

the Columns

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

dec | 2016

*Special thanks to
Jim Garretlson
who's retiring
after 25 years
as editor of the
Columns... we've
appreciated your
time, dedication
and good wit!*

**mark your
calendar**

December 17

Luminary Set Up

December 24

Luminary Display

FH LUMINARIES TO BRIGHTEN NEIGHBORHOOD!

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 17th at Eric Chitwood's garage, 5845 Carrollton Ave. Please note the new location. Eric has kindly volunteered to take over for the Habigs', who ran the assembly and distribution for decades.

Volunteers, especially those with trucks or SUV's, are always sorely needed, both to put together the kits and deliver them to your homes. Since this is Eric's first rodeo, extra volunteers are encouraged (we promised him this would be easy) and it's always a fun event. We can always find work for school aged kids as some of our houses are actually on hills.

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 it's a lovely sight on a special 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.

ANNUAL FH DUES

Attached to this final 2016 issue of the Columns, you will find a dues envelope. 2017 Forest Hills dues are payable as of January 1, 2016 and run through the calendar year, although any payments made after this issue comes out will be credited to 2017 unless you indicate otherwise.

Starting with the first Columns of 2017, we'll be publishing a list of those who have paid (and neighbors are encouraged to shun those who haven't). The list will also include the much desired asterisk, designating those who have made a contribution above and beyond the call of duty. You are welcome to have your asterisk framed and prominently displayed around your house.

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).

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).

GARY BORAM

Neighbor and Real Estate Provider

• Broker/Forest Hills Resident •




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HALLOWEEN PARTY HIGHLIGHTS

What a difference 100 feet made as the Forest Hills Halloween Party on October 29th moved from the 5700 block of Guilford to the 5700 block of Wildwood. Perfect weather greeted nearly 250 neighbors to the reformatted party, adding fresh pizza from Byrnes Pizza on Illinois, beer from the Sun King Brewing Co. and live music from the slightly reconstituted Rob de las Alas band.

Party Chair Sarah Kilfoil thanks Becky Morrison and Kristin Garber for serving on the committee and volunteering at the party and to Andi Crowell for donating the water bottles and helping with set-up and tear-down. The neighborhood also thanks all who helped with set-up and tear down, donated cupcakes, volunteered at the the cupcake walk, the hayrides, and the scream contest.

The French's again won the scary house contest, narrowly beating our Ken Siegman & Rodney Dowling who tied with the Martin's for 2nd place. The Coe sisters baked up the Scary Cupcake winners.

We didn't get last names for the Scream Contest winners, although there's a pretty good chance that the parents who have to hang out with these anything but angelic noisemakers know them well and encourage them to rest their voices for next year's contest. Chloe and Henry won the 5 and under contest. Pax and Eliza were winners in the Grades K-2 group, Lily & Ben in the Grades 3-5 group, and Catherine and Kamryn in the Grade 6 group. Neighbors of these winners should know that parents of these champions weren't committing child abuse in the weeks leading up to the party; their kids were just practicing.

BRINKMAN AD

NOTES FROM THE SNOW PILE

THIS WILL BE MY LAST TIME WRITING THE Columns. We have a great and active Board of Directors, and it's well past time to let them take over. Hope I made you laugh.

Only five Block Captains responded to a request for Directory Updates. I'm less excited about walking the neighborhood trying to accomplish the update, so there won't be a paper Directory until someone else decides it's important to take over the project. That makes it a bit more important for all of us who are online to sign up for the electronic directory (a bit more than half of you are). We also have a considerable amount of both duplicate, and expired (folks who don't live here anymore) entries. If you could check your information, kindly send what ought to be deleted (you can update your information yourself) to our brilliant webmaster, Stephen Cranfill, at stephen@bionnicat.com.

As noted in the separate article, it's dues time again. As part of our dues for most of us includes a fee for snow removal, it's worth noting that it's awfully hard for our contractors to do a decent job if there are cars parked on the street after a big (or small) storm. I understand that a lot of you have two car storage sheds, but if you could at least get your cars into your driveways in advance of and after a forecasted snow, driving in the neighborhood will be a whole lot easier and less resemble a slalom course. Maybe this will be a low snow season, but since the Cubs won, hell is due to freeze over.

As always, try to do one last curb clean-up once all the leaves are down, especially at the drainage outlets. What's not cleaned up will turn into dirt over the winter, and that means curbs filled with weeds.

If you noticed a large number of IMPD units in the neighborhood the week before Thanksgiving, a group of wandering teens tried to enter a house at Winthrop & Guilford, and were all apprehended within minutes. With the holidays at hand, keep an eye out for your neighbors, some of whom will be traveling.

The Milhaus project at the ATT site on College won approval from the Metropolitan Development Commission by a 6-2 vote in November.

Congratulations to the Jose's for becoming the last house in the neighborhood to get indoor plumbing.