTED.

St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc. will evaluate the application after inspection of the home, prioritize the repairs needed and perform the work as an independent contractor. Existing materials will be replaced with similar materials to preserve the architectural integrity of the structure whenever possible.

For application information, call St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc. at (904) 824-0902



City of St. Augustine
P.O. Box 210
St. Augustine, FL 32085-0210

PRSR STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
St. Augustine, FL
Permit NO. 44