

# the Columns

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MAY 2008

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

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This north-side neighborhood has been an Indianapolis stand-out for over 80 years. Our residents are known for established and growing families, singles, and acceptance for all, while location drives our vitality. Forest Hills is literally minutes from life's essentials. Bounded by College Avenue, Kessler Avenue, Northview Avenue and the Monon Trail, Forest Hills fills the northeast corner of the larger Meridian-Kessler neighborhood on the north side of Indianapolis.

MAY 17TH

## FHNA *Garage Sale*

The Forest Hills Garage Sale will be Saturday, May 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you're interested in participating, please contact Jacque Bradford at [mik2jac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mik2jac@sbcglobal.net) or sign up online at [www.foresthillsindy.org](http://www.foresthillsindy.org)

First, register if you have not done so (at bottom of main menu). Then click on Events > Garage Sale and click the Register button.

By telling Jacque, you'll be sure to have your house marked on the hundreds of maps that go out that day, telling everyone which houses participate. Our garage sale is always the biggest in the city, with literally hundreds of people scouring the neighborhood for treasures.



Our kids have always done pretty well selling coffee & donuts in the morning, hot dogs & lemonade in the later hours. It won't cost you anything, as the neighborhood association pays for the advertising, maps and any other costs.

I've had people ask if they have to give a portion of the profits to the neighborhood association — NO! It's yours! This is just one of the benefits from FHNA — one more reason to pay your dues! — Beth

## FOREST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD OPENINGS

Forest Hills Neighborhood Association Board openings occur every year, and nominees are voted in at the Annual Meeting in June. Please keep your thoughts open for anyone who might be willing to join the neighborhood board this summer, perhaps even you! This year there will be at least three openings. It's a great opportunity to help Forest Hills and to work side by side with your neighbors.

## PROPERTY Taxes

If you haven't noticed, all of the new assessments for Forest Hills are up on our website. Also located there (it's in the Discussion Forum Section under Taxes) is a link to a handy tax calculator which should let you estimate your remaining '07 tax bill. On average, our assessments dropped about 20%. With just a few exceptions values appear to be below what we could have sold our homes for in January 2005, which is the valuation date for this assessment.

This reassessment was done entirely by computer analysis, which means that no one looked at our homes or checked construction records. As a result, we have some homes that were drastically under assessed.



If, however, you do think you were over assessed (not over taxed) appeals don't need to be filed until after the official notice arrives (probably in June, along with the bill). Typical information that will be helpful in an appeal include an actual sale within a couple of years of the assessment date, an appraisal that was made for refinancing within that same time period, or a professional appraisal, which should cost between \$200—\$400, but be sure it's an appraisal of the value as of January 1, 2005. —Jim

JUNE 8TH

## ANNUAL Meeting

The annual meeting of the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8th under a tent at 5733 Guilford Avenue. The principal business to be conducted will be the election of new members of our Board of Directors and since we stagger the three year terms of Directors, there are 2-3 vacancies.

Officers of the Association are elected by the Board at their first meeting after the annual meeting. This is our first BYOB meeting, although bottled water and light snacks will be served. New neighbors are especially welcome. Neighbors may register online if they want an e-mail reminder 3 days prior.

JUNE 20TH

## TWILIGHT Tour

The Twilight Tour will take place on June 20th and MKNA is very happy to announce we have brought it back to the neighborhood. The target location is 48th Street between Washington and Pennsylvania this year with the theme being "A Walk on the Wild Side."

Tickets will be \$50 — please spread the word as we are hoping for good weather and a wonderful turnout. You can make reservations by contacting Jim Garrettson, Joni Albright, the Knitters, or the Goldsteins, or at the MKNA website: [www.mkna.org](http://www.mkna.org)

You can also mail ticket orders to 5208 N. Delaware - Kelly Colby - please be sure to include your name and address in your envelope, along with your check.

If you've never been to Twilight, it's one of the great parties in Meridian Kessler, with a catered dinner, dancing under the stars (OK, in a tent), an open bar, a band, a silent auction, and two or three homes on tour.

The rest of the Home Tour continues on the 21st & 22nd with ten homes on tour. Tickets for the Tour will be available shortly from the same sources. The Home & Garden Tour Planning is well underway. We have selected 10 wonderful homes for Day Tour.

The homes will span from 3900 block of Delaware to the 5800 Block of Washington

JUNE 20TH

## TWILIGHT *Tour (cont)*

and Meridian to Central. We will showcase a Meridian Street marvel as well as a Delaware Bungalow - there is much diversity this year, I am positive all attendees will be impressed.

We are in need of volunteers to work as guides in the day tour homes - please feel free to contact Jessica if you would like to Host/Hostess a Home or even just work a 2.5 hour shift on the weekend of the tour. Any help is greatly appreciated as always. We are in need of items for the Silent Auction - all money raised is granted out to worthy and needy neighborhood causes. Put together a day with a Dr. for 4 kids, or a wine basket from your block, basket of kids books, etc. - be creative as those are the items that really generate interest.

Brad Anspaugh is heading up silent auction and can be reached at: [banspaug@aol.com](mailto:banspaug@aol.com) or you can always contact Jim Garrettson as well. Beth Olsen will be putting together a basket from the Forest Hills Moms' Group. Please contact her if you're willing to contribute. — Jim

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The unique appeal of this neighborhood is its wooded, park like quality. Our goal is to preserve older, mature trees and the forested look of Forest Hills. Mature trees cannot be replaced. Forty to eighty years are needed in order for trees to gain mature status. Mature trees add financial value to the homeowner and their property.

## FHNA *Board Members*

President	259.7540	<b>Beth Olsen</b> <a href="mailto:jeffandbeath1@sbcglobal.net">jeffandbeath1@sbcglobal.net</a>
Vice President		Vacant
Treasurer	251.8661	<b>Keith Lerch</b> <a href="mailto:Keith.w.-lerch@hud.gov">Keith.w.-lerch@hud.gov</a>
Secretary	695.1247	<b>Kathy Davis</b> <a href="mailto:liquidstudioinc@earthlink.net">liquidstudioinc@earthlink.net</a>
	465.9003	<b>Adam Gibson</b> <a href="mailto:adam@adamgibson.com">adam@adamgibson.com</a>
	695.4777	<b>Mark Lanza</b> <a href="mailto:mlanza@omni-packaging.com">mlanza@omni-packaging.com</a>
	202.0959	<b>Bill Melind</b> <a href="mailto:Bill.melind@eds.com">Bill.melind@eds.com</a>
	202.0362	<b>Chris Reffett</b> <a href="mailto:creffett@indy.rr.com">creffett@indy.rr.com</a>
	722.9011	<b>Barb Clouse</b> <a href="mailto:bclouse@yahoo.com">bclouse@yahoo.com</a>

## ANNUAL *Dues*

Dues can be paid online, or by dropping them off with any Board Member or Block Captain. To pay on-line go to:

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

First, register if you have not done so (at bottom of menu). Then click on Neighbors Only > Pay Dues.

Annual association dues are \$35.00 per household and run from July 01 to June 30. They are completely voluntary (only a few homes have been torched for nonpayment), but nearly all households participate. The dues help fund the Garage Sale, Summer Picnic, Halloween Party, Christmas Eve Luminaries, The Columns Newsletter and many larger neighborhood projects.

Included in dues are \$10.00 for the snow removal fund. Please exclude \$10 if you live on Kessler Blvd. or College Ave, as our private plows don't work there.

JUNE 5TH

## COMMUNITY *Day*

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Department North District will hold this year's Community Day on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at Broad Ripple Park, 1450 Broad Ripple Avenue from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Community Day allows children from Metro North District area summer camps, day care centers and other programs to interact with members of IMPD, from the Mounted Patrol to the Air Tactical Unit. There will be games, activities and of course lunch. Several Community organizations and service providers will have education booths present with children's activities and information.



In 2007 over 1,800 children participated in IMPD's Community Day. Everyone is welcome and the event is free. Both Meridian Kessler and Forest Hills help fund this event. Volunteers are always needed. If you have a couple of hours to spare, contact Judy Goldstein.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order for two of our neighbors. Last month Marie-Odile Frohent became a United States citizen. Marie has lived in Forest Hills for approximately 10 years. Marie is originally from France.

Several years ago, Jackie Barlow also became a United States citizen. Jackie is from Great Britain and has lived in Forest Hills approximately 12 years. Jackie recently went through a double hip replacement and is now doing well.

## CHRISTMAS IN *July*

A fierce battle is still being waged along Guilford Avenue in our first annual Christmas In July contest as residents vie to see who will be the last home still sporting Christmas decorations.

## COPPER *Sulfate*

Forest Hills has old drainage pipes, mostly from our homes to the sewers, and occasionally from our gutters and other drains. We also have old trees. If you add a dose of copper sulfate to your drains in the spring, and again in the fall, it helps eliminate tree roots from growing into the drains, and may save you a costly excavation bill. It's sold under dozens of brand names at hardware stores.

MAY 6TH

## INDIANA *Primary*

The May Indiana primary election is held Tuesday, May 9th. Forest Hills votes at the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Gymnasium, which is located at 52nd and Central Avenue, just across College.

