

the Columns

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.

FH EVENTS

December 19

Annual Luminary Setup

December 24

Annual Luminary Display

DECEMBER 2015

FH ANNUAL LUMINARY TRADITION

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 19th at Luke Habig's garage, 5750 Carrollton Ave. Because Luke's been organizing this for so long, we can almost guarantee that all luminaries will be at your doorstep by noon.

This will be Luke's final year as Luminary God, having performed the task for about 20 years. As with the Haunted Garage, we hope you'll show up, if only to honor another family that took on a job and kept doing it 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. It's always a fun event, (Luke always has Christmas music to accompany your efforts, but has promised not to sing) and one that's sure to get you in the Christmas spirit. Luke can usually 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.

HALLOWEEN PARTY WRAP

Despite an hour and a half rain delay, the FH Halloween Party remained the longest running neighborhood event in Indy as over a hundred people showed up for the final year of Jim Garrettson's Haunted Garage.

With the presence of many past FH Presidents and a moving speech by Judy Goldstein, Jim was honored with a fabulous (and huge) brass plaque commemorating his 25 years of Halloween service to Forest Hills. While Jim has decided to display the plaque on his gravesite, it remains unclear whether Indianapolis will allow him to be buried in his front yard, despite the fact that several cats of his already occupy the space, along with the ashes of his dogs.

Megan and Jeff Martin were ruaway winner in the house decorating contest. As evidenced by the voting at the party, there was a drastic upswing in homes sporting Halloween themes this year. Aside from the usual influx of far ranging neighbors finding their way to FH for trick-or-treat, Japanese tour buses were unexpected. Many houses ran out of candy within an hour.

SCREAM CONTEST WINNERS

Girls

- 1st Place - Anna 125
- 2nd Place - Kamryn Meskis 123
- 3rd Place- Georgia Klinzing 118

Boys

- 1st Place Tie - Caden Warner - 121
- Michael de las Alas -121
- 2nd Place - Andrew de las Alas -118

Little Kids Winner

Chloe Morrison

Party chairs Megan Martin and Becky Morrison would like to thank volunteers Lee & Matt Klinzig, Jill de las Alas, and Dan & Bess Neal for their efforts outside the garage. Inside, Jim would like to acknowledge Holyn and Adam Lair for 25 years of bringing terror to the hearts of neighborhood kids.

Join us next year as the Halloween Party begins a new era. Let your Board members know what you'd like to see as the party continues to evolve, and, of course, how you'd be willing to help in its evolution.

BOARD
2015_2016

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NOTES FROM THE SNOW PILE

Forest Hills changed a lot this year! Our Directory was out of date almost as quickly as it was published with new residents moving in.

We began one new tradition, Community Day, with neighbors taking on projects around Forest Hills. Jim Garrettson's Haunted Garage finished up a 25 year run, and the Board is looking for ideas for the bigger and better Halloween Parties to come.

The Habigs are retiring from a two decade run coordinating assembly and distribution of the luminaries, and we need a volunteer to replace them.

We might also be looking for a new webmaster.

As we get closer to the neighborhood's 100th anniversary, things continue to change, but they also improve.

Welcome new head Block Captain Bes Neal, replacing Mary Beth Reffett who served the past few years. Bes will have a few built-in helpers, but first they'll need to be allowed to cross the street.

Our new City-County Councilor (we're now in District 9) is William (Duke) Oliver, whose major claim to fame during the campaign was to note that he couldn't imagine that Meridian Kessler ever would need anything.

The Meridian Kessler Association is a new e-mail newsletter (edited by our own Meghan Martin). There are too many complaints from people that fall into the "we never heard about this" category, so this should be an easy way to get information directly. Subscribe at: <http://mkna.org/subscribe-to-email-newsletter/>

A nice crowd, bolstered by late arrivals from the School 84 fundraiser showed up for the annual Block Captain's Party November 14th at Board President Fernow McClure's. Our Block Captains serve an important function in the neighborhood, delivering The Columns, welcoming new neighbors, and keeping residents informed on neighborhood activities - all things we appreciate and which make them well deserving of a great party.

Washington Park (Meridian Kessler's third National Register District) is currently exploring whether to establish an IHPC District which would offer protections to properties above what's currently available in the normal zoning code. About a decade ago Forest Hills tried to do the same thing, but it was met with opposition. Normally the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission wants around 70% neighborhood support. What's protected (essentially what you can't do to the exterior of your home without prior approval) is designed by the neighborhood. This will be worth watching, as we've had another house demolished recently, and the municipal code only offers minimal guidance on what can be built.

BRINKMAN AD

2016 DUES

Attached to this final 2015 issue of the Columns, you will find a dues envelope. 2016 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 2016 unless you indicate otherwise.

Starting with the first Columns of 2016, 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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