

The
**James Millikin
Homestead Gazette**

Volume XLV, Issue 11

125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, IL 62522

May 2020

Upcoming Events

Open Houses

Sunday, June 28

Sunday, July 26

Sunday, August 30

Sunday, September 27

Sunday, October 25

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Suggested Donation:

Adults \$2 Children \$.50

Wednesday, July 8

Lawn Party featuring

Greater Decatur Youth Band

& Summer Strings

August – date TBA

Grandparents' Day

Saturday, September 19

Taste of History

5:00 – 9:00 pm

Saturday, October 17

Ice Cream Social for

Millikin University

Homecoming

All dates are subject to change due to COVID-19 directives. Check our Facebook page or contact us for the most up to date information.

Homestead History Room

The transformation of the former caretaker's living room and kitchen into the Homestead history room continues!

The walls are being patched and several board members have volunteered to paint. Work is expected to begin in early May to upgrade the flooring to select red oak which will match the second floor hallway. A light fixture has been selected to allow display lighting for various exhibits.

Our thanks to the John Ullrich Foundation for the grant that has made this work possible. We are excited to unveil this addition to the Homestead this summer, with a plan in the works for a fall history presentation.



Breaking News!!!

When the experts from Brookens Flooring started taking up the worn wood flooring this week for replacement, they made an exciting discovery! The original heart pine flooring beneath is in excellent condition! We are so excited to refinish this beautiful, 143-year flooring rather than covering it up once again! Stay tuned for the unveiling later this summer!

Open Houses

It has been difficult for everyone during this COVID-19 outbreak. Many activities have been cancelled, including the April 26th and May 31st Millikin Homestead Open Houses.

Hopefully, beginning in June, the Homestead will be able to resume the Open House schedule on the last Sunday of each month through October from 2:00 until 4:00 pm. The Homestead will be open to the public with volunteers available to provide tours and to answer questions. A suggested donation of \$2 for adults and \$.50 for children will be gratefully accepted from Open House visitors. All Homestead members are admitted for free. We hope to see you at the Homestead on one or more of the following Open House dates: June 28th, July 26th, August 30th, September 27th, and October 25th. Please check our Facebook page or call the Homestead to ensure the Homestead will be open.

Mission Statement

Through the preservation of the Homestead, we engage, educate, and entertain visitors with the stories of the Millikins and Decatur.

President's Letter

Greetings from your new Millikin Homestead President. My name is Donna Williams, and as a resident of the Millikin Homestead neighborhood, I'm looking forward to moving the mission of Millikin Homestead forward in the year to come. Like all of you, the Board is "sheltering in place" due to COVID-19 issues. While this means that a lot of the activities we've come to look forward to over the years are deferred or suspended, that does not mean that nothing has been happening at our beloved Homestead. As you can see from the reports of our various committees, projects have been recently completed, are in various states of

execution or are on the drafting board. So exciting times are ahead once we get back to normal! Like all of you the board has been challenged to look at new ways of using technology to get our work done. Stay tuned for new and improved opportunities in this area! In closing, thank you for your support and stay safe.

Donna Williams

Old-Fashioned Lawn Party

Last summer's Lawn Party was a wonderful family event, so we decided to do it again!

Preliminary plans are underway with hopes that the COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted in time. The 2020 Lawn Party will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, July 8th with a rain date of July 9th. The Greater Decatur Youth Band and Summer Strings Program will be performing, and other family-fun activities will be available during the evening. Ice cream, popcorn and chilled water will be available for purchase for a nominal fee. The event is free and open to the public.

More information will be available on our Facebook page and on our website, so please check as the date approaches. We look forward to seeing you!

Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days

The 41st annual Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days program, scheduled for the week of April 27, 2020, was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Traditionally, James and Anna Millikin welcomed Macon County third graders to their home for a living history presentation. Students participated in hands-on activities and enjoyed time interacting with the Millikins, their friends, and staff.

This year, we were excited to be able to offer ten schools \$50 bus grants. The Board is grateful to our bus grant sponsors—the Golden K's, the Early Bird Kiwanis, and Hickory Point Bank for their generosity and support of the Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days program. We look forward to the time when we can, once again, welcome visitors to the Homestead.

Bold and Beautiful!

Once again, Thomas Melvin has worked his magic! This time, he gave both "Necessary Rooms" (bathrooms) ornamental embellishments to take them from "blah" to "striking"!

The downstairs bathroom is bold in its rich red walls with blue/beige stencils outlining the dark wall paneling. It results in a dramatic look that compliments the library with its red velvet chairs, high panel book shelves and the massive black stone fire place surround.

Upstairs, water colors of blues and greens prevail and are a fitting background to the floral decorations. Reeds wafting behind the tub, a small frog leaping across, a butterfly escaping from a bouquet of flowers set the tone and add a serene quality to the whole room. This bathroom has a large window and therefore natural light enhances the chosen theme.

We hope you will be as pleased as we are when you next visit the Homestead. In these uncertain times, we can only hope that won't be too far off.



Many Thanks!

The Board wishes to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our many loyal, long-time members and also to those who have joined the Homestead for the first time for your support during the Homestead Membership Drive. Additional thanks go to those who generously made a donation either in conjunction with their membership or in response to the drive. Without your support, the Homestead would quickly cease to exist. Please enjoy the benefits of your membership which include staying abreast of Homestead happenings through the quarterly newsletter, first notification of upcoming events, free admittance to Sunday Open Houses and a 25% discount on rentals of the Homestead. Thank you, once again, for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Homestead!

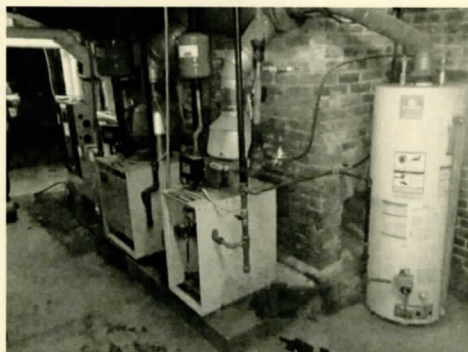
Grandparents' Day

We grandparents are always looking for fun (and maybe educational activities) to share with our precious grandchildren. This August, the Homestead would like to host grandparents and their grandchildren for a morning of "old fashion" fun that will entertain as well as educate a new generation about activities from the late 1800's. More details will follow but we hope you will join us for games, crafts, and refreshments on the fabulous lawn of the Homestead.

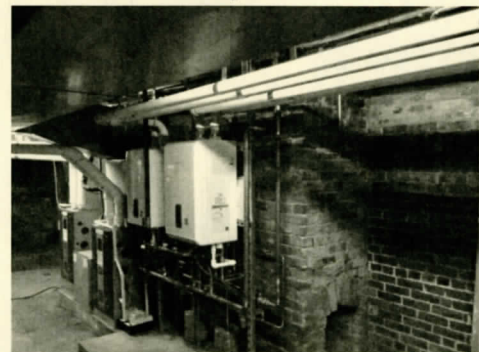
Heating, Boilers, A/C – Oh My! *(phase 2)*

The Homestead owes a debt of gratitude to the James Millikin Trustees for the financial support and to TICA Heating and Cooling for the replacement of the second floor heating and air conditioning plus a new boiler system. The new equipment is high efficiency and will save significant money for the Homestead going forward. All work has been completed and the system tested with perfect results. We can all rest assured that the Homestead's heating and air conditioning systems are secure for the foreseeable future.

Before



After



Annual Meeting 2020

In this COVID-19 world, the James Millikin Homestead Annual Meeting had an unusual format. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, April 23. The Annual Meeting is always open to all Homestead and community members. Unfortunately, due to the unusual circumstances, the meeting was attended only by Homestead Board members.

The main business of the meeting was to install the officers for the 2020-21 year. We are pleased to announce the following slate of officers was approved and installed; President – Donna Williams, Vice President – Ann-Marie Hillyer, Treasurer – Doug Warren, Co-Secretaries – Deborah Scheiter and Patricia Wenda. We are grateful to these Board members for offering their time and leadership in the coming year. The Board also thanks outgoing President, Linda Ostrander and Vice President, Julie Carter for their work over the last two years.

Taste of History 2020

Plans are underway (with fingers crossed) for the 2020 Taste of History. A date of Saturday, September 19, 2020 has been tentatively scheduled and final plans will be dependent on the directives for COVID-19. The event has sold out the last two years so put the date on your calendar and stay tuned for more details!

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.



125 N. Pine Street
Decatur, IL 62522

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James Millikin Homestead Board of Directors

Donna Williams – President

Ann-Marie Hillyer – Vice President

Douglas Warren – Treasurer

Deborah Scheiter &

Patricia Wenda – Co-Secretaries

Mary Lou Brown

Jason Butterick

Julie Carter

Marilyn Davis

Alan Duesterhaus

Brigitta Kapp

Joanne Kerper

Ruby Mathews

Linda Ostrander



Please consider making your support of the James Millikin Homestead a part of your legacy by including the Homestead in your estate planning.



Not a member of the James Millikin Homestead? Memberships are inexpensive and the support you provide through a membership is immeasurable. Please contact the Homestead for more information.



Stay in touch with the James Millikin Homestead:

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Phone: 217-422-9003

Please leave a message and your call will be returned.