

# the Columns

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS, NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS OF THE FOREST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD

**OCTOBER  
CALENDAR\_2011**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 29\_ ANNUAL

FH HALLOWEEN PARTY

December 24\_ HOLIDAY

LUMINARIES

**FOREST HILLS WEB SITE**

[www.foresthillsindy.org](http://www.foresthillsindy.org)

Be sure to check out the FHNA website regularly for upcoming events, back issues of the Columns newsletter, neighbor forums, resources and links, our neighborhood's history, and to sign up to receive email updates on important news and announcements.

## Forest Hills Halloween GIG **10.29**

THE FOREST HILLS' HALLOWEEN PARTY WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 29TH, 2011 FROM 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in front of 5733 Guilford Ave. The Forest Hills Halloween Party is the oldest continuous neighborhood event held in the City of Indianapolis, and actually predates the formation of the neighborhood association.

Neighbors can feast on pizza, cider (provided by the Association), and cookies (which we request that those attending bring) while their children play games and enjoy the 21st edition of Jim Garrettson's politically incorrect Haunted Garage, probably more frightening to politicians than children. Last year's party featured a screaming contest, and hopefully all who attended have regained at least some of their hearing.

Forest Hills neighbors, Forest Hills alumni, friends and relatives are all welcome to join in the festivities. – *Jim Garrettson*

*Jim Garrettson's contributions to our neighborhood are invaluable. Thanks Jim!*

### TRICK OR TREAT!

Halloween is eagerly anticipated in Forest Hills. In addition to our wonderful Halloween Party, trick-or-treating approaches epic proportions within the neighborhood. If you plan to participate, be sure to stock up on treats and turn your porch light on to welcome all the pint-size revelers. Local media will announce official trick-or-treat hours a few days before Halloween (last year's hours were from 6-8 p.m.). Happy haunting!



PHOTOS BY KATHY DAVIS

## FOREST HILLS IS ON FACEBOOK

Due to popular demand, Forest Hills Neighborhood Association now has a Facebook page, which can be found on Facebook by searching for “Forest Hills Neighborhood Association.” Hopefully all our neighborhood Facebook users will join and support the page, as well as contribute neighborhood information.

## PARTICIPATE IN MERIDIAN- KESSLER’S FUTURE LOOK

The MKNA needs neighbors' input on a new zoning code. The new zoning code will determine how the neighborhood looks and feels for decades to come. Nothing has been decided yet, so now is your opportunity.

Visit [www.mkna.org/signup](http://www.mkna.org/signup) and fill out the form.

Not interested in this issue? The MKNA would like to inform you of other important neighborhood announcements and initiatives and promises not to clog up your inbox with e-mail.



PHOTOS BY KATHY DAVIS

*Kids enjoy an energy burn and snow cones at the annual summer picnic.*

## SUMMER PICNIC

WELL OVER A HUNDRED NEIGHBORS GATHERED ON ONE OF THE FEW MODERATE nights in August to participate in the Annual Forest Hills Summer Picnic, as well as to wish Happy Birthday to Mike Cole and Jim Garrettson. A huge birthday cake was presented to both, and Mike promises to start eating his portion after he finds his teeth.

The event featured a bouncing castle, a rock-climbing wall, plenty of food & drinks (including another fabulous keg), and desserts provided by all who attended. The only sad note was that during the night following the party, the rented grill disappeared.

Many thanks to Lara Knitter and Tricia Borme for planning the event, as well as to all who helped set up, take down, cook, and supervise kids games and face painting.

– Jim Garrettson

# IT'S CALLED FOREST HILLS. IT'S ABOUT THE TREES.

THIS ISSUE OF THE COLUMNS FEATURES A GUEST ARTICLE by *Stefan Luebke, of Site Line Design, Inc.* Stefan provides insight into the value (both tangible and intangible) of the wonderful trees within Forest Hills. The FHNA urges residents to consider the below insights when choosing whether to undertake efforts to save a tree, to replace it with another tree, or to remove the tree entirely. Remember, our beautiful, tree-lined streets are a direct result of earlier generations' preservation efforts. Let's all do our part to keep this gift alive.

## The benefit of our old neighborhood trees

*Trees have many tangible and intangible benefits for our community. These include:*

- Carbon sequestration
- Reduction of air pollutants
- Protection of our water supply
- Saving of energy
- Increased traffic safety
- Increased economic/sociological benefits

***First, trees remove and store carbon dioxide from our air in their trunk, branches, leaves, and roots. As they do this, they release beneficial oxygen back into our air. Trees also clean our air by absorbing other potentially harmful air pollutants.***

***Trees help to reduce erosion of our topsoil and help prevent harmful soil pollutants from flowing into our waterways. By doing this, they slow down water run-off, increase water infiltration into the ground, and ensure that our groundwater supplies are continually being replenished.***

***Trees help us save energy consumption. By placing trees properly in the landscape around our homes, we can realize a savings up to 58% on our daytime air conditioning. It has been estimated that 3 trees for every unshaded single family home in America could save over \$2 billion in annual energy costs.***

***Tall trees can increase traffic safety by giving the perception of making our streets feel narrower. This slows traffic and can reduce accidents. Trees also provide a buffer between traffic and pedestrians.***

***Properties with trees have been shown to be 5-15% higher in value than properties without trees. It has also been found that residents who live near trees have stronger connections with their neighbors. – Stefan Luebke (Paraphrased from [www.coloradotrees.org/benefits.htm](http://www.coloradotrees.org/benefits.htm))***

## CLEAN YOUR CURBS

### **Forest Hill had brick streets.**

Residents protested when the city started to pave over the bricks. As a compromise, four rows of bricks were left along each curb. The good part of that is that we have four rows of our original streets still visible. The bad part is that weeds start to grow in the spaces between the bricks, which will, over time, destroy them.

So, please keep your curbs clean and weed-free. Most spray weed killers do just fine, but only if you also remove accumulated dirt.

Leaves not picked up in the fall will turn to dirt by spring and become the home for new weeds.

Similarly, sewer drains will plug up if not cleared. The city spent a small fortune a few years back cleaning and repairing our sewers because heavy rains produced major floods and flooded basements. Now that the city is broke, they're a lot less likely to reinvest, so **a little time spent removing leaves and debris from sewer drains goes a long way.** – *Jim Garrettson*

## IT'S COPPER SULFATE TIME

MOST OF US STILL HAVE OUR ORIGINAL sewer lines, and some still have other drains, even downspouts, connected to the sewers. Because they're old, tree roots tend to grow into those lines. If you've ever replaced a sewer line, it's a major expense. One thing that will delay the problem is to put Copper Sulfate in your drains in the fall and spring. It destroys the roots. Copper Sulfate is sold at most hardware stores under a few different brand names, and isn't expensive. – *Jim Garrettson*

# board

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## PROGRESSIVE DINNER

ON THE CRISP BUT BEAUTIFUL EVENING of September 17th, 30 Forest Hills residents met in the yard of Bob & Debbie Falk to begin the annual Forest Hills Progressive Dinner. After whetting their appetites on delicious hummus and crackers at the Falk's, the revelers split into three groups for the main course of grilled pork roast, green beans & rice, hosted by Steve & Lara Knitter, Fernow McClure & Mike Moreman, and Chris & Tara Warner. After feasting on the sumptuous dinner, all reconvened at the home of Andy & Tricia Borme for desserts of almost every imaginable kind, graciously served by diminutive hostesses. Beer, wine and aperitifs flowed freely at all stops on the tour.

The evening proved an opportunity for neighbors to make new connections, as both old and new arrivals to our neighborhood shared in the dinner preparations and in conversations over the meals.

**Many thanks to Jenny Levett and co-hostess Tara Warner for organizing the event,** and for the assistance of Lara Knitter and Tricia Borme from the Social Committee. After an absence of a few years, this is the second consecutive year for the event, and hopefully the Progressive Dinner will become a fixture in the fall Forest Hills social scene. Recipes used in the event will be found on the Forest Hills website. – *Jim Garrettson*

## FHNA WEBSITE

### [www.foresthillsindy.org](http://www.foresthillsindy.org)

The FH website contains information not found in the Columns or the Directory, copies of past Columns, events, Board Meetings, links to local school websites, history, and a neighbor generated list of contractors in various fields who've done work here.

Registered neighbors can gain access to updated Directory information, a Neighborhood Discussion Forum, Board members and committees, contacts and a blog.

**To register, just go to the website, and click on "Neighbor Sign Up" on the left side of the page.**

### Limited Website Ads Available

Our website is paid for by banner ads. Two appear at the bottom of every page, each for \$300/year. FH residents receive a 10% discount on advertising in all our publications (Columns, directory, website). If interested, please contact [advertise@foresthillsindy.org](mailto:advertise@foresthillsindy.org).



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