

the Columns

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

OCTOBER
CALENDAR_2010

ANNUAL EVENTS
october 30_FH
HALLOWEEN PARTY

december 24_CHRISTMAS
EVE LUMINARIES

FOREST HILLS WEB SITE

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.

fh halloween party 10/30

JOIN US FOR A FH HALLOWEEN TRADITION! THE FOREST HILLS Halloween Party will be held **October 30th from 4 to 6:30 p.m. (rain date the 31st)** at the **Guilford, Wildwood & 57th Street Point**. The Forest Hills Halloween Party is the oldest continuous neighborhood event in Indianapolis. For the 20th straight year it will feature Jim Garrettson's unbelievable (mostly because he doesn't believe he's done it this long) Haunted Garage, capable of striking terror in the hearts of almost no one. Since they tend to come anyway, Forest Hills Alumni, grandchildren, and friends are all most welcome. Costume your kids, bring along a plate of cookies, or other sweets, and be part of a special Forest Hills tradition dating back to the 1930's. The Association will supply pizza, cider, and water. – *Jim Garrettson*

Jim Garrettson's haunted garage.



CLEAN YOUR CURBS FALL + SPRING

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.

Along the same lines, if you do have to replace a sewer, or water line, if they're anywhere near each other, replace both at the same time. The major expense in either is the excavation, not the piping. As the city adds homes on City water, it increases water pressure, and our water pipes are just as old as our sewer pipes. We usually lose three or four of one or the other every year.

– *Jim Garrettson*

2010 SUMMER HAPPENINGS IN THE HILLS

I've been a Forest Hills resident for seven years and feel fortunate like many of you to be a part of our special neighborhood. While others in MKNA know we have a great community, one can't really grasp the intimacy of Forest Hills without living here. I continue to be surprised by things I learn about residents whom I don't know well, and activities going on of which I wasn't aware. Our community is exceptional in large part because of our involved, talented mix of residents.

As we head into Fall, I reflect on the many neighborhood activities of summer. Since there is no summer Columns on the schedule, we are recapping some FH summer events in this edition, including the Garden Tour, Summer Picnic, French and Tennis camps hosted by neighbors, and Carrollton Ave Block Party. These are just a few of the ways to be involved in our neighborhood.

In future Columns, we hope to highlight people and events within Forest Hills which may be less familiar or new to some. We hope to learn more about our neighbors and emphasize ways we can all get involved. If you have an idea for such a feature, please let me know (moellerjc@yahoo.com).

See you around the Hills!

Julie Moeller
FHNA President

2010 Forest Hills Garden Tour.

This past June 26th, a Forest Hills event was resurrected after 6 years: the Forest Hills Garden Tour.

The tour proved to be a wonderful way to meet neighbors, to see lovely gardens and landscaping, to spend a leisurely morning walking the neighborhood and to get new ideas for your own garden.

Approximately 35 neighbors assembled early at Mark Lanza's home for coffee, bagels, or scones and to get acquainted. After about 30 minutes of morning refreshments, people set off on the self-guided tour of the different home gardens volunteered by their Forest Hills friends.

The first half of the tour included Margaret and George Hopper's yard and garden followed by Judy and Mel Goldstein's flowers and yard ending with Barb and Jerrey Finnegan's yard and flowers. The homeowner from each home provided explanations of their various flowers, plantings, and landscaping that they have nurtured.

The next half of the tour took residents to the Katrina and Dave Seitz garden, fountains and yard, Giselle Scharaf's yard and plantings, and Nancy and Carlton Waite's landscaping and garden. At all tour homes, different types of sun or shade gardens and unique plantings were widely evident along with the dedication of each of the homeowners to their yards.

The tour culminated with a gathering at Mark Hylton's home where his unique yard and plantings could be viewed and where refreshments were served including delicious salad and desserts as well as champagne and other light drinks. There was plenty of camaraderie about the tour and neighborhood as well as a post-tour survey. The survey asked for gardening tips, including how to tackle the abundance of shade in Forest Hills. One respondent noted "hostas grow everywhere except in the sun". Other suggestions included "don't be afraid to use lots of color and variety of plants" and "every gardener should have a soil scoop; it is similar to a trowel". Perhaps the wisest advice was to "marry into a family whose yard/garden is established!"

The committee of Lara Knitter, Judith Lieberman, Ingrid Kipfer and Jerrey Finnegan were pleased that everyone had such a good time at the event. The survey results indicated a preference for resuming an annual tour in June. Five neighbors volunteered to be on next year's tour which indicates that it will be every bit as enjoyable at 2010's tour. **If you were not able to make this year's tour, and want to participate next year, contact Lara Knitter at lknitter@sbcglobal.net.** — Jerrey Finnegan



summer picnic parade

French and Tennis Camps come to Forest Hills!

Love — Thirty. Amour—Trente. Serve, Volley, Merci! This past summer, several children in the neighborhood attended Tennis Camp the week of August 2nd and French Camp the week of August 9th. The Tennis Camp was run at Broadway Park by tennis instructors Stephanie Lowe Sagebiel and Kristi Kimberlin, who were both on the Hanover College Women's Tennis Team together and who now both reside in Forest Hills. The camp focused on teaching basic tennis skills to children ages 5-10 through drills and games. The players learned the rules of the game and how to keep score. In addition, Kristi and Stephanie read books about the top seeded men and women's players and emphasized the importance of being a good sport. At the end of each hour and a half class, the campers got to enjoy the water park in order to cool off after such hard work on the hot courts. The last day of camp included a celebration with popsicles and tennis trophies for each player. The Forest Hills players included Maggie and Katie Carr, Caroline and Ellie Sagebiel, Caroline Brown, Abi Coe, Kamryn Meskis, Maeve Perry, and McKenna Martin. The French Camp was held at Kristi's home on Winthrop Ave and was led by Nadia Sadoui, a French teacher with many years of experience at the International School of Indiana. This camp was also for children ages 5-10 and the theme was traveling through French speaking countries around the world. The campers "flew" to France, Quebec, Senegal, and Algeria to learn about famous sights, music, stories, games and traditions from each country. The campers colored in pictures of the French speaking countries' flags and enjoyed a snack typical of the region at the end of each day. The favorite snack was "Pain Chocolate" (crescent rolls with a square of Hershey's chocolate baked in the middle) and the favorite activity was the water balloon fight (thanks to JD Davis who spent 1 1/2 hours filling up the balloons) on the last day of camp. The Forest Hills French Speakers included Caroline and Ellie Sagebiel, Kennedy Davis, Abi Coe, McKenna Martin, and Kamryn Meskis. Fun was had by all at both camps, plus it was a great way for kids and adults in our community to get to know each other better! These camps are planning to be held again next summer, so look for information on them in the spring, or you can **contact Kristi Kimberlin now for more information at klkindi@cs.com or 908-0541.** — Kristi Kimberlin

Carrollton Ave Block Party.

Have you and your neighbors ever considered having a block party along your street to meet everyone and just to have a good time? Many of us on the 5700 block of Carrollton thought that in 2009 when we resurrected a

practice of years ago and organized our own block party. The effort was minimal and the cost was shared proportionally among the neighbors who attended with their invited guests. The results were a lovely time had by all in late August of 2009 and 2010.

Essentially we had a pot-luck where neighbors brought a dish to pass or dessert and we had one grill where we barbecued burgers, hot dogs and brats. Everyone brought their own drinks and tables and chairs and snacks. With the street blocked off, everyone just mingled, got acquainted and shared a pleasant afternoon and evening. The turnout was between 40-50 neighbors and their neighborhood guests, some of whom were former Forest Hills residents as well.

The pleasure of meeting and getting to know your neighbors from one end of the street to the other, sharing good conversation, enjoying everyone's favorite foods, and just socializing on a flexible, come-and-go-as-you-please schedule is delightful. GIVE IT A TRY! — Jerrey Finnegan

The steps to organize a block party are simple:

- > Determine the level of interest of your neighbors with an email and/or door-to-door canvas of your block
- > With sufficient interest (60% needed to block off the street per the City) develop a contact list utilizing email as the most convenient communication method
- > Determine a consensus date for the party; typically 3-4 months in advance
- > Contact DeAnn M. Milliken [DeAnn.Milliken@indy.gov], Special Events Coordinator by email or phone (317-327-4849) to request a permit application and signature sheet from the City, complete and submit the application (it's simple and free), and then secure 60% of the neighbor's signatures and submit that signature page (this is to ok closing off the street)
- > Once the permit is approved, the City requires that you reserve approved barricades from DPW (also free and easy to do by email) and pick them up and return them yourself before and after your party
- > We used a simple letter to everyone to assign a snack, dish to pass, or dessert of the neighbor's choice and to explain other details; time of the party was 3-5 PM until 10 PM when the City said it must be completed.

> The cost was based on a per adult resident (guests were resident responsibility) and covered the grill rental, meats, and miscellaneous supplies (condiments, charcoal, plates, napkins, utensils); have neighbors bring some trash cans too

SUMMER PICNIC

The 2010 Picnic was a great success with lots of neighbors in attendance.

We shared good food and desserts, excellent party music, the impressive #16 fire engine, yummy sno-cones and ice cream (thanks BRICS!), a lifelike rock wall and new bounce house the kids loved. I kept hearing the comment repeated: "This is the best beer we've ever had" - thanks to the Social Committee who just said 'no' to average beer this year. A big thanks also to the Moms who did an exceptional job planning and hosting games for little ones. Sincere appreciation goes to all who helped to make the 2010 picnic a success. — Julie Moeller

MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED INCLUDE

Progressive Dinners. Coordinated by the Social Committee, and hosted/attended by several neighbors, the last one was a hit. Look for news of future dinners in The Columns.

Help raise money for neighborhood events and projects. The Board sells advertisement space in the Directory, Columns, and website — we can use your help! Contact Adam Gibson at adam@adamgibson.com.

Volunteer to help with upcoming FHNA sponsored events. Including the Halloween party, and Christmas Eve luminaries. Contact Lara Knitter at lkknitter@sbcglobal.net.

Contact your Block Captain. Ask if you can help coordinate CrimeWatch within your block.

Ladies Night Out. We know, some people aren't crazy about the name, but at least it's self-explanatory. The LNO group gets together every other month, at a neighborhood home or local business/restaurant. Contact Tara Warner at taranwarner@yahoo.com.

Dinners for new moms. Help a neighbor with a new baby get through those tough first weeks; we offer to coordinate dinner drop-off for families with new babies. Contact Meghan Martin at meghan_m_martin@hotmail.com.

Book Club. Love to read? There is an active Book Club group in the neighborhood that meets each month. Contact julie moeller at moellerjc@yahoo.com

board

OFFICERS_2010

PRESIDENT: JULIE MOELLER

317-253-7463, moellerjc@yahoo.com

VP: ADAM GIBSON

317-465-9003, adam@adamgibson.com

SECRETARY: JENNY LEVETT

251-1711, jtlevett@hotmail.com

TREASURER: KEITH LERCH

317-251-8661, keith.w.lerch@hud.gov

MEMBERS_2010

SHANNON COHEN

317-726-0313, shannon.cohen@me.com

BEAU + HEATHER KING

797-7269, beauking100@yahoo.com

LARA KNITTER

317-251-0446, lknitter@sbcglobal.net

KATHY DAVIS

317-695-1247,

liquidstudioinc@earthlink.net

RODNEY DOWLING +

KEN SIEGMAN

317-847-3683, dowlingrr@hotmail.com

neighbor news

NEW NEIGHBORS

Shari and Dave Hinshaw, and their daughter Serena moved into 5805

Carrollton. **James and Beth Piatt, and their two year old daughter Maggie** moved into 5667 Carrollton.

Jennifer Katzenstein and John Roche moved into 5662 Carrollton.

Deryl and Andrea Couch, and their 3 children moved into 817 E. 57th Street from Florida.

NEW BABIES

Michelle and Evan Gilbert of 5675 Carrollton welcomed **Connor Gilbert** on April 10th. Heather and John Cento of 5666 Carrollton welcomed **Rocco Cento** on August 12th. Liane and Mike Hulka of 5681 Guilford welcomed **Oliver Hulka** on June 3rd.

MORE BURGLARIES + BREAK-INS

Forest Hills had two more home burglaries in August, and two more auto break-ins. We've published tips for preventing home break-ins in previous Columns — see the July Columns, now on-line at

www.foresthillsindy.org to refresh your memory. Burglaries tend to increase when school starts, partly because we're home less, but also because most of our burglars are high school kids. Keep an eye out for strange activity — most home burglaries happen in the daytime — and don't hesitate to call the police, even if you're not sure — they'd rather have ten runs that weren't anything serious than miss one that was.

Car break-ins are different. If you have to park your car in the street, or even outside overnight, empty it out. A kid breaks into a car based on what he thinks might be in there, and since he can get in a window in seconds, he's an optimist. To him, even an empty bag might contain the Crown Jewels. Best advice is to get your car off the street altogether. We haven't had a string of car crashes in a couple of years now, but they aren't drinking any less in Broad Ripple, and even if they're dead drunk, they're usually smart enough not to drive down College. Once it starts to snow, we'll be plowing our streets again, and it's really hard, and ineffective, to plow with cars parked on the street. — *Jim Garretson*

WHAT IS CRIMEWATCH?

CrimeWatch is a self-help cooperative effort to reduce crime and fear of crime. This is achieved by citizens, law enforcement, and local government working together. The local CrimeWatch program is based on the National Neighborhood Watch Program (which was started in Indianapolis in 1975). Crimewatch is internationally recognized by crime prevention groups as one of the most effective tools to prevent the victimization of persons and communities.

For many years Forest Hills had an active CrimeWatch program in place. In fact our neighborhood is already organized into CrimeWatch "blocks" and our current block captains were originally the block captains for the CrimeWatch program. **Please see the insert with map and Block Captain contact info** and keep it in your Directory. However, in order to remain an active Crime Watch Neighborhood and receive support from the IMPD, the group **MUST** meet at least once a year and submit an updated membership roster.

We are in the process of actively reengaging this program. Some first steps include meeting with an IMPD representative to learn what needs to be done and meeting with the current block captains to discuss ideas and organize. Please be on the lookout for coming news and information about how to get more involved. The more people we have engaged, the more effective this will be. — *Lisa Brown*

UPDATE TO MKNA WEBSITE

Recently MKNA has updated its website. It can still be reached at www.mkna.org but there are now added features to make finding and reading information on various topics, including the Legislative Committee's topics.

Remember Forest Hills is PART of MKNA so this information can be helpful to all residents.

To access this information, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to the MKNA website: www.mkna.org
2. Select "Committee" along the top of the home page, then "Legislative" from the dropdown "Committee" list.
3. If you wish (and we hope you do!) join the Google Group so that you may post your comments on issues which interest you. You may join the Google Group by following the simple instructions in "How to Navigate This Site" and at "Join this group" at the upper right of the screen.

There is no obligation to join and you will not be on any "list". We need as many members in the Google Group as possible so that viewers (legislators and candidates etc) will know that this site potentially reaches a large number of voters in MKNA. Thanks!

— *Jerrey Finnegan, MKNA Legislative Committee Member*