

Keeping Noblesville beautiful one house at a time

By STEVEN FURLOW

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Saturday morning's beautiful weather in Noblesville was filled with the buzz of activity as people spruced up, cleaned and worked on their homes and yards. A flurry of activity was taking place at the corner of 10th and Clinton Streets as around a dozen scraped paint off the porch, planted flowers, spread mulch and added a fresh coat of paint to the porch and window trim.

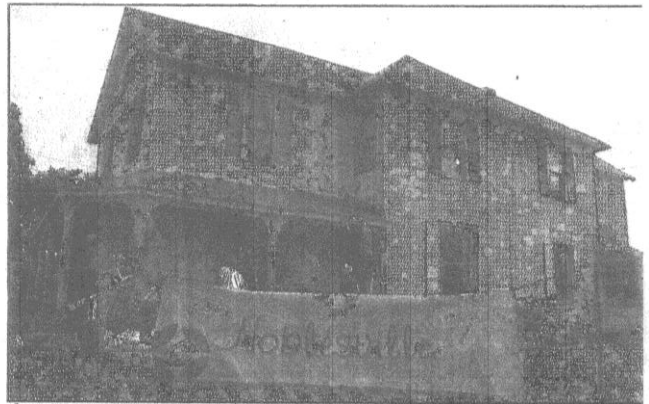
The thing was, for most of those doing the work, it wasn't their home. They were part of the more than 25 who turned out for the Keep Noblesville Beautiful

Summer Neighborhood Clean Up. Volunteers spent Saturday doing work in the neighborhoods around 10th and Clinton providing free mulch, hedge trimming and weeding services and free flowers for neighborhood residents.

The event is one way the organization works to improve the community one home at a time.

Heading up the work was KNB's Cindy Haas who said around 20 homeowners in the area approached the organization seeking help. She said the house at 10th and Clinton was chosen partially because of its

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The Times photo by Steven Furlow. Volunteers help spruce up a Noblesville home Saturday during the Keep Noblesville Beautiful Summer Neighborhood Clean up.

high visibility in the city.

"It needed a little bit of everything," Haas said of the project, adding two families lived in the residence and both, "jumped on the request."

It wasn't the only area of focus however with volunteers spread throughout the neighborhood dropping off mulch or providing other manual labor services. The clean up project had been going on most of the week with the neighborhoods encouraged to beautify up their residences if needed. Helping in this were dumpsters set out for residents to utilize removing any trash cluttering up their homes and yards.

The dumpsters, Haas pointed out, were the biggest cost of the operation. Paint for the event was donated by Home Depot, she said.

"Interest is picking up," Haas said of KNB. "We always need vol-

unteers."

Mary Rhea was one of those lending two hands with the work. Rhea is a member of a neighborhood watch group in the area and was joined by several from the group helping out. Keeping the neighborhood safe fits in with the mission of residential beautification by helping to create a sense of community and pride.

She said programs like KNB work because they are going to the source of the solution, the families.

"We're helping the families that need it," Rhea said.

Haas said helping in Saturday's effort were members of the Hamilton County Probation Department as well as those working off time owed to the community. Kyle Roach with the department said those helping out chose to be there and had good spirits during their time helping.

More could always be done and

though the intent is there, the labor hasn't caught up, yet.

"We need more volunteers, we doing the best we can with what we have," Rhea said. "We want to make people aware we're here."

Raising awareness is a mission this year for KNB as well.

They are running a concession area at the outdoor movies this summer in Noblesville and will be conducting events throughout the year including the White River Cleanup later this year. Big challenges face the group including finding a new big sponsor.

With Firestone in Noblesville, previously the major sponsor, on their way out, KNB is looking for a community partner willing to help greening and beautification efforts in the city.

More information on Keep Noblesville Beautiful at www.keepnoblesvillebeautiful.org.