



RIVER CITY SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

P.O. BOX 565, MASON CITY, IA

SPRING 2016 E-NEWSLETTER

COMING EVENTS

PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEER COFFEE

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Description: We will be hosting coffee and refreshments for those who were unable to join us at the January coffee. This is an informal, introductory get-together to learn about cashier and docent opportunities available at the Stockman House. If you enjoy meeting new people, contributing to the community and learning new skills, plan to join us and bring a friend. Actual training begins in the April. For more information, please contact **Nancy Sweetman**, 641-423-9231, nkksweetman@mchsi.com or **Sandy Ringstrom**, 815-529-0747, sandy@ringstrom.us.

Location: The Robert E. McCoy Architectural Interpretive Center

Time: 10am

RSVP: not necessary

Admission: Open to prospective volunteers

Cost: FREE, donations appreciated.

RCSHP ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Date: April 8, 2016

Description: Join us for an overview of our past fiscal year and the presentation of awards for historic preservation in our community. We will also be electing one At-Large member of our Board along with a Treasurer. If you have a desire to run for either office please contact **Chip Kinsey** (641-423-8061) before March 8th.

Location: The Robert E. McCoy Architectural Interpretive Center

Time: 7-8pm

RSVP: not necessary

Admission: Open to RCSHP members

Cost: FREE, donations appreciated.

MOTHERS DAY TOURS

Date: Sunday, May 8, 2016

Description: After taking you mother out to dinner bring her and your family over to the Stockman House for a tour.

Location: The Robert E. McCoy Architectural Interpretive Center

Tour Times: 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

RSVP: not necessary

Cost: \$10 per person

ROCK CREST/ROCK GLEN COULD BECOME A NATIONAL LANDMARK

Globe Gazette January 25, 2016

MASON CITY, Iowa — A district including a series of prairie style homes in east downtown Mason City could bring national recognition with its unique architecture.

The Rock Crest-Rock Glen Historical District sits on both sides of Willow Creek. It was nominated to be a historical landmark in 1979, but didn't meet the requirements at that time. Those working with the project say we'll know if the area gains national landmark status sometime this summer, adding the recognition will be good news for Mason City residents.

"We see a lot of architectural-based tourism and a lot of preservation-based tourism surrounding the Historic Park Inn, and adding Rock Crest-Rock Glen development will help increase tourism," said **Tricia Sandhal**, who has worked directly with the project.

"Being in a national historical landmark also increases property value, so for the district it actually being in a national historical landmark also increases property value for the people that live in that district," she added. "And actually owning property around the boundaries of the district, there's research that documents that your property values actually increase."

Sandhal and her team say they have made sure the area meets the requirements they did not meet in 1979.

LICENSING AGREEMENT



HISTORIC SITE

RCSHP has signed a Trademark and Licensing agreement with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation that will allow us to use their registered trademarks in our brochures, signage, merchandise and website.

NEW COFFEE MUGS

We have designed and produced some new and very attractive coffee mugs to sell in our gift shop. Coffee mugs are a popular item for visitors to collect from the various Wright Sites that they have visited. They also make



nice gifts for out-of-town friends to remind them of Mason City. Cost is only \$10. Prior to tour season our gift shop is open from November thru May 7th on Saturdays from 10-2pm and every day that we are open during tour season.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Since our last E-Newsletter we have had 53 people who have toured the Stockman House. Among those we had 20 from 1 large group tours. We also had 25 people who called ahead to participate in our new *Tours by Appointment*



program on the days we weren't open. According to our guest book we had visitors at the AIC from 13 states (CA, CO, FL, IA, IL, MI, MN, MO, ND, PA, TN, VA, WI).

QUOTE

I have been black and blue in some spot, somewhere, almost all my life from too intimate contacts with my own furniture. -- Frank Lloyd Wright's comment on his own furniture designs.

MASON CITY HISTORIC HOME FOR SALE

The WBG-designed **Arthur Rule House** (1912) at 11 Rock Glen is on the market for \$395K. Please contact Home Realty Group if interested..



NEW BROCHURES PRINTED

Thanks to a grant from Visit Mason City we were able to re-print our recently updated Stockman House brochures.

STOCKMAN HOUSE MAINTENANCE

Watch for a couple of new on-premise signs that will be installed this spring along with new off-premise highway signs on US18/IA27 at Exit 186. These signs were partially funded by a grant from Visit Mason City.



A contract has been let to repair the sagging soffit on the east side of the Stockman House. The work will be completed this summer.

AIC MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

Phase 2 (trim construction) of the Library/Archive/Office project in the basement of the AIC has been completed thanks to a grant from the Farrer Foundation. This project was started in 2014 and Phase 1 (rough construction) was

completed thanks to a grant from Worth County Development. We hope to have Phase 3, which includes the furnishing (file cabinets, bookcases, cabinets) completed later this year or next. We would welcome any donations that you would care to give us to help fund Phase 3.

WRIGHT GUIDE IPHONE APP

The **Wright GUIDE** app for iPhone® or iPad® is based on the world standard reference, *The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, a complete catalog*, by **William Allin Storrer, Ph.D.** This app will guide you to each of Wright's approximately 500 built works. With descriptions, directions and a photograph of each of Wright's buildings, you will know when you have reached the correct location.



Since the iPhone knows where you are, driving directions from the user's current location to any building are only a click away. You can also sort by LOCATION and see how many Wright buildings are in each state or sort by DATE and see which buildings were built in which year. There is a photograph of each building and several paragraphs of information concerning that building included as well as a listing of other Wright buildings that are nearby.

Storrer, who has visited each of these sites several times, who has met many of the original clients dating back to 1923, and who met children of earlier clients, keeps his documentation up-to-date and provides useful comments on such items as client, site, construction materials, plan type and layout, date of design by Wright, and updates, restorations and/or alterations made since original construction.

Features include:

- Almost 500 FLW buildings, almost all with a photograph
- Directions to each building (internet connection required)
- A map showing the buildings (internet connection required)
- List of nearby buildings for each building
- Lists of the buildings by state
- Lists of the buildings by design date
- A searchable index of all the buildings

Reminder: The majority of these buildings are on private property and you should stay on the street or public sidewalk to view or photograph them. Looking in windows is not acceptable behavior.

Wright GUIDE is now available from the Apple iTunes Store. Just search "Frank Lloyd Wright." The app is listed under Travel. The seller is Wayne Boucher of Azara Apps. Cost is \$9.99.

FLW IN THE NEWS

If you are interested in learning more about FLW you might like to know that since our last E-Newsletter we have posted links to ten current articles from newspapers, magazines and blogs of news events related to Wright and his buildings on our website www.StockmanHouse.org. To read these articles just click on [FLW NEWS & EVENTS](#) and then on [FLW in the News](#).

THE SECRET TO A HAPPIER, HEALTHIER LIFE: JUST RETIRE

Retirement, contrary to popular opinion, is not the time in which your satisfaction with life declines and your health deteriorates. Instead, it's the exact opposite: Retirement is likely to improve your overall happiness and health, according to a recent working paper published by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

And that improvement happens immediately, according to the authors of the paper, Aspen Gorry and Devon Gorry, both professors at Utah State University, and Sita Slavov, a professor at George Mason University.

Below, Aspen Gorry answers some questions about the study, its implications and what those planning for retirement should take away from the study.

Q: What were the study's goals?

A: We wanted to study the effect of retirement on people's well being and health as well as their health-care utilization.

Q: Can you describe your findings?

A: We find that retirement improves both happiness and health and that life satisfaction improves immediately upon retirement and these effects are long-lasting. While we don't find immediate effects on measurable health outcomes, we do find positive health impacts four or more years beyond retirement. This finding is consistent with the idea that health changes slowly over time so that retirement can have long term health benefits. We find no effect of retirement on health care utilization.

Q: What surprised you most about the findings?

A: We were surprised that the positive impact of retirement on reported well being was long lasting as many life events have been found to have only short-run effects that fade over time. We believe that this finding is the result of data that covers a longer time period. Finally, our findings suggest that these health benefits are not the result of increased health care utilization as most measures of utilization are not affected by retirement.

Q: What findings were expected?

A: We were not surprised to find that retirement led to an immediate increase in life satisfaction as previous research has found that people are happier after they retire.

A: What are the implications for those saving for retirement?

Q: I think a lot of people look forward to retirement and our

study suggests that on average people are happier in retirement and some health limitations improve. It appears to be a good period in life.

Robert Powell is editor of [Retirement Weekly](#), published by MarketWatch

THREE KEYS TO HAPPINESS

American clergyman George Washington Burnap (1802-1859) said, "***The grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.***" As an RCSHP volunteer we can at least help you with the first one of these and give you "something to do." We are always looking for new volunteers to help us as greeters, docents, cashiers, sales assistants, gardeners and window washers.

We would love to have your help! Call 641-423-1923.

Such communities as Buffalo, NY and Oak Park, IL and others are recognizing architectural tourism as a significant draw of tourist dollars. With the recent addition of the restored Historic Park Inn Hotel (HPIH) to other local historic sites, Mason City has joined that list. Since opening in the fall of 2011, the HPIH has recorded over 35,000 visitors from every state and over 50 foreign countries. Because of this we need your help to represent our city to these tourists at the Architectural Interpretive Center and the Stockman House.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Roz (née Calhoun) & John Barron are newlyweds, but not



new to the Stockman House. Roz was one of the first docents after the house was moved to its current location in 1989 and did that for twenty years. She and John are both interested in gardening and are currently in charge of all the beautiful flowers and plants around the outside of the Stockman House. Roz is a retired ER

nurse and John is a retired professor of Anatomy & Physiology.

Roz's interest in volunteering was sparked by the intrigue of this unusual house. She knew nothing about Frank Lloyd Wright when she started. Her docent training consisted of reading a few pages of history that Bob McCoy provided at the time. Little by little she learned more about the house and Mr. Wright and much of that was from the visitors who showed up for a tour. Her biggest surprise as a docent was the number of interesting people who were Wright fans that had traveled from all across the globe to come to Mason City because they wanted to see the Stockman House. She

has visited the Wright houses in Oak Park, IL and in Quasqueton, IA. Another interesting building she has visited is the Louis Sullivan bank in Owatonna, MN.

In addition to their gardening, Roz and John have volunteered at many places in Mason City including Music Man Square, Trinity Lutheran Church and the Girl Scouts.

Roz's advice to someone who might want to become a Stockman House volunteer is that you will take away from the experience a great deal of satisfaction in providing the visitors to Mason City a unique learning experience that will expand their knowledge of history and architecture. She has found that, as a retired person, volunteering expands your world that sometimes can become rather small and insular at that point in life.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that in addition to the 9 historic houses in Rock Crest/Rock Glen there are 20 other houses in Mason City that were constructed in the Prairie Style by various other architects?

NEW DOCENTS AND CASHIERS

RCSHP welcomes over a dozen new volunteers this year who have expressed an interest in joining our organization. Training will take place in April.

OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

We love how our corporate members show their appreciation for the historic built environment by becoming members. Our historic buildings are such a special resource of Mason City. Historic buildings represent the physical memories of life as it was lived during a previous time. If you are friends with the owners of any local businesses please encourage them to join. They can go to our website www.StockmanHouse.org and click on [Support Us](#) and follow the directions to join.

As you shop locally, we would like to encourage you to patronize our valued corporate members with your business.

BERRY LAW
BURGMEIER DENTISTRY
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DUGGAN PAINTING SERVICE
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HISTORIC PARK INN
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NUTRIQUEST
PETERSEN PLAZA
SCHUPICK & ASSOCIATES PC
TIERNEY PROPERTIES
WAGGONER AND WINEINGER ARCHITECTS
WRIGHT ON THE PARK

2016 SUMMER TOUR SEASON

Our regularly scheduled Summer Tour Season will start May 12th with tours on Thursday thru Sunday. **Tours by Appointment**, for small groups of less than ten people, are available at times when our scheduled tours are not offered. These groups must make a reservation at least three days in advance. *Large group* tours of ten or more must be made a week in advance. Please call 641-423-1923.

In recognition of our educational mission, the RCSHP Board has voted to change our tour policy for Student Groups. From now on all student group tours for grades 5 thru 12 from any public or private educational institution will be FREE. Student groups must be scheduled *at least two weeks in advance* and are available all year, excluding May & September. Call 641-423-1923 to arrange a tour to suit your needs.

RCSHP members can receive a 10% member discount at the AIC gift shop (upon presentation of your membership card) on all non-consignment items. Free member tours are available only during regularly scheduled tours from May — October.

LIFELONG LEARNING LECTURES

Bob McCoy's 6 different lectures are the various aspects of Prairie School Architecture drew over 200 people this year.

E-NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All RCSHP members are welcome to submit information, contribute a topic, a photo, an article, a book recommendation or a book review that you think would be appropriate for the next quarterly newsletter. If you know of an upcoming event that the membership should be made aware of please let me know that, too. These items will be published on a space-available basis and with the approval of the editor. The deadline for the **Summer 2016 E-Newsletter** is May 15th. We welcome and encourage your submissions. All submissions should be emailed to:

info@StockmanHouse.org.

— Paul Ringstrom, *E-Newsletter Editor*

FY2016

RCSHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of RCSHP is to restore, preserve, protect, own/operate historic and/or architecturally significant buildings and sites in Mason City, educate the public about historic architecture and encourage others to do the same.

The RCSHP owns and operates the Stockman House Museum and The Robert E. McCoy Architectural Interpretive Center, both of which are open for public tours.

The RCSHP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization run by volunteers and relies on donations, memberships, grants, tours and gift shop revenue to maintain our buildings and support our activities. Please go to the website and click on SUPPORT US to donate or renew your membership.

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