

advantage

Everybody gets it.

A perfect day for painting: Bucket Brigade spruces up a dozen houses after rain delay

by Frank Prager

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photo by Frank Prager

Volunteers for St. Ambrose Church paint a house in Godfrey.

The previous week's rainout did nothing to dampen the spirits of Bucket Brigade teams May 18.

Persistent rain this spring has forced cancellation of many outdoor events. The originally scheduled day for the Bucket Brigade to paint was May 11.

The delay, however, proved beneficial. Dry weather, warm breezes, and sunshine greeted volunteer groups that painted a dozen houses in the Alton and Godfrey area.

“It’s a perfect day,” said **Elizabeth Foley** of the St. Paul’s Episcopal church Bucket Brigade team.

This is the 31st year Bucket Brigade teams have painted houses. The event was founded in 1988 by **Dale Neudecker** and is sponsored by Pride Incorporated. The Bucket Brigade has painted more than 1,500 houses over that time.

The teams are composed of members from local businesses, churches and civic groups, as well as friends and relatives. Some of the teams have painted houses every year since the event was founded.

The Sherwin-Williams paint store in Alton served as headquarters for the event. Ham radio operators from the Lewis & Clark Radio Club set up a station at the store location to coordinate delivery of paint to locations as needed. Sherwin-Williams donated 300 gallons of paint to the effort and painted three houses with its own employees the previous Thursday.

Event co-chair **Karen Wilson** said the effort was personally rewarding.

“It is one thing to write a check or donate items to a cause,” she said. “But actually taking part in something like this is extremely rewarding. You get the first-hand experience of just how much your effort is appreciated.”

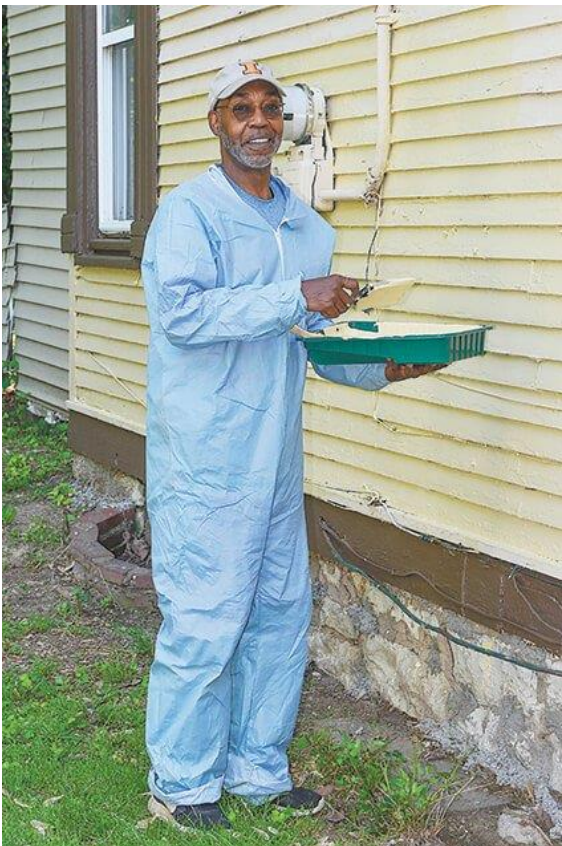


photo by Frank Prager

“We do it to help the community,” says Lawrence Williams, president of 100 Black Men of Alton.



photo by Frank Prager

Members of 100 Black Men of Alton paint a house in Alton.



photo by Frank Prager

Bucket Brigade co-chair Karen Wilson (left) with members of the Bucket Brigade committee and the Lewis & Clark Radio Club at the Sherwin Williams Bucket Brigade headquarters.



photo by Frank Prager

Mindy Meyer volunteered with the Faith Fellowship Church team at a house in Alton.



photo by Frank Prager

Members of the North Alton Baptist Church scrape paint in preparation for painting an Alton house.

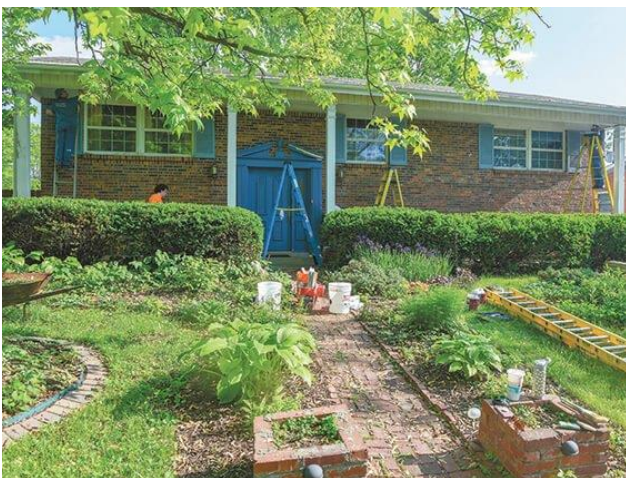


photo by Frank Prager

Ladders and buckets cover a lawn where the Upper Alton Baptist Church paints a house in Godfrey.

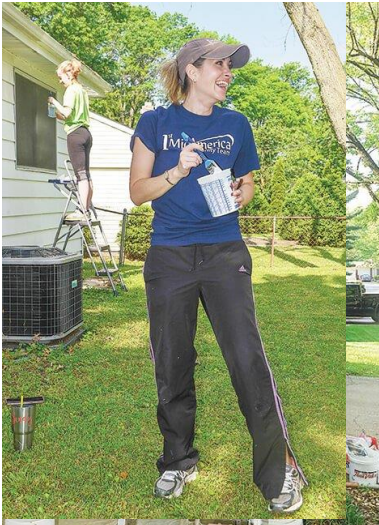


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Judy Jones, painting a Godfrey house, was one of the volunteers with St. Paul's Episcopal Church.



photo by Frank Prager

Misty Cobbel and Joel Cowan of the Carrollton Bank team



photo by Frank Prager

Bill O'Neil and Jenny Cood volunteered with the Carrollton Bank Bucket Brigade team in Alton.



photo by Frank Prager

Junior League of Greater Alton secretary Jama Fabry paints a Godfrey house.



photo by Frank Prager

Volunteers for the Heartland Baptist Church paint an Alton house.



photo by Frank Prager

Julie Rocker volunteers with the North Alton Baptist Church Bucket Brigade Team.