

# the Columns

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

## topics

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“How about a mid-summer Mardi Gras, our own little Forest Hills Fat Tuesday”

## GETTING INVOLVED IN FOREST HILLS

BY MARK LANZA

DURING THE MANY FOREST HILLS SOCIAL FUNCTIONS I'VE ATTENDED OVER the years, I typically see the same folks participating, hosting, or helping these events be successful. While I understand that not everyone has the time, interest or motivation to leap into the role of volunteer, I also know that oftentimes many people are simply waiting to be asked for their help. This seems like a good time to ask!

We have two functions coming up for which we could use some brainpower, creativity, and effort. The first is our Summer Picnic. Yes, I realize that the snow on the ground clouds the images of barbecues, shorts, and water features, yet this year's event may take a little more advanced planning than is typical. For this July's event, we're toying with the idea of having a theme picnic and we're open to suggestions on topics. It could be a luau replete with Hawaiian costumes, food and entertainment...or how about a mid-summer Mardi Gras, our own little Forest Hills Fat Tuesday? We're pretty much open to any ideas the residents may have; however a rendition of Spain's "Running with the Bulls" may prove a bit difficult to reenact...and kind of messy to clean up afterwards. In short, we're looking for ideas on the theme, as well as folks to help us create that theme for all to enjoy. Please contact Julie Moeller [moellerjc@yahoo.com](mailto:moellerjc@yahoo.com) if you'd like to help.

The second function is a resurrection of the Forest Hills Garden Tour. Jerrey Finnegan at last year's Annual Meeting mentioned this, and I think it's a fine idea. The details have not yet been finalized, but Jerrey and Lara Knitter are seeking help from some residents to coordinate this event. Please see the article in this edition for information on how to get involved, and I hope you'll take them up on their request for help.

No matter which of these events you choose to become involved with, or any other FH functions for that matter, volunteering in the neighborhood can be very rewarding. And you might just get a chance to meet some of the people you frequently see in the neighborhood, but have yet to talk with. **Go on. Get involved. Help us to help you enjoy your neighborhood!**



PHOTO BY ADAM GIBSON

## luminaries

**Thank you to everyone who** helped to make our Christmas Eve Luminaries a success! Our call for volunteers led to one of the largest teams in several years. While the list of volunteers is too long to publish here, we wanted to thank you. Of course, a special thanks to Luke and Beth Habig for organizing the neighborhood tradition again this year!



PHOTO BY ADAM GIBSON

## new additions + neighbor news

### BIRTHS

**The Neal's (5730 Wildwood) had baby Eli on the 25th of January.**

### MOVES

**Congratulation to Paul and Kim Green who recently made the short move down the street to their second Forest Hills home, this one at 5850 Carrollton Ave.**

## DINNER PARTY

IF YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED in a progressive dinner, then you know how easy and fun this type of party can be. A typical progressive dinner involves guests visiting several different homes throughout the evening enjoying a different course of the meal at each host house. It's a great way to reconnect with neighbors and showcase your talents in the kitchen. If you would be interested in participating as a host house or would like to help plan the next Forest Hills progressive dinner please contact Lara Knitter at [lknitter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lknitter@sbcglobal.net) or direct at 317-251-0446.

## MKNA NEEDS YOUR HOME

The annual home and garden tour is our once a year opportunity to shine a spotlight on Meridian-Kessler and maybe this year, even Forest Hills. MKNA always needs volunteers to help show all our neighborhood has to offer. Consider participating in one of Indiana's oldest tour of homes by recommending a home for tour, joining the committee, or volunteering your home. In addition to showcasing our wonderful neighborhood, the tour is the only fundraiser for MKNA. In celebration of the 37th year, the 2010 tour theme is "Green By Design." The tour celebrates the fact that our community was designed with features that are now eco-friendly. Restaurants, retailers and parks are within walking distance. Tree-lined streets are not only beautiful, but also provide shade in the summer. Plus, living in existing homes doesn't use the natural resources that might have been used to build new. If you or a neighbor is interested in learning more about how you can be a part of this wonderful event, contact Kelly Colby, 2010 Tour Chair, at 317-339-4783 or [kelly@colbyequipment.com](mailto:kelly@colbyequipment.com).

**Twilight Tour:** Friday, June 18

**Home & Garden Day Tour:**

Saturday - Sunday, June 19-20



PHOTO BY JIM GARRETTSON

# annual events

## CALENDAR 2010

february\_FHNA DUES

february\_MKNA DUES

may\_FH GARAGE SALE

june\_FH ANNUAL MEETING

july\_FH SUMMER PICNIC

october\_FH HALLOWEEN PARTY

december 24\_LUMINARIES

## GARDEN TOUR

EVEN IN THE THICK OF WINTER, IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT THE garden. Even this time of year there is evidence of abundant gardens lying dormant under the mulch and snow. Every few years, Forest Hills hosts a private intra-neighborhood garden tour. It is an opportunity to share ideas with fellow gardeners and enjoy the beauty of our neighborhood. We will begin looking for gardens to showcase later this spring in hopes of a June tour. If you are interested in participating please contact Lara Knitter at [lknitter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lknitter@sbcglobal.net) or direct at 251-0446.

FHNA uses dues to fund snow removal, Christmas Eve Luminaries, the Columns newsletter, the summer picnic and other things that make this neighborhood a great place to live.

## 2010 ANNUAL DUES

PAYING YOUR ANNUAL FHNA DUES IS EASY AND HELPS TO SUPPORT MANY OF the things that make this neighborhood a great place to live. Payment envelopes are included in this edition of the Columns, but we encourage you to pay the easy way—online. Simply log on to the FHNA website at [www.foresthillsindy.org](http://www.foresthillsindy.org)

If you have not previously registered on the website, just click “Sign Up” from the home page. Then click on Neighbors Only > Pay Dues. The voluntary annual association dues are \$35.00 per household from January 1 to December 31. The dues help fund the Garage Sale, Summer Picnic, Halloween Party, Christmas Eve Luminaries, the Columns newsletter and many larger neighborhood projects.

Included in your dues is \$10.00 for the snow removal fund. If you need to get to work on a snow day, you’ll appreciate the snow removal fund! Please exclude \$10 if you live on Kessler Blvd. or College Ave. as our private plows don’t cover these streets. Thank you for supporting our neighborhood.

# board

## OFFICERS\_2010

**PRESIDENT:** MARK LANZA

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**VP:** ADAM GIBSON

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**SECRETARY:** KATHY DAVIS

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**TREASURER:** KEITH LERCH

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## MEMBERS\_2010

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## INDY PARKS' WINTER/SPRING FUN GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

### Inside the latest Indy Parks

Winter/Spring Fun Guide, you will discover a wide variety of programs and events suited to fit your recreational needs and interests. Indy Parks offers many structured classes designed to help area residents maintain active and healthy lifestyles. We have many activities around our area to take advantage of such as nature walks at Holliday Park and dance classes at Broad Ripple Park. *For more information, visit [www.indy.gov](http://www.indy.gov)*

## JIM GARRETTSON'S CHRISTMAS AWARDS

**Best Christmas Party Award:** The Rabinowich's. Cars were parked from Northview to Kessler and bus service was available from Southport.

**Best Wreaths Stolen from a Macy's Display Award:** Mike Mooreman.

**California Cool Award:** The Kempse's. No tighty white's here.

**Best Garage Award:** The Seitz's. Wait 'till their gardeners figure out this can keep them working 'till February.

**Oldest Reindeer Award:** The O'Connor's. Rudolph has been around since the 80's.

**I Made My Wife Climb the Tree Award:** The Wethington's.

**Charlie Brown Award:** Tie. The Christ's & The Neal's.

**I Was On the Roof Anyway Award:** The Gibson's (also winners of the July On Christmas Fireworks Award).

**Santa Counted Our Kids and Did a Kamikaze Off The Roof Award:** The Caito's.

**Most Electic Lights Award:** The Mark's. (needs an inflatable Grinch to be perfect)

**Best Lit Playground Equipment:** The Falk's. It keeps Bob off the slide on NYE.

**We Ran Out Of Lights Halfway Up The Tree Award:** The de las Alas'.

**President's Award:** Mark Lanza. (no lights but he won't let this go to press if he doesn't win something).

**Longest Running Xmas Party Award:** The Kea's.

**40,000 Watt Perimeter Security Fence Cleverly Disguised as Xmas Lights Award:** The Rinehart's.

**AI Gore Award For Most LED Lights:** The Moeller's.

**Fattest Santa Award:** The Browne's.

**Best Anti-Santa Landing Device On The Roof Award:** Mark Hylton.

**IRA Award:** The Finnegan's. (The guns are buried under the boughs of Holly).

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** The Habig's. They've been lighting the neighborhood for years.

**Even After Paying Our Property Tax Bill, We Still Put Up Lights Award:** The Gargula's.

**Last Man Standing Award:** (Goes to the last house to take down Xmas decoration. Usually not awarded until May).

## FHNA WEBSITE

[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.

### Website Banner Ads Available

Our website is paid for by banner ads. We allow two, which appear at the bottom of every page, each for \$300/year. Forest Hills 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).

## NO HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE TRASH!

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE in the ToxDrop program to properly dispose of all your unwanted and unused household hazardous waste (HHW)? Over the last decade, the ToxDrop program has diverted annually in excess of 1.0 million pounds of HHW from the city's sewers, waterways, and landfills. ToxDrop is an Indianapolis/Marion County program managed by the Department of Public Works.

The closest ongoing collection site to Forest Hills is the Traders Point Collection Facility, 7550 N. Lafayette Rd. which is open for collection on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month from 9am-2pm. In addition, there are several special ToxDrop events throughout the year including the Glendale Mall ToxAway Day each fall. For more information on details and upcoming special events, please visit: [www.sustainindy.org](http://www.sustainindy.org)