

"PAINT" IT FORWARD

LEGACY DONORS

Husband and wife team Frank Scenna and Heather Bailey want to leave behind a better looking Tipp City downtown area. To make sure that happens, they've agreed to "paint forward" by creating the Urban Stewardship Fund.

Established through the Tipp City Foundation, the Urban Stewardship Fund made its first grant award in 2013.

Heather Bailey is a member of the Studebaker family that first made the greater Tipp City area its home in the early 1800s. Heather, a graduate of Bethel Schools, is a full-time volunteer in the community.

Frank Scenna is from Kettering, a graduate of Archbishop Alter who studied electrical engineering at Wright State University and Bowling Green State University. He has worked as an engineer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base since 1987.

Scenna and Bailey married in 2006. Scenna has adopted Tipp City as home. "It's a nice place to walk. Everyone is friendly," said Scenna, who served on the Downtown Tipp City Partnership Board.

The seed for the fund was planted several years ago when Scenna visited town and saw buildings in need of paint, half painted or pining for other exterior attention.

"Something had to be done about that. I asked later, 'How can I help?'" he said.

The answer came as he and Bailey were discussing estate planning on a morning walk. "We said, 'OK, we have our family taken care of, now what are we going to do to take care of our community through our estate plan?'" Bailey recalled.

It didn't take Scenna long to land on the concept for their fund.

Money now is available in the fund for building exterior project grants and more will head to the fund after each passes away.

To help build the fund, they asked guests at Heather's 50th birthday party in 2012 to donate, if interested, to the fund lieu of a gift. "We try to have fun with everything we do," Bailey said.

The Tipp City Foundation was a natural vehicle to carry out their plan. Bailey serves on the foundation board and is one of its biggest advocates.

"There wasn't a choice," Scenna said with a laugh.

Bailey said the foundation's history and convenience were keys to locating their fund there.

"As people with a dream to make your community better, we get to determine the fun stuff like the what, and the why. Details of the technical stuff like process and legal issues are handled in the back-room by the foundation. This lets us enjoy philanthropy more," Bailey said.

Tipp City Foundation

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