

# The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

Vol. 1, No. 2, Spring 1992

## Who We Are

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail are a group of local citizens who support, by education and fund-raising, the city and county park departments in their effort to create a linear park on the former Penn Central right-of-way.

## Board of Directors

John D. Yoder	Larry Beachy	Karen Ferguson
Norm Kauffmann	Galen Kauffmann	Lowell Miller
Joe Lehman	Sharol Raber	Quinn Holdeman, Jr.
Chet Peachy	Linda Clark	Rosealene Long
William Hostetler		

## Please Join Us

Cost of a Friends of the Pumpkinvine membership and newsletter subscription is \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family. Please make your tax-deductible check payable to The Elkhart County Park Foundation and mail to:

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail  
P.O. Box 392  
Goshen, IN 46526-0392

## Committee Members at Work on Many New Projects

The committees are at work on many new projects. The Finance Committee is headed by Norm Kauffmann. Call 533-8036 to lend assistance. No fund-raising project or source of funds is too large or too small. The Special Events Committee is at work on a trail walk, a bike-a-thon and T-shirt sales. Call Sharol Raber at 848-4641 to help. The Public Relations Committee is compiling a directory of civic groups that may be interested in providing members, funds or endorsements. Call Linda Clark at 533-4910 or 534-3304 to donate ideas or time. The Membership Committee is working on ways that we can be good neighbors to the Pumpkinvine's adjacent landowners. The Membership Committee is also working on recruiting individuals for membership and local businesses for sponsorship. Call Karen Ferguson at 533-3763 to help. All our committees are busy reaching out to the community for support. Perhaps our biggest need for volunteers is to make new members feel welcome once they join us. There are a lot of "little" jobs that need to keep the communication channels open - typing, phoning, running errands, writing. Call Linda Clark (same numbers as above) to help us add the personal touch. The nice thing about volunteering in a small local organization is that one person can really have a voice in what goes on and see his ideas, time and talent really pay off.

## Negotiations, Grant Monies, Matching Funds Researched

What is happening with the purchase of the line? Negotiations with Penn Central are continuing and several persons have been contacted to do the appraisals. The board of directors will keep membership posted as developments occur.

What is happening with grants? A state grant for \$198,000 is still being held up by the budget committee of the Indiana state Legislature. If it is not released in this biennium it may be released in 1993-'94 biennium without having to reply. The grant was through the Hometown Indiana Fund which was to be funded by the state lottery. It was awarded to the Goshen Parks and Recreation Department and Elkhart County Park Board and requires a 50-50 match of private or public money or services. Right now the State of Indiana is releasing very little of the Hometown Indiana money due to budget shortfalls. In the meantime, an application is being made for federal funds. These will come from a new law passed by Congress in November, 1991. The Intramodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 sets guidelines for how Federal money is paid to the states for transportation. In addition to construction and maintenance programs, key emphasis was given to such projects as clean air, historic preservation, mass transportation, pedestrian walkways and compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act. Conversion of abandoned railway corridors was specifically mentioned. The grant application is for up to \$500,000 and is for an 80-20 match. Area fund-raisers would only have to come up with 20% of the federal grant amount. This grant is very important to us for several reasons. One, it can be used to satisfy the 50% matching provision of the state grant. Two, a twenty percent match is less challenging for a volunteer organization like ours to raise. Most importantly, IT WILL NOT REQUIRE STATE OR LOCAL TAXES AND IF WE DO NOT APPLY, THAT FEDERAL MONEY WILL LEAVE ELKHART COUNTY FOR GOOD. The grant application is waiting on the signature of the Elkhart County Commissioners President. We are hoping that they will realize it will truly cost them money only if they don't sign this application.

## Upcoming Bicycle Ride On Sunday, May 17 Important for Group

Friends of the Pumpkinvine will be participating as a group in the Kiwanis Century Bicycle Ride on Sunday, May 17. This is important to us both as a fund-raiser and to increase our visibility in the community. To be a success, we will need a little bit of help from everyone. If you can't come out then call in a pledge for one of the riders. If you want to ride, just complete the attached pledge form. We will also need people to staff a table the day of the ride. If you need more information or want to call in a pledge, call Trudy Herkenroder at 533-3148 or 293-5611.

# Education, Individual Contacts to Build Confidence, Support

What about those letters to the editor? Friends of the Pumpkinvine don't fear public comment we welcome it, in any form! What has happened? Along with consistent positive feedback we have received from park boards, the railroad and grant sources, we are receiving messages of fear from people who once believed that this project would never be a reality. As a local grassroots all-volunteer organization, we have devoted all our energy to those jobs that would ensure our success - forming a democratic Friends of the Pumpkinvine organizational structure, writing grants, doing legal research and education of local decision makers. We had to be able to show the public that we are a viable entity before asking for their confidence and support. Now we are ready to go public with our message. We are not interested in one-shot public relations campaigns because we plan to be around for many years. We are working on programs to truly answer the concerns of all Elkhart and Lagrange County citizens. We don't want to stop their questions. There may still be people who oppose this project. But we want each and every one of them to have the facts. We plan to do this both by public education and individual contacts. So how do you answer questions from your friends, co-workers and neighbors? Smile, hand them this newsletter and invite them to our next meeting!

## Membership Meeting Thursday, April 2

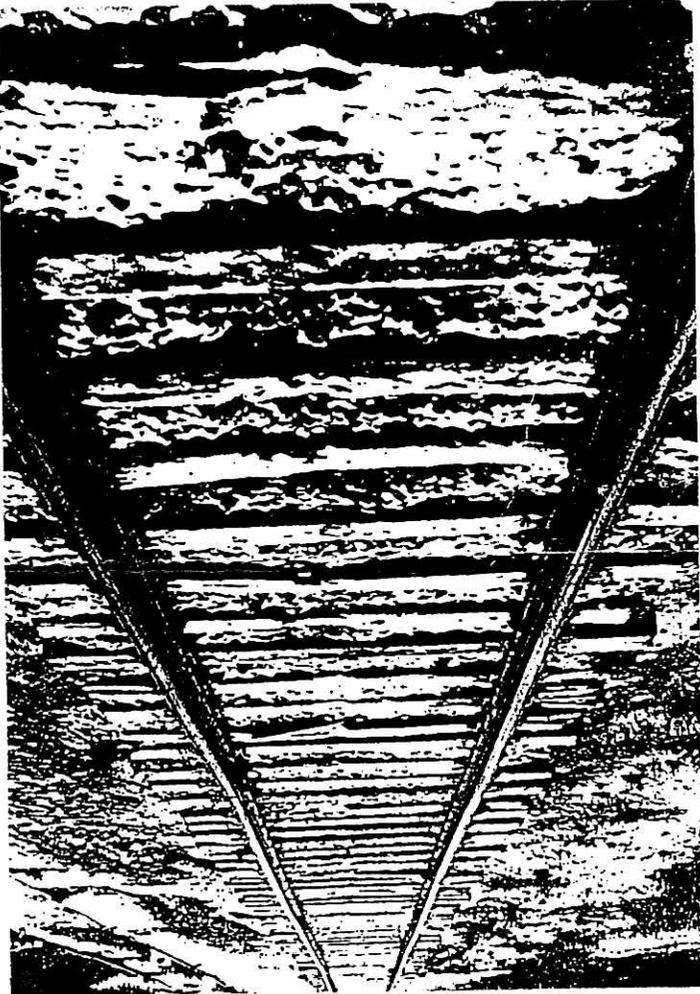
Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail will hold a membership meeting Thursday evening, April 2 at 7 p.m. at the Schrock Auditorium of the Goshen Public Library. An aerial video and slide presentation of the Pumpkinvine trail line will highlight the geographic and environmental features as well as illustrate possible design and construction opportunities. Interested persons are invited to attend. The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. There will be no May membership meeting because so many people will be working on the bike-a-thon and T-shirt sales (see related articles in this newsletter).

*See you at the Meeting!*

Box 392 • Goshen, IN 46526

*The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail*  
Friends of

CLARENCE & GRETCHEM YODER  
501 S. 6TH ST  
GOSHEN IN 46526



*Committee Reaching Out  
for Right-of-Way's  
Future*

Pumpkinvine T-shirts Available to Anyone

We will be offering silkscreen T-shirts for sale with the Pumpkinvine logo. They are short sleeve, 100% cotton and are available in ash and light blue in adult sizes. Children's large are available in neon yellow. The T-shirts are available at membership meetings or call Sue Campos to order at 534-1733. Costs \$12 for non-members and \$10 for members.