

the Columns

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

CALENDAR June 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 22 **Annual Meeting**
August 9 **Summer Picnic**

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 neighbor-hood's history, and to sign up to receive email updates on important news and announcements.

JUNE 22 FOREST HILLS ANNUAL MEETING

THE FOREST HILLS ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, June 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at 5733 Guilford Ave. Look for a tent. Our featured speaker will be our former City-County Councilor **Ryan Vaughn**, now **Chief of Staff for Mayor Greg Ballard**. Also on the agenda will be an update on traffic calming efforts (see the accompanying article), updates on the neighborhood's many different activities, a treasurer's report, and the election of new Board members. We've looking for a couple of new Board members this year, so if you're interested, either let a current Board member know, or just show up and volunteer.

The annual meeting is always a great time for new neighbors to introduce themselves to the rest of the neighborhood, to get involved in neighborhood activities, and to see folks who haven't come outside since the last time it snowed.

Note: Forest Hills will provide light snacks, as well as both hard and soft beverages.

NOTES FROM THE MULCH PILE

Kindly note we've moved the Summer Picnic back a week to Saturday, August 9th to get more of you back from summer vacation. We'll be talking more about the picnic and volunteer opportunities at the Annual Meeting and in the next issue of The Columns.

The Directory will be out shortly after the June 22nd Annual Meeting, both to include the new Forest Hills Board of Directors, elected at that meeting, and to insure that even more listings are incorrect because folks have listed their homes after the press date.

The Board is looking for someone with, or with access to, a truck, which is mostly used to pick up the barricades used for the Summer Picnic and Halloween Party. Using our children to form barricades for these events has failed miserably in the past.

A sad farewell to Jim Felabom & Judith Hylton and condolences to their families. Goodbye too (moving) to Mary Ann Auer. Welcome to Ella Neal, new daughter of Dan & Bess.

Forest Hills thanks Adam Gibson, outgoing President, for his nine years of service to the Forest Hills' Board. Adam is leaving the Board to reunite his band (assuming he can find suitable hair extensions) but will continue to serve as web master and will still be blamed for all glitches thereon.

VARIANCES

It's true that while your new home is your castle, it sits feet away from another guy's castle. You will doubtless want to do something to your house (all houses in Forest Hills are just done with construction, currently under construction, or on the verge of construction) and you really need to walk your neighbors through what you plan to do, especially if it's outside. Bring a bottle of wine (or maybe six bottles if it's a big project) over, and talk about it. There are a lot of people who've lived here thirty years or more, and are highly nervous about change. They'll also have some good advice about what works, both for you and for them. Chances are you'll be here for thirty years too, and you want friendly neighbors. They may even have better wine than you.

Forest Hills has a variance policy. (Some things you might want to do to your house require

government approval, or a 'variance' from building standards). You, your contractor, or in some cases, a lawyer, will need to file a variance request with the Metropolitan Development Commission. (make sure whomever is filing understands the process) Notice of your request needs to be given to proximate neighbors (that's where the wine part comes in), and to local neighborhood associations, including FHNA. FHNA is pretty liberal about supporting variances, assuming those around you don't mind (see 'wine' above). We'll publish notice of the request on our website to be sure there aren't problems (again, see 'wine' above). But, if there are problems, FHNA will try to resolve them, and may be forced to take a position if it's not resolvable. Note: never, ever, start building something that's going to require a variance without obtaining it first.

GARAGE SALE REPORT

Cold weather but sunny skies greeted the usual crowd of shoppers at the Forest Hills Garage Sale on May 17th. Less than half of the estimated 25 homes that held sales signed up, so weren't included on the maps distributed at the homes that did sign-up, but based on a drive around the neighborhood, shoppers found those homes with little trouble. Our glitch seems to have been not taking registrations off our website, and we'll work to correct that problem. At least a couple of homes were supplied by service or charitable organizations, which is worth your consideration for next year's sale. Once again, we have proof positive that Forest Hill's trash is the rest of the City's treasure. Thanks to Tom Quinn, Board member, for organizing the event and publishing the advertising, this year including Craig's List, and the Meridian Kessler website.

**BOARD
2013_2014**

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**PROGRESSIVE
DINNER**

On Saturday, May 10th a group of about 50 neighbors gathered to begin the Forest Hills social season at the annual progressive dinner. The evening began with appetizers at Mark & Nancy Gargula's and then split up for main courses at Michael & Lianne Hulka's, Becky Morrison's, David & Ashling Hobb's, Chris & Tara Warner's, Matt & Lee Klinsing's and the McMore's. Later, they reunited at Jeff & Meghan Martin's for dessert.

Forest Hills would like to thank all that made the effort to host segments of the evening, and especially Meghan Martin and Fernow McClure for organizing the event. Meghan would like to note that the event is over and those still lurking in her bushes hoping for more dessert and wine should return home until next year's event.

SITTERS

Look local. We have even more neighborhood teens who have all gone through the safe sitter classes and are ready to watch your kids!

Lucy Moreman, schedule with Mike Morman: 431-6991

Abby and Lauren Powell, schedule with Dan Powel: 771-1960 or 517-7907

Maggie Maniago, schedule with Pete or Wendee Maniago: 519-6511

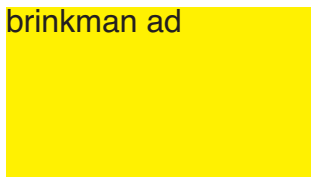
Caroline Browne, schedule with Mary Beth Browne: 627-4017

Maggie Carr and Katie Carr schedule with Sarah Kilfoil: smkilfoil@yahoo.com or 418-9124

Maya Caldwell, schedule with Craig Caldwell: 490-0571 or 200-4115

If you would like to be added to this list, please contact Fernow McClure, fernowm@gmail.com

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FHNA ANNUAL DUES 2014

ANNUAL DUES FOR 2011 ARE **\$45 PER HOUSEHOLD (\$30 FOR HOMES ON COLLEGE AVENUE AND KESSLER AVENUE).**

Please Pay On-Line at www.foresthillsindy.org or by Mail or Drop Off at Treasurer Keith Lerch's house, 711 E. 58th St.. If you have not already registered on the website, click **Sign Up** from the home page and complete the registration process. Then click **Neighbors Only>Pay Dues**. Please contact FHNA Treasurer Keith Lerch, keith.w.lerch@hud.gov, with any questions. Thanks to the following households for their support! (Through May 1st, 2014).

Adkins	Dowling/Siegman	Goldstein, N.	Klinzing	Meyer	Smith
Almas	Dunn	Green	Klopstad	Morrison	Sondhaus
Barr	Duquenne/Haverkamp	Gulley	Knitter	Moser	Souers
Barrett	Falk	Gusic-Joel/Joel	Knorr	Motz/Schilder	Statnick
Batt	Fall	Habig	Kolbus	Nedeff	Stegeman
Benton	Farley	Hadley	Laderach	Nixon	Stehman
Beymer/Sherman	Fearnow	Hamilton	Lanza	Nordin	Steingold
Blazek	Felabom	Hamlet/Pestoff	Laughner	O'Connor	Stephens
Boerner	Ferguson	Hamstra	Leenhouts	Paynter	Sutton
Broady	Fillenwarth	Hipskind	Lerch	Perry	Tolhurst/Richmond
Browne	Finnegan	Hobbs	Lieberman	Phillips/Reichard	Traylor
Carlsen/Hund	Fleming	Hylton	Louden	Piatt	Vahey
Center	Floyd	Jackson/Main-	Lovati	Powers	Vasquez
Cento	Ford/Meyer	Jackson	Lowery	Puthoff	Vaughn
Clauss	Foster	Jefferis/Wood	Marra	Quinn	Vesper
Coe	Frey	Jones, J.	Matlock	Rabinowitch	Vinicor
Cohen	Garber	Jones, M.	McClure/Moreman	Rembusch	Vonnegut
Compton	Gargula	Jose	McDermott	Rinehart	Vonnegut-Gabovitch
Cranfill	Garrettson	Kaliban	McKinney	Roberts	Wade
Crist	Gibson	Katzenstein	McNamara	Schluge	Waite
Davis	Gilchrist	Kimberlin/Meskis	McNulty	Schoen	Walker
D'Avis/Hoover	Gilliland	Kipfer	Meiring	Seitz	Warner
de las Alas	Going	Kleifgen	Melcher	Shadix	Whitman
	Goldstein, J.&M.	Klem	Merritt	Slocum	

RESULTS FROM THE TRAFFIC CALMING STUDY

Conclusions:

- 1. Residents overwhelmingly believe there is a cut-through traffic problem in Forest Hills.
- 2. Residents prefer speed humps if the recommendations below do not alleviate the problem.
- 3. Residents want cut through traffic data to support any effort to install speed humps or traffic circles which are the two preferred alternatives to address cut-through traffic.
- 4. Most residents knew the Board was studying this problem.

Recommendations:

Based on the information provided by the survey and resident suggestions, following are the recommendations for further efforts to address the cut-through traffic problem.

- 1. Table the concept of traffic circles for now until more traffic data and the option of speed humps is exhausted or implemented.
- 2. Attempt to have the City through DPW gather traffic data on Forest Hills on locations and times when cut-through traffic occurs. This is not a given since this costs the City money. Jerrey Finnegan and any interested resident can pursue this jointly with DPW; this becomes a joint FHNA/MKNA effort.
- 3. Immediately request that the City install stops signs at a) Guilford/Carrollton point along Guilford, north bound; b) Winthrop/Forest Lane point along Winthrop, north bound; and c) Guilford and Northview to make this intersection a 4-way stop. Jerrey

- Finnegan and any interested resident can pursue this jointly with DPW; this becomes a joint FHNA/MKNA effort.
- 4. Immediately request that the City install "No Left Turn Between 6:30am-8am and 4pm-6pm" at the intersection of Kessler Blvd, Carrollton/Guilford along west bound Kessler Blvd. Jerrey Finnegan and any interested resident can pursue this jointly with DPW; this becomes a joint FHNA/MKNA effort.

FHNA Board Action:

- At the last Board meeting, FHNA voted to:
- 1. Pursue a Traffic Study of Forest Hills traffic with the DMD.
 - 2. Pursue a Stop Sign at Northview & Guilford

- 3. Explore better ways of locating the Stop Signs at our points. Currently if you stop where certain signs are located, you can't see oncoming traffic from converging streets
- 4. Explore prohibiting left turns off Kessler into Forest Hills at Carrollton during rush hours, as it slows traffic on Kessler and encourages cut through traffic.
- 5. Pursue sidewalks both along Winthrop and Kessler.

FHNA will keep you informed of progress on these issues, and will make a brief presentation on what's noted above at the Annual Meeting. A detailed summary of the survey results can be found on our website in the FH Residents/Discussion Forum/Traffic Calming Section.

