

the Columns

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

CALENDAR
December 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS
December 21 Luminary
set-up and distribution

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.

SNOW BOUND

THE CAR YOU SAVE

As part of your dues, you pay to have our streets plowed when there's a four inch, or greater, snow. That's really great, unless you park your cars on the street. When that happens, the plows cut a zig zag path and just bury cars in snow. If there's a forecasted snow, it would help if, at least for a day or two, you could park in your driveway. We're not sure what Joe Niesse can do, but neighbors are hoping he's saved up enough for an auto (boat?) elevator.

—Jim Garrettson

CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIES

ONE OF THE BEST FOREST HILLS TRADITIONS IS LIGHTING LUMINARY CANDLES ON OUR curbs at dusk on Christmas Eve. Luminary set up and distribution will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 21st at Luke Habig's garage, 5750 Carrollton Ave. Because Luke's been organizing this for so long, we can almost guarantee that all luminaries will be at your doorstep by noon.

Volunteers, especially those with trucks or SUV's are always sorely needed, both to put together the kits and deliver them to your homes. It's always a fun event, and one that's sure to get you in the Christmas spirit. Luke can usually find work for school aged kids as well.

Your job, after they're delivered, is to assemble the luminaries, place them on your curbs, and light them at dusk Christmas Eve. We do have some vacant houses, and we know some of you will be out of town for the holidays, perhaps even before the luminaries get delivered. Please, please, make arrangements with a neighbor to help you out. A glass of wine, or six glasses of wine will make your neighbors easy marks. Ditto if you know of a neighboring house that's vacant. You'll find their luminary bag on their doorstep.

People come from all over Indianapolis to see our luminaries, and they're only as good as the coverage. It comes off the best if most or all of our curbs are covered, and is a lovely sight on a lovely night. Take a Christmas Eve walk through our streets, maybe organize your block in caroling and admire your handiwork. Block Captains would be kind to help out with this effort.



BOO! HALLOWEEN WRAP UP

Haunting of the Hills was a real scream this year. If you were too scared to come out, here's a recap. Jenny Levett hosted the scream contest again this year and the winners were Boys — 17 entrants, Sam Hulka winner and Collin Ferguson a close second. Girls — 21 entrants, Lily Klinzing winner with an amazing scream (113db and 113db!) and Emma Clare Becker runner up (113 and 110 db)! For the ladies we also had a very close second tier at 110 db with McKenna Martin, and Rebecca Steingold tied. You may have heard them from where you live!

Frightening Food competition winner: Kelli McNamara

House decorating competition
There were so many fabulously decorated homes for Halloween that we're issuing group awards for the 700 block (Felabom's, French's, Sutton's., Compton's & d'Avis/Hoover's) and the 900 Block (Statnick's, Klinzing's & Coe's) of 58th St. for their efforts.

Halloween Party Chairs
Fernow McClure, Lisa Brown, and Karin & Mike Sherman arranged the outside festivities and the food (along with the many neighbors who brought treats). Thanks to Jim Garrettson for hosting yet another great Halloween celebration. Thanks to Fernow, Dan & Bes Neal, Victoria Price & Jonathon Wade, and Kristi Kimberlin & Leo Meskis for providing bodies for the courtyard. Thanks to Grace Moreman, Sally Jane, Greta and of course, Brian Auer, for their haunting efforts. And lastly thanks for those who woke up and helped clean up the next morning. Of course, no Halloween Party in the Hills is compete without an appearance by Jim "The Tree Machine" Clark.



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**HOLIDAY
CRIME IN THE HILLS**

If you've been reading the monthly crime reports posted on the Forest Hills website, you'll notice that we've been virtually crime free in 2013. With the holidays upon us, we'd very much like to maintain that streak, and, with a few simple precautions on your part, we can keep out string clean.

Heading for the warmth, or to family? Stop your newspaper and mail delivery. Mail can be scheduled to arrive on the same day you return home, and you can always read the Star on-line. Have someone ready to shovel your walks should it snow. Same with picking up your used luminary bags. A bottle of wine or some cookies ought to cover your tab with the neighbors. The obvious ones are to leave some lights on timers, along with your Christmas lights (those of us stuck here will at least enjoy your show). **Let your neighbors know your travel plans.** They're the most likely people to realize you probably didn't schedule a panel truck to remove all your TV's and computers. After the holidays, cut up the boxes from all the really good stuff and stash them in your recycling bins, not on the street.

Lock your doors, set your alarms, trim shrubs away from your doors and windows, close your curtains. (Duh!) Try not to park cars on the street, or even in your driveways. (Our friendly Broad Ripple drinkers find it's even harder to navigate on snow and ice) If you do, make sure they're empty. (That includes your garage door opener) What you know to be an empty gym bag may look irresistible to a low income teen passing through.

Stay safe, have a wonderful holiday, and don't tell me how nice it was in Bora Bora since I'll be here watching your house. As always, if you see anything suspicious, call 911 — IMPD is happy to check out almost anything, and based on their Halloween run, they get here quickly.

**2014
FOREST HILLS DUES**

Attached to this final 2013 issue of the Columns, you will find a dues envelope. 2014 Forest Hills dues are payable as of January 1, 2014 and run through the calendar year, although any payments made after this issue comes out will be credited to 2014 unless you indicate otherwise.

As noted on the envelope, dues are \$30, plus \$15 for snow removal. Residents on College and Kessler don't have to pay snow removal. Your dues fund the Annual Meeting in June, the Summer Picnic, the Halloween Party, the Christmas Eve Luminaries, the Columns, the Website, the Directory, and all the other great stuff your neighborhood association does for you (hopefully with your help). The Board pays for the lavish parties, aka Board meetings, themselves.

You can pay by check by mailing in the dues envelope, or on-line at the FHNA website — www.foresthillsindy.org. You can also drop off payments to your block captain, any member of the Board, or at our Treasurer's house (the address on the envelope).

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