

BGHS News—September 2015

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Noel Richard Home, Now ONU's *Victorian Art Gallery*, Open to the Public



This historic home, known as the Noel Richard Home at 577 S. Main Street in Bourbonnais is now again open to the public. This home with its Victorian Age spire, slate roof, and spacious rooms was built about 1890. It was occupied for many years by Hypolite Gousset and sold to Noel Richard in 1902. It was later occupied by Richard's widow and the Fred Brault family in the early 1930s. The home was sold in 1940 to Edyth Curl. Until July 2011, Olivet Nazarene University students and the general public enjoyed the home as the *Higher Grounds Coffee & Café restaurant*. ONU has now reopened the historic home as the *Victorian Art Gallery*. The visual arts gallery will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-7 pm and Fridays from 12-3 pm.

Issues Discussed at September 3 Membership Meeting

At the BGHS meeting on Thursday September 3, the following items were discussed:

- ***A house "sitter" for Letourneau Home/Museum is needed for Sunday October 4 from 1-4 pm***--self-guided tour information is available to all visiting guests--please contact me if you are available to volunteer that day;
- Appreciation for Judy Smead and Gary Seinier's "sitting" for the home/museum during 1-4 pm open houses on the first and third Sundays of August;
- The concept of reviving for 2016 the July 4th and fall BGHS-sponsored *Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair*, with Ellen Stinger as the organizer, was approved;
- Marcia Rabideau is planning the opening of a spring exhibit (featuring 1830-1900 Bourbonnais education, businesses, farming, and churches) for the display cases in the meeting room;

- A work session was scheduled for Saturday September 26 from 8-10 am for mulching and pruning--appreciation was expressed to the village for providing the truckload of mulch; and
- The Water Brigade will continue in September to water the thirsty arboretum plants.

Have an enjoyable September! Best wishes,

Dr. Jim Paul, Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society Board Member