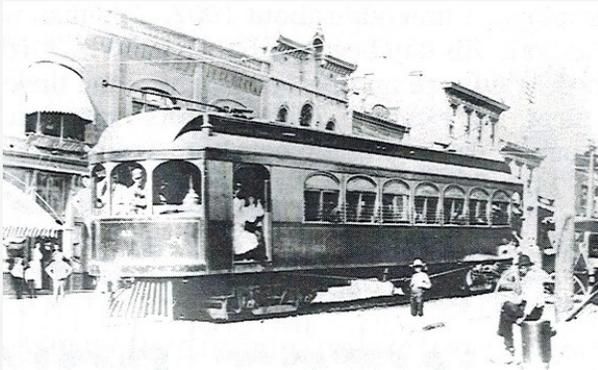


# MUSEUM MUSES

## The Traction Line



then to Columbus. Judge Peter Swing and his sons, Philip and Richard, joined Burkhold and incorporated the line with a capital of \$10,000. Others soon joined them. The company called the new endeavor the "Hillsboro Short Line" and this name appears on the sides of the cars.

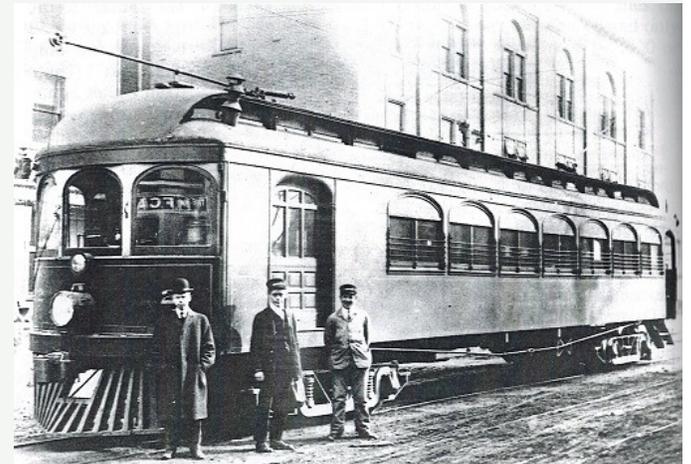
cerning right of way agreements and other such problems took much of the attention during the years of construction. Natural events, such as river floods further threatened completion.

In May, 1905, the first fatality occurred on the railroad. A man riding on the top of a box car was caught by a low lying telephone wire, thrown from the train and killed when he

**T**he first car to travel around the Highland County Court House was on 27 July 1907. That was the rail service formally known as the Cincinnati and Columbus Traction Company (aka, Hillsboro Short Line; aka, The Swing Line) which first made the journey from Cincinnati to Hillsboro with hopes of extending to Columbus. This was an electric line which operated from 1906 to 1920, however it was

abandoned east of Owensville in 1919., then totally abandoned in 1920. The company was chartered in 1901 and opened on 22 April 1906.

The line began when Henry Burkhold, a cashier at the Franklin Bank, as a result of traveling to visit a relative in Clermont County, saw an opportunity to build out on the Cincinnati-Chillicothe turnpike (US Rt. 50) to Hillsboro, hopefully on to Washington Court House and



Legal wrangling con-

landed on his head.

When the line reached Hillsboro, the Council had given a franchise for tracks along Elm Street to Main Street, but the Norfolk & Western refused a crossing at grade. They proposed either one above or below at costs from \$15,000 to \$30,000. (Crossing at grade would cost around \$400.) The C&C offered \$5000 but the N&W refused their offer, which prompted the C&C to take the case to court. In September of 1905, the Common Pleas Court gave permission for them to cross the N&W track. C&C did (continued on page 2)

20 MAY—50th Anniversary Celebration!

*You are cordially invited to attend a celebration of  
50 years of preserving and promoting  
Highland County History!  
20 May 2015 5-7pm  
Speakers - Tree Planting Ceremony  
Dedication of our new Bell!  
Please bring your family and friends!*



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2 Year Term:

Michael Shanahan  
Justin Harsha  
Pamela Nickell  
Steve Holland

3 Year Term:

Katie Burwinkel  
John Kellis  
Tim Koehl  
Jim Rooney  
Rose Ryan  
Jean Wallis

**Denny Kirk\***

Avery Applegate

**\*Join us in welcoming Denny Kirk to the board. He is completing Lana Daniels' position and will be on the slate in Oct.**

Society Officers

Arlene Huffman- President  
Mary Jo Copeland-V. President  
DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF

**Congratulations to Dana Bogart-Cress and Andrew Hall,** who were our interns last summer. We have heard from Dana that both she and Andrew have successfully defended their theses to receive their Masters in History. Dana's topic was "Northwestern Ohio's Environmental Borderlands." Best of luck to these fine young folks as they search for jobs in schools or museums!

**THE TRACTION LINE** (continued from page 1)

the work and the N&W brought in 100 men who tore out all of the work and posted a guard. They were then cited for contempt of court, fined and threatened with incarceration of their officials until the crossing was rebuilt. The work was done immediately.

Finally, on 23 August 1905, The Cincinnati Post reported on an inspection trip of a

not yet ready. The group traveled along at fifty miles an hour and when arriving Hillsboro, found that the electric cars had just been delivered. They were 57 feet long and "equipped with the heaviest of trucks and steel-rimmed wheels, the finish of a Pullman car inside and with all modern electrical appliances." (from Cincinnati and Columbus Traction Co, pub-

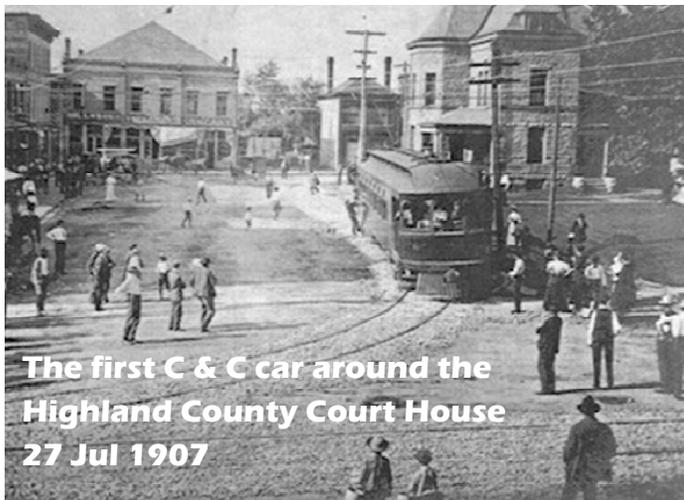
empire type. The seats are Hale & Kilburn latest high-back walkover type. These seats in the main compartment are upholstered in green plush and those in the smoking compartment with rattan. There is a toilet room in the rear of each car. The Peter Smith hot water heating system is used, with the heater on the front platform."

The Cincinnati newspapers announced the opening of the line would be Sunday, 1 October between Hillsboro and Milford.

The Hillsboro News-Herald reported on 5 October that the cars had to stop west of town as they could not cross the N&W tracks until a court decision. The N&W had appealed the local judge's ruling to a higher court. Passengers had to take a horse drawn bus from there to the court house square.

The long saga leading to abandonment of the line is indeed a sad one. Legal problems, human errors and natural weather disasters with resulting damage all led to the demise of the C&C Traction Company.

Perhaps it is described best in McNeil's book: "With the euphoria of the day Burkhold and the Swings went ahead getting franchises and, later, selling stock. Today, looking back, we know they had not planned on the lack of a connection at Hillsboro, failed to see that the region beyond Milford had too few people to support a railroad and had no idea that the toy they could witness, the automobile, would some day destroy almost all electric lines."



The first C & C car around the Highland County Court House 27 Jul 1907

large group of officials, stockholders and friends who had gone to Milford the previous day to inspect the C&C Traction Line, the cars being drawn by a steam engine as the electrical equipment was

lished 1996 by David McNeil.) These were built by The Jewett Car Company of Newark, Ohio. "The finish throughout is selected mahogany of a rich color and marquetry inlay. The ceiling is semi-

**Faye Thompson's 80th Birthday!**

Faye Thompson, longtime member and volunteer with HCHS celebrated her 80th birthday at Highland House with a Victorian Tea Party, hosted by daughters Becky Storer and Gayla Thompson and granddaughters, Heather Storer and Mallory and Callie Thompson. Guests included Faye's high school friends, former teachers and co-workers, church friends as well as family. Faye was also surprised by



the kitchen crew and servers: Maddie Cupp, Reid Sharp and Nate Steiner. Special thanks to Avery Applegate for



the Hat Display!



## St. Patrick's Day Brunch 2015



"Irish eyes were smiling" when the Highland Co. Histori-

cal Society hosted their first event of the year, the St. Patrick's Day Brunch, on Sunday, March 15. The Highland House was "green" with potted shamrocks, (Oxalis) derby hats, and beautiful pictures of Ireland. Approximately ninety people enjoyed a delicious brunch, toured the museum, and shopped at The Museum Shop. The Girl Scout Clubs of America currently have a new display in the Music Room and The Museum Shop has new spring and Easter gift



items. A big thank you to Kroger, Bob Evans Restaurant, Blossoms 'N' Buds florist, All Seasons Catering, and the museum volunteers and members who made the event such a

huge success. Thank you to all community members who attended and supported this festive event. Proceeds will be used for the utility bills and maintenance of Highland House and Scott House.

Jim Milliken from Ohio Secretary of State's office presented a commendation to us honoring our 50th Anniversary. We have also received similar documents from Ohio Senate and House of Representatives.



## Route 50 Coast to Coast Yard Sale

The Highland County Historical Society is participating in the Route 50 Coast to Coast Yard Sale May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year for the event...but the first year Hillsboro is taking part. We are excited to have vendors setting up in the parking lot of the Scott House, 338 West Main Street as well as the connecting HHS parking lot. Our vendors will be featuring antiques, vintage & collectibles, re-purposed items, as well as arts and crafts. Depending on when you receive this publication, we may still have some booth space available! If you are interested in renting a space, please contact Avery Applegate at 937 393-4345.

## 2015 TOUR OF HOMES

Mark your calendars folks...because we are having a tour of homes this year! Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 until 5:00 pm, eight homeowners will be welcoming guests into their homes. We will also have the Hillsboro Church of Christ open that day for touring along with the Highland House Museum. Tickets are \$10 each and will be available in advance starting June 1st at Wilkin & Wilkin Insurance 127 South High Street, Burwinkel Dentistry 323 North High Street (next door to the Post Office), and the Highland House Mu-

seum 151 East Main Street which is open Saturdays and Sundays 1:00-4:00. Tickets will also be available at the Museum the day of the event.

Now that you know the logistics, let us provide you with some finer details - what homes are included!

Board member and chairman of the home tour committee, Avery Applegate kick started the campaign for homes by volunteering her own home...here is the complete list:

Avery Applegate 311 Oak St  
Sandy Cook 222 Oak St

Caroyl Reid 418 W South St  
Bill & Carleen Alexander 417 W Pleasant St  
Rick & Jennifer Jenkins 433 Danville Pike  
Carol Mullenix 943 W Main St  
Eric & Becky Long 8770 St. Rt. 124  
Hillsboro Church of Christ 155 W Walnut St

We are in need of volunteers for the day of the event! This would involve spending the afternoon in one of the homes the day of the tour. There is a luncheon and tour on Saturday for all of those who volunteer. If you are willing to volunteer, please call 393-3392 to let us know of your interest.

We hope you will support the Society by attending or helping this event!

### Highland County Historical Society Home & Historic Building Tour Admission Ticket



HIGHLAND HOUSE MUSEUM  
151 E. Main St.

Built by Peter Leake Ayres, an iron merchant, c. 1842-44, the home is known as "four over four," meaning a two story house with two rooms on either side of a central hall on each floor. Originally a private residence and later an inn, the property was made the permanent home of Highland County Historical Society in 1965. It now houses a fine collection of local artifacts and is furnished with antiques of the period.

## WHAT'S COMING THIS YEAR?

In May, we think it might be nice to have a planned walking tour of Hillsboro. June 28 will bring our biennial **TOUR OF HOMES AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS**.

The **FESTIVAL OF THE BELLS**, always in July, will involve HCHS. Our hours of operation during the Festival will be 1-6pm on Friday and Saturday and 1-4pm on Sunday. **THE AMAZING RACE**, held in August, will find HCHS involved as one of the stops! We are considering moving the **GHOST WALK** to August to assure good daylight for walking the often-uneven cemetery grounds.

In September we plan another event featuring our **LOG CABIN**. Right now, October is still open, but there are some ideas brewing!

Coming up in November? Our **FIRST GINGERBREAD HOUSE Competition!** (Preliminary information was presented in last quarter's newsletter.) Our **Christmas Open House** as well as participation in the **Veterans' Appreciation** event are scheduled.

Our December will continue the **Christmas Celebration** and the theme for decoration this year will involve nativity scenes.

Still to be worked into the year's events are programs and speakers. We are hoping to bring back the **Heritage Music Series**.

So much going on! We hope you will want to be a part of each event that "rings your bell"! Perhaps you will feel so enthused about a couple of the events that you will volunteer to help with running the event—perhaps even expressing your desire to serve on a committee!

How do you volunteer? Call Highland House any time, day or night, and leave a message on our answering machine. Our Director will route your call to the proper person who will respond to you! Our number is 393-3392.

## National Girl Scout Month Tea



Nearly 50 young ladies met at the Highland House on March 28 to celebrate National Girl Scout Month with a tea party. Girl Scout

Troop 2721 learned about the history of tea and tea parties along with table etiquette. The girls planned the event, made the finger foods, decorated the tables with tea pots and enjoyed the afternoon together. They also made hand fans and learned their history. Jodi Meyers, troop leader, and several others assisted the girls in the afternoon activities.



## TEMPORARY EXHIBIT

Shaving Mugs and related items from the collection of John Glaze.



Now through  
June 30.

## SMILE AMAZON!

Do you shop Amazon? We have learned that they have a program similar to Kroger Community Rewards and have registered HCHS as a recipient of a share of their donations to non-profits.

The process to sign up is quite simple. Just go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). Follow instructions found there on the sign up method. Each time you shop Amazon, be sure to use the same website address to allow your purchase to help HCHS.



**THANK YOU!**



We hope you didn't let April pass without reregistering your KROGER PLUS CARD for Community Rewards, listing HCHS as your charity of choice! You must do this every April to keep Community Rewards flowing to HCHS!

Simply sign into your account as you do when loading electronic coupons onto your card and go into your profile to re-select HCHS. The process is quite simple and fast, taking only a couple minutes.



## GIRL SCOUT MEMORABILIA

Becky Sanderson's Highland County Girl Scout Troop 321 set up a display of Girl Scout memorabilia in the music room at the Highland House for March. Their display consisted of uniforms, badges, books, a coverlet, dolls and other items



reflecting the history of Girl Scouts. Many of the artifacts are on loan from Megan Bettle. Their display met the requirements for the Bronze Award.

## ADAMS COUNTY TOUR GROUP

Nearly 30 members of the Adams County Historical Society visited Highland County recently. Their first stop was in Sinking Spring where Jami Holland told the history of the Octagonal School and Julie Seaman related the details on the historic Methodist Church. In Hillsboro, the group visited the Presbyterian Church, Vicki Knauff and Pamela Nickell led them on a tour of Highland House, Rocky Coss took them through the court house and told many humorous incidents and Bob Lambert showed them Bell's Opera House. A special thanks to Lynn Neal and Connie Cummings for organizing this tour with Mary Fulton of Adams County.



**What's the story on these seemingly unrelated photos? See Two More Cents Worth on page 6!**



# MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

What's new in the Museum Shop at Highland House? Well, location is the newest thing. We have squeezed about 85% to 90% of our items into the Pioneer Kitchen. Many new items in the shop : Marco Renk's prints of the aerial drone view of Hillsboro with the court house in the foreground and a beautiful sunset in the background. We have new soaps and lavender sachets from Big Branch

thoughtful cards for many different occasions. Our Highland House and Cabin candles are still available.

Several new glass items have been put in the shop on consignment. Be sure to stop by to shop for gifts.



This list is just of the new items—several of our crafters have items available in the shop. Rather than list them all here, you'll just have to stop and visit.

Soaps. The creative mind of Liz Odland Keister has been busy creating spring items and we will be having new Highland House mugs crafted by Terry Vance of The Crofter's Wheel very soon. We have two lines of greeting cards—one crafted by Liz Odland Keister and another by Pat Adams featuring a great mix of humorous and

Are you interested in working in the Museum Shop? We will have a training session soon and you are welcome to join us. Call Highland House to get your name on the next class list! (Contrary to public opinion, the teacher does NOT bite!)

*John Glaze*

## FIRST THINGS IN HILLSBORO

The first preacher in Hillsboro was JOHN SHIELDS, a local Methodist preacher. He preached regularly every Sunday in the spring and summer of 1808, using principally his own cabin or the adjoining grove nearby.

"The Hillsboro Gazette", one of the first county papers in the state of Ohio, was founded by Moses Carothers in 1808. Mr. Carothers started printing in the spring, and large crowds gathered to watch the process. The first issue contained no local news whatever, but few advertisements, and some national and foreign items a month old.

One of the first coffins made here was built for the corpse of George Weaver, in the winter of 1806. Jeremiah Smith was the undertaker, being a pretty good carpenter. He had no plank, however, nor could he procure any. So he was obliged to split the lumber, laboriously, out of a walnut log. The job, with two pioneers to help, required an all night's work.

from *First Things In Hillsboro* by J. Lester Seel

## HCHS OUT AND ABOUT!



(above) HCHS members finding their sass at Chamber business lunch for women.

(below) Kati Burwinkel and Vicki Knauff representing HCHS at HUBA First Friday, May 1st.



## A NICKELL'S WORTH

Just as I am thinking that the Board and Membership of the Highland County Historical Society defy description, the light bulb clicks on and I think, aha!, the dictionary:

creative – bring into being: formative, inventive, productive  
 diligent - persevering: hard-working, intensive, careful  
 encouraging – supportive: assist, cheerlead, praise  
 studious- fond of study: thoughtful, scholarly, earnest  
 volunteer – offer to give: freely proffer, unpaid  
 historian-an authority on history: knowledge, chronicle  
 professional – demeanor: able, skillful, confident  
 recorder – writes down for future use: transcribe, list, file  
 advisor-counselor: notify, inform, recommend  
 benefactor-gives help: patron, protector, angel  
 financial advisor – skilled in finance: supply info, get money for  
 laborer-hard physical work: task, great effort  
 docent-teacher: tour guide, lecturer, host  
 advocate-speaks or writes in support of: bolster, push

Say what? I left out some? No kidding! But the above are the traits that come to mind immediately of the individual Society members, each one with more than one trait, and collectively encompassing all, who have made this Society exist initially and continue successfully.

Keep joining the fun! It. Is. Truly. FUN!

Fun – lively and joyous: pleasure, celebration, entertainment, and, of course, educational

*Pamela Nickell* HCHS Board Chair

## TWO MORE CENTS WORTH

I have been known to say that association with the Highland County Historical Society means year-round Christmas in spirit and gifts. So very many persons work together in great positivity and there is a gift to Highland House Museum around every turn.

Just two examples:

I was at a church small group gathering during which one of the participants showed me a small booklet and asked me if the Society had a copy. Of course I don't know every book in the library, but I did not recognize *The Hillsboro Story* Sesquicentennial Year 1807-1957 as being one of them. I looked at it, very much admired it and asked, "Are you giving this to me for the museum?" The reply was a quick, "No, I won't even loan this to a friend because I am afraid something will happen to it." She then put it back in her library.

The story, fortunately for the Society, did not end there. After the meeting, Diana Carey retrieved the booklet and handed it to me, saying, "I WILL give it to you. I cannot think of a better place for it!" So, thank-you, Diana. This booklet has completed, I think, the works of Elsie Ayres that we have in the Highland House Library.

The second story I am sharing here is that, one day while I was just checking in at Highland House about closing time, a gentleman came in the back door and was talking to greeters, John and Kathy Levo. He was showing them an item which turned out to be a bottle with a Hillsboro business logo molded into the glass. He had found it in a box of bottles he had bought at an auction and, even though it was damaged, he thought we might want to have it. We would. Thank-you, Jaden Skeens. Now, we are going to research the company, owners, and years of operation.

So, whether it is an item, a service, or a donation, the Highland County Historical Society thrives on the givers. And it is just great to be a part of the fun.

(See photos on page 5)

## VIETNAM TRIBUTE

Support Our Troops Of Highland County is set to present the American Veterans Traveling Tribute, "The Traveling Wall," at Liberty Park in Hillsboro, May 27-31. The summer of 2014 also marked the 20th Anniversary since a similar Vietnam Veterans Traveling Wall display was first ever held in Highland County and, at almost the exact same location. These



two significant dates, as well as the fact that the year 2015 marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the official beginning of the Vietnam War for America, also marking the Fortieth Anniversary of the end of the War in Vietnam, provided a fitting reason to create this tribute.

There will be different musical groups performing during the time the wall is here. Be sure to schedule a visit—May 27-31!

### "HEP! G'LANG!!"

A doctor may bury his mistakes, a preacher may take refuge in the notorious regions of heresy, a lawyer may deftly shut his client's eyes, as he opens his pocketbook, with a mandamus extenuoso adnoendum. But the man who keeps a livery stable, and does it successfully, must understand his business from the front door to the corncrib, and from the ground floor to the

## QUILT RAFFLE BEGINS



Pictured above are John Kellis, Capital Campaign Chair, Vicki Knauff and Jeanette Knauff, along with a handmade "Lone Star" or "Sunburst" pattern quilt. This quilt is being donated to HCHS to be raffled off and the proceeds will go toward the Capital Campaign.

Jeanette has been quilting since 1974 and has no idea how many quilts she has made. She is a member of the Highland County Quilters Club and the Quilter's Hall of Fame. The quilt design is a white field with various shades of gold. The quilt was made in 1995.

Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and will be available at all HCHS events during the summer. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Log Cabin Cookout in September.

weather-vane. His vehicles must be in tip-top order and constant repair. He must keep his stock in prime condition, and always know which particular nags are best fitted for the present need. A model in the livery business is Hugh J. Ervin, whose stable is on Walnut street, near the City Building. He's a good one—jolly, pleasant, prompt, and a thorough master of his business in every detail. His establishment is fully

## HIGHLAND COUNTY HALL OF FAME

The Highland County Hall of Fame was created by Highland County Historical Society to recognize, honor and celebrate citizens or natives of Highland County who have made invaluable contributions to Highland County and/or the world beyond. By recognizing these individuals, the Hall of Fame will stimulate an interest in and an appreciation for the value of the history of this county and its citizens. In addition, the Hall of Fame reinforces the message to children that they can and should strive for excellence in any endeavor they undertake. Any member of Highland County Historical Society may nominate an individual for the Hall of Fame.

Nominees may have contributed to society in categories such as:

- ◇ Arts and Entertainment—as a performer, musician, actor, writer or those who worked in related fields
- ◇ Enterprise—Those who have made significant contributions in the fields of science, medicine, business or philanthropy
- ◇ Sports—Superior athletes, coaches, officials or administrators
- ◇ Leadership—those who have excelled in education, government, military, etc.

Those considering a subject for nomination should pick up full guidelines and a nomination form at Highland House.

provided with good horses and elegant vehicles. Everything is up to a first class standard, and patrons are always well satisfied. Mr. Ervin has been in the livery business here for eleven years, during which time he has earned a warm place in the hearts of the people. That portion of humanity who must occasionally go on wheels has no better friend or truer benefactor than Hugh J. Ervin.

*from Souvenir Edition of the News-Herald, 1893*

**HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

151 E Main St  
 Hillsboro, OH 45133  
 Phone: 937-393-3392

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**HIGHLAND HOUSE  
 MUSEUM**  
 Open Saturdays & Sundays  
 1:00pm—4:00pm  
**20 MAY 2015**  
 50th Anniversary Celebration

**BOARD AND OTHER CONTACT INFO**

Avery Applegate	763-2333	aaa@cinci.rr.com
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VP - Mary Jo Copeland	581-4619	mjcopeland_2000@yahoo.com
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Newslet – John Glaze	708-0470	jglaze@hcf.com
HH Dir. – Vicki Knauff	403-5817	knauffvicki@yahoo.com

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN  
 CONTINUES!**



vide a relatively income.

Those charged members of the been fitting this already busy lives.

If you haven't been contacted yet, feel free to call Highland House and leave a message that you wish to be part of this important project! Someone will return your call and schedule a time to meet with you to explain the program and opportunities for you to join in.

Rather than the knee-jerk reaction of raising money simply to cover the massive work needed on the south wall of Highland House, we are planning for future needs by raising funds which will, in part, be endowed to work for us and pro-



steady source of

with contacting the community have task in amongst their



**TOMORROW IS TOO IMPORTANT TO IGNORE!  
 Be a part of the CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!**