



NEWSLETTER Number 14

August - September 2013

The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion, a 501(c)(3) organization 3130 - McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214

Message from Board President, Phil Howard – Our first Music at the Mansion event for the 2013 series took place on Saturday, June 15th. The Blue and the Gray and City Limit Band had the place rockin’. Then on July 20th, The Moonlighters provided the Big Band Sound; at least until Mother Nature decided we needed rain and lighting and lots of it. The next opportunity for a night of music under the stars will be August 17th with The Nashville Blues Society. Load up your lawn chairs, invite your neighbors and head for Two Rivers Mansion. The grounds open at 7:00, close at 10:00; the music is from 7:30 to 9:30. The cost is a very nominal \$5 per person or a maximum of \$20 per car load; Friends members are admitted free upon showing the Membership Card. Our 4th and final music event of 2013 is scheduled for September 7th; we will be joined by The River Band and The Fellowship Worship Band. Not yet a Friends Member? We can take care of that at any Friends sponsored event; just visit the Friends Membership Table and choose the level of membership best suited for your enjoyment. Our Music at the Mansion events are sponsored in part by The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion, Metro Parks, Metro Historical Commission, Thornton’s, MPD Community Credit Union, SunBelt Rentals, Ryman Entertainment Properties Foundation, Rose Mary Lane’s Catering, McKendree Village, and radio station WAMB

Phil Howard, president

Additional Restoration Continues – After almost 18 months of work on the exterior of the Mansion and the 1802 House the restoration budget of \$1.2 million is almost gone. The remaining dollars will be spent on some additional needs related to the interior of the structure. Not long ago Tim Netsch from the Parks Department did a walk thru with Gary Grau, the restoration contractor, and made a list of visible needs. That list was prioritized for price estimates and that process is almost complete. The remaining estimate needed to complete the process is for the painting of the first floor woodwork. As soon as all the numbers are

available we will be able to see how much of the list we can accomplish with the \$40 thousand plus dollars that are still available for restoration work.

The Gentleman's Parlor Gets Redecorated – The Stones Rivers Woman's Club has been



meeting at the Mansion for a number of years and each year they do a project that benefits the interior space of the Mansion. This year they leaned on the decorating expertise of Jane Greenway to re-decorate the Gentleman's Parlor. That meant stripping the pink wallpaper from the walls and sanding and filling nicks and cracks in the woodwork before the walls were painted a wheat color and the woodwork repainted with a complementary crème color. The room will also benefit from new carpeting with help from the Gaylord Resort Hotel, Metro General Services and Buddy Allen Carpet and Tile. The photo shows the re-hanging of David McGavock's wedding portrait by some of the Friends Board following a recent Board meeting.

Music at the Mansion – On Saturday evening, July 20th approximately 350 folks turned out to enjoy the big band sounds of the Moonlighters. This 24 piece orchestra has been entertaining Nashville and the surrounding area with the sounds of the 40's for over 20 years and they didn't disappoint. Classic Party Rentals provided a dance floor for the lawn and the evening was going great until the cloudburst came just minutes after the band stopped for a mid show break. The mid show break turned out to be the end of the program but everyone seemed to agree that the first hour was an evening well spent. .



The next Music at the Mansion event will take place on Saturday evening, August 17th from 7:30pm to 9:30 pm and will feature members of the Nashville Blues Society. The Blues Society was the first group to appear at Music at the Mansion in August of 2011 and will be returning for their third visit as a crowd favorite. The soulful sounds and foot tapping rhythms of Markey Blue, Nick Nixon & Andy T and The Rickey Godfrey Band are sure to keep the crowd on their feet if the past is any indicator. This is an evening that's a must for any calendar.

Membership Has Its Privilege – It's important to remember that Friends of Two Rivers members are admitted free to all Friends events at the Mansion. That makes the cost of membership a great investment and it's also tax deductible since it's considered a contribution to a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Below is a list of the 2013 events with those remaining

Sunday, May 19 - Phil the House with Art and Friends (annual membership meeting)

Saturday, June 15 - Music at the Mansion (Rock n' Roll by the City Limits Band)

Saturday, July 20 - Music at the Mansion (Big Band music by the Moonlighters)

Saturday, August 17 - Music at the Mansion (Nashville Blues Society)

Saturday, Sept. 7 - Music at the Mansion (Contemporary Christian)

Saturday Oct 26 - Halloween at the Mansion

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, December 13, 14, 15 - Historic Holiday Tours

Plans Continue to Have the Mansion Open For Tours – On the Wednesday afternoon's of June the Mansion was open for historic tours and the trial was quite successful in demonstrating a need to have the Mansion open during the week. In order to move in that direction a group of volunteers have begun the process to train as docents for the Mansion. Plans are currently to offer Mansion tours again to the general public by the end of August or the first of September. Anyone interested in receiving the docent training necessary to be a volunteer should contact phil.claiborne@nashville.gov .

Mansion History – In previous installments of the Mansion History the circumstances leading up to the marriage of David and Willie McGavock have been outlined. The couple began their life together in 1850 and the Mansion was completed in 1859. By the 1870's the estate had developed into a thriving stock farm and David was well known as the primary breeder of the Morgan horses and their use in harness racing. In 1890 one of the most famous of the Morgan horses, Ben Franklin, was purchased by a stock company owned by David and his uncle, General William Hicks Jackson, for \$8,000. By this time David's health was beginning to fade and his son Frank took control of the farm in 1891. Some might consider an investment of this size questionable especially in view of the financial situation that led to the panic of 1893 and the depression it created in Tennessee. It was almost certain to have contributed to circumstances that placed the farm near bankruptcy. The fact that Frank didn't share his father's passion for the farm or for horses and perhaps was not an astute business manager also were contributing factors that lead up to foreclosure procedures that eventually resulted in a Courthouse steps sale in October 1898.

Fortunately David and Willie never knew of the dire straits their beloved home had come into. Willie died in December 1895 at the age of 63 and David died the following year at the age of 70.

Memberships – Memberships for "The Friends of Two Rivers" are available in categories that range from a minimum of \$20 a year up to corporate memberships of \$2,000 a year. **All membership fees are considered donations and are, therefore, tax deductible.** The **Basic Memberships** are listed below and anyone that might be interested in using the Mansion for an event can choose from one of **Event Membership** categories which will be determined at a time of consultation with the Two Rivers Mansion Events Coordinator, Laura Carrillo. She can be reached at 615-885-1112 or laura.carrillo@nashville.gov . Corporate membership levels and benefits can be explained by contacting Mrs. Carrillo or any member of the Friends Board.

BASIC Membership for Friends of Two Rivers Mansion includes:

- I. Senior citizen or Student - \$20 annual or \$55 for 3 years
- II. Individual - \$25 annual or \$65 for 3 years
- III. Family - \$50 or \$125 for 3 years

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for my tax-deductible membership.

Make check payable to: The Friends of Two Rivers

Mail check to: 3130 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214

Most events at the Mansion that have an admission fee but are free to members who show their membership card.

During the 2013-14 membership year, anyone who subscribes to a one-year Supporting Membership at the \$150.00 level will receive a signed and numbered limited edition print of the Mansion as a gift. The un-framed print is currently valued at \$75.00.

New Merchandise and Credit Cards – Friends related merchandise is available at all Friend’s sponsored events as well as from the website. Items available for purchase includes prints of the Mansion and 1802 House, note cards, Friends of Two Rivers T-shirts in a variety of colors, tote bags as well as a number of salvaged items from the restoration. We are able to accept credit cards for the purchase of Friends merchandise as well as for membership fees. The website at www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org or www.friendsoftworiversmansion.com also offers a PayPal link for the purchase of merchandise in addition to paying for memberships. Donations can also be made using the PayPal link.

During the months of August and September a special offer is open to anyone who takes a new 1 year supporting membership at \$150. As an incentive to be involved with the Friends at this level, this membership will include one of the signed and numbered limited edition prints of the Mansion. This is the same print that sells for \$150 framed and matted and the offer is only good during the remaining Music at the Mansion months.

Phil Claiborne

Founder