



**Message from Board President, Phil Howard** - It seems that spring is in the air and along with that comes many, many opportunities for participation at Two Rivers Mansion. For those who had the good fortune to secure a reservation for Dr. Carole Bucy's lecture series, "Nashville 101 - Beginnings to Beginning", there is one installment remaining on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. On April 29<sup>th</sup> the first annual 'Evening of Elegance' fund raising reception and formal dinner took place. Progress continues on the Master Plan project which will set the course for future development and enhancement of opportunities for community participation at Two Rivers Mansion. May 15<sup>th</sup> brings the annual "Phil the House" event which has just been enhanced by the inclusion of an outdoor painting workshop led by artist Kevin Menck (see newsletter article for more information). Late breaking news...a very generous member of the Donelson community and good friend of Two Rivers Mansion made it possible to have 4 loads of river gravel delivered to cover all parking and driving surfaces at the Mansion. We salute our "Friend" who wishes to remain anonymous! So much news, so little space; I hope to see you soon at Two Rivers Mansion! Please visit our website, [friendsoftworiversmansion.org](http://friendsoftworiversmansion.org), for additional activities, information and membership opportunities.

**An Evening of Elegance** - With 900 square feet of double parlor space immediately adjacent to almost that much front and rear foyer space, its easy to image some of the impressive dinner parties and gathering that took place at Two Rivers Mansion in

the days gone by. Those who remember Mary Louse McGavock (the last surviving widow) can recall that she loved to entertain before her health prevented her from doing so. With that kind of history in place, it has been a goal of the Friends group, since the founding, to have a 'gala' event at the Mansion. That goal was achieved on Friday evening April 29th. The Evening of Elegance at Two Rivers Mansion began at 6 p.m. with guest arriving for light for Hors D'oeuvres and cocktails on the rear veranda.



At 7 p.m. guests entered the elegantly decorated Mansion for a formal dinner catered by the staff of Dream Events and Catering. The menu consisted of a garden salad,



yellow saffron rice and asparagus with slivered red pepper. Dessert consisted of Buttermilk Strawberry Shortcake with whipped cream topping. After dinner entertainment was provided by Brooks Parker. The event was planned and executed by a remarkable event team chaired by Willie McDonald and assisted by Beverly Oakley and Laura Carrillo.

**Master Plan Progress** - Under the direction of David Curry, the Principal of Encore Interpretive Design, llc, the first phase of the Master Plan for the Mansion and surrounding grounds is well underway. To date, various Encore partners have been busy surveying the property and making various assessments including the structure and mechanical condition of Mansion. One of the most revealing outcomes of this phase of the work has been the discovery of the siting of various structures that no

longer exist but for which foundations and other marking do remain. Two of these include the Spring House and a long retaining stacked stone wall.

This current phase also includes research on the history of both the families and the property and this has led to some fascinating information that connects the property to the John Harding family in ways that have been forgotten. This research has also shed light on the Harding/McGavock slave families and on at least one individual who was known at his death as the wealthiest freedman in Nashville. Subsequent phases of the work will continue through the summer.



**1802 House Gets a Face Lift** - Since the beginning of this year the 1802 House has been undergoing a major interior renovation. The bulk of this work is due to the efforts of two Metro Parks painters who have been dedicating some of their time to patching plaster, sanding and prepping walls and woodwork for new coats of paint. Before this work is finished, Grau Restoration and Construction will return to the property to do some additional work in the kitchen area of the house. This work will include the reconstruction of a storage cabinet using some of the original materials and the installation of a horizontal mantel piece above the kitchen fireplace. Once this work is complete the house will be furnished



with period furniture and other items, and will become an additional element of the Mansion tours that are set to begin on June 1st.

**Music at the Mansion** - Music at the Mansion returns for the 5th summer and the first of four events will occur on Tuesday, June 7th with the return of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. This concert is part of the Music in the Parks series which is a joint sponsorship of Metro Parks and the Symphony, and the Friends are proud to once again be the host for this evening of great entertainment on the Mansion grounds. The music begins at 7 p.m. so pack a picnic dinner, bring a blanket or lawn chair, and immerse yourself in a magical summer night of music and fun at Two Rivers Mansion. There is no admission charge for this event.



Later in June, on Friday the 24th, the second Music event of the season will begin at 7 p.m. as Dennis Payne and the Payne Gang take to the veranda for an evening of country music. Dennis is known as "Bakersfield's Native Son". Dennis is not only a



talented entertainer but is well known in the music business as a prolific song writer and producer. He's also well known as a master of his famous Telecaster guitar and for his work with such country music legends as Merle Haggard, Buck Owens, Tommy Overstreet, Little Jimmy Dickens and Earl Thomas Conley. If you like country music, this will be an evening you don't want to miss. Admission is \$5 per person or \$20 per car, and Friends members are admitted free when they show a current membership card. The full summer line up is included on the flyer that's enclosed with this newsletter. Please feel

free to make copies and help us with the promoting of these events.

**Corporate Sponsor spotlight** - It goes without saying that any non-profit organization would have a difficult time accomplishing their goals without the aid and assistance of sponsors who share in their mission and purpose. The Friends of Two Rivers is fortunate to have a number of such business and corporate organizations that provide support for our stated purpose of restoration, preservation, and promotion of the Mansion and grounds. Beginning with this edition, and in coming newsletters, these sponsorships will be highlighted as a way of saying "Thank You" for their support.

Ryman Hospitality Properties is a real estate investment trust ("REIT") specializing in destination hotels that are managed by Marriott International under the Gaylord Hotels brand. Other managed assets include Gaylord Springs Golf Links, the Wildhorse Saloon, the General Jackson Showboat, The Inn at Opryland, all in Nashville, and the AC Hotel Washington DC at National Harbor. Ryman also operates a number of media and entertainment assets that include the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium and 650 AM WSM, the Opry's radio home.



It's only fitting that Ryman Hospitality Properties should be the first to take this spotlight in that they were the first to become a corporate sponsor in 2010. When President and CEO, Colin Reed, was first approached about the possibility of a sponsorship, he was quick to respond that it was important to keep a Nashville treasure like Two Rivers Mansion viable and that, as a neighbor, Ryman would be honored to join with the Friends of the Mansion in pursuing that goal. Much gratitude is due to Mr. Reed for the confidence he displayed at that time in an infant organization, and it was actually due to his confidence and the Ryman sponsorship

that the Friends were actually able to open a bank account. 2016 marks our sixth year as an organization and much of the success of those six years can be tied to the support of Ryman Hospitality Properties

**Phil the House** - Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 15th, for the Phil the House open house and art show. This was the inaugural event for the Friends in 2010 and has proved to be a favorite for the membership since then. For those who may not have attended perviously Phil the House is a Sunday afternoon open house event that allows the community to experience a leisurely visit at the Mansion while enjoying a glass of wine or punch, viewing the work of a local artist and listening to some soothing music. This year's event will feature the work of local artist, Kevin Menck. Kevin's works are paintings of nature accomplished in nature (en plein air). He is a member of Oil Painters of America, The Cumberland Society of Painters, Plein Air Painters of the Southeast and The Chestnut Group.

A special feature of this year's Phil the House will be an outdoor workshop conducted by Kevin Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, May 11, 12, 13 on the Mansion grounds. Cost of the 3 day workshop is \$395.00 which includes all materials. More information is available by calling 615-347-1170. Enrollment is limited.



**Membership** - 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 or \$3,000 for two years. **All membership fees are considered donations and are, therefore, tax deductible.** The **Basic** categories are listed below and anyone interested in using the Mansion for an event can choose from one of **Event Membership** or **Supporting 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](mailto:laura.carrillo@nashville.gov) .

All Friends events are free to members so the cost of membership is more than covered if you attend all the events that are offered during the membership year. Memberships also make a great gifts for friends and relatives. Memberships can be taken at any Friends event and the admission fee will be credited to the membership amount. The website at [www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org](http://www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org) also has a link that will allow for a membership purchase as well as other items that are available in the Shoppe.

The membership form on the following page can also be used to secure a membership. The Friends of Two Rivers is a 501c3 organization which means that membership are tax deductible gifts to the organization.

**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 \$\_\_\_\_\_ gift for my tax-deductible membership.

Checks should be made payable to Friends of Two Rivers Mansion and mailed to: The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion, 3130 McGavock, Nashville, TN 37214

*Phil Claiborne*

Founder  
The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion  
a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization



# Music AT THE MANSION

3130 McGavock Pike • Nashville, TN 37214 • [www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org](http://www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org)



**TUESDAY JUNE 7 • 7:00PM**  
**FREE!** Part of *Metro Parks' Concert Series.*



**FRIDAY JUNE 17 • 7:00PM**  
Dennis Payne and the Payne Gang



**SATURDAY AUG. 27 • 7:00PM**  
Them Rubies



**SATURDAY SEPT. 17 • 7:00PM**  
Big Band

**ADMISSION: \$5 PER PERSON**  
**\$20 PER FAMILY CAR**  
**MEMBERS FREE**

*RoseMary Lane Catering has gourmet sandwiches, sides, sweets & beverages to purchase. Bring blankets, lawn chairs and enjoy an evening on the lawn of Two Rivers Mansion.*

PRESENTED BY:



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