

MSF Events Pack Calendar

By Elaine Klein

Meridian Street Foundation hosted its annual neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt (resurrected from the sixties) on Saturday, March 30 on the lawn at 4343 North Meridian Street. The Easter Egg Hunt was great fun for the young and the old. The 112 children found plastic eggs filled with candy and golden eggs for special prizes. Some children got their faces painted while others played with sidewalk chalk. All enjoyed photos with the Easter Bunny and lemonade and cookies after the hunt. Several adults recalled how they had hunted Easter eggs on the same lawn when they were children. The \$2 donation per child goes to the Beautification Committee. Thanks to Janice Seidensticker, Linda Gilman, B.J. Maley, Kathy McDaniel, and Virginia Handley for all their efforts.

The annual picnic was held June 9 at the home of Bill and Melissa Oesterle. The picnic food was provided by Jug's Catering and featured their signature fried chicken and fried biscuits. Soda jerk John Klein donated the ice cream sundae bar. The children's activities included face painting and



John and Elaine Klein not only welcomed the public to their beautiful gardens but also John posted a few of his pristine and vintage automobiles at various homes, including his own, pictured here.

playing with the Oesterle's teepee and and fort. The 123 neighbors just seemed to enjoy catching up with old friends and meeting new neighbors until the rainstorm arrived with little warning. The foundation helped defray the cost of the event. Thanks to Linda Gilman, Adam and Andy Gilman, Virginia and Neil Handley, and especially Melissa

continued on page 3

An Urgent Message about Traffic on Meridian Street

By Ann Stack

Few great Midwestern streets of character are left: Woodward Avenue in Detroit is gone, Euclid Avenue in Cleveland is gone; South Michigan Avenue in Chicago is gone. Reid Williamson, President, Historic Landmarks of Indiana, believes that swiftly moving traffic from a five-lane thoroughfare funneling onto Meridian Street's four narrow lanes in the historic district will create future pressure to widen the entire street. Meridian Street would then become a five-

lane thoroughfare from 86th Street to 38th Street and eventually to the Circle Center.

The overwhelming concern expressed at the public meeting on September was safety, especially enforcement of current speed limits.

What Kind of a City and Neighborhood Do You Want?

OPTION 1, favored by the Department of Public Works, has been partially implemented from 54th to 61st Street (drive it!). DPW would extend the

continued on page 2

President's Letter

September 2002

Dear Members and Neighbors,

It's been several months since our last newsletter, and I am happy to share with you that it is our plan to have more frequent newsletter communications. We hope to send out four to six newsletters per year instead of the two to three that we have been doing.

A lot of activity has been happening with your neighborhood association. One of our goals this year was to have more events for the neighbors to meet and greet each other more often. Our social committee has done a great job with a multitude of events beginning with the Easter Egg Hunt and the resurrection of our Meridian in Bloom Garden Tour. In between we moved up our annual picnic to June when we had a great turnout in spite of the weather.

Our "River of Flowers" project is moving along nicely with the first plantings scheduled for October.

Look for your notice in the mail regarding our annual business meeting scheduled for Monday, October 7. We will be dedicating the park bench at Alice Carter Park prior to dinner at Dodd's and following with our business meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet more of your neighbors and to learn more about what your Meridian Street Foundation neighborhood association is doing for all.

Anyone interested in serving on our board please contact me at 921-8190.

Neighborly,
Cindy Zweber-Free
President

Traffic on Meridian *continued from page 1*

continuous center lane to 86th Street, widening it yet again from 86th to 96th Street. Residents would be forced to cross three lanes of oncoming traffic (instead of two) to make a turn out of their driveway and everyone would cross five lanes of traffic (plus turn lanes) at cross streets rather than four.

Supporters of **OPTION 2** believe safety and attractiveness can be achieved by maintaining the existing four-lane street through most of the corridor with left and right-turn lanes in locations identified as safety concerns. We believe a center fifth lane will encourage greater speeds, and we wonder who has the right of way. Most importantly, we oppose dividing our city and its neighborhoods by one more "pass through" urban highway.

Estimated cost for **OPTION 2** is \$4.2 million, versus \$5.8 million for **OPTION 1**.

I served on the North Meridian Street Committee and attended 19 of 20 meetings. In between my 19 meetings, I sought counsel from representatives of Historic Landmarks of Indiana, Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association, Meridian Street Foundation, Maple Road Association, Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations, the American Institute of Architects, Indianapolis, and the Division of Zoning and Land Use of the American Bar Association. **We all support OPTION 2.**

No one at the public meeting on September 4 supports **OPTION 3**. Those who support **OPTION 4**, no project, share the same fears as those of us who support **OPTION 2**, that Meridian Street could eventually become a pass through for vehicles from 86th Street to the Circle Center.

Please choose the option you think best serves our city and our neighborhoods and write the Mayor, whose office will forward it to Cathy Holdman at the Department of Public Works.

The Honorable Bart Peterson, Mayor
City of Indianapolis
2501 City-County Building
Indianapolis, IN 46204

DPW Options for Alterations to Meridian Street:

OPTION 1

- Five-lane design with continuous center left turn lane in simulated brick
- Optional landscaped median north and south of the White River Bridge
- Add right-turn lanes at the following intersections:
 - 64th/Arden Road (northbound)
 - Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (northbound)

Second Presbyterian Church (northbound)
80th Street
82nd Street

- Modernize traffic signals
- No additional traffic signals

OPTION 2

- Maintain existing four-lane street through most of corridor
- Add left and right-turn lanes in locations identified as safety concerns:
64th/Arden Road
Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation
Second Presbyterian Church (7700 block)
80th Street
82nd Street
- Modernize traffic signals
- No additional traffic signals at this time

OPTION 3 (uses up to 10 feet of right of way plus acquisition of up to 10 feet of private property)

- Four-lane design with landscaped center median, curbs, sidewalks, and storm sewers
- Left turns allowed only at cross streets and Second Presbyterian and Hebrew Congregation driveways
- Add right-turn lanes at the following intersections:
64th/Arden Road (northbound)
Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (northbound)
Second Presbyterian Church (southbound)
79th/Williams Creek (northbound)
- No additional traffic signals

OPTION 4

- No project



Marcus and Leslie Chandler were among several neighborhood couples who opened their beautiful gardens to visitors during Meridian in Bloom.

MSF Events *continued from page 1*

and Bill for their generous use of their home one more time!

The first Meridian in Bloom to showcase the magnificent garden at the Governor's Residence, along with five other gardens in the historic Meridian Street Foundation, was showcased Saturday, July 13, a day of perfect weather. Gardening fans and nature lovers enjoyed the exclusive opportunity to explore the garden at the Governor's residence at 4780 North Meridian Street, in addition to the lush gardens at the following homes:

Melissa and Dan Daum,
5252 North Meridian Street
Bill and Sarah Brown,
5212 North Pennsylvania Street
Elaine and John Klein,
4343 North Meridian Street
Marcus and Leslie Chandler,
4285 North Meridian Street
Nancy and David Behrman,
4127 North Meridian Street

All proceeds from Meridian in Bloom will directly benefit the Meridian Street Foundation

continued on page 4



Meridian in Bloom visitors could buy drinks and handcrafted art, made by Nancy Behrman and sold by her son, Zachary (pictured), on tour day.

MSF Events *continued from page 3*

Beautification Committee, whose projects include the donation of the Winter's park bench for the Alice Carter Park, located south of the corner of Meridian Street and Westfield Boulevard.

The committee is also in the process of planning and organizing the River of Flowers project, which will create a four-foot wide blue carpet of early blooming, low foliage spring bulbs, Glory of the Snow, along Meridian Street, between Westfield Boulevard and 40th Street. (See the related article in this issue.) Special thanks for a very successful garden tour to Cindy Zweber-Free, Linda Gilman, Virginia Handley, Alice Berger, Kathy McDaniel, George Maley, Mary Beth Oakes, and all the other many garden hosts.

News from the Neighborhood

Bob and **Pat Pinkley** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception at Meridian Street Methodist Church. Pinkley children and grandchildren came from around the country, and guests particularly enjoyed wedding photos of Bob and Pat.

The **O'Guinn** family celebrated the marriage of their daughter, **Torie**, to **Peter Schoenke** at the Meridian Street Methodist Church on May 4. The couple lives in Los Angeles.

Alice Berger hosted neighbors at a coffee in the spring, welcoming new neighbors, including **Joani Ossip**, and bidding farewell to **Lynn Barnard**, who has now moved to California.

Dan and **Melissa Daum** are the proud grandparents of a baby girl, born to their daughter, **Maggie**, and her husband.



At a spring tea, Shirley Berry (center) chatted with Joani Ossip (left), who has recently moved into Lynn Barnard's home. Lynn (right), a long-time neighbor, has now moved to San Francisco.



Holding tulips, tea hostess Alice Berger (renowned for her garden) is flanked by Kathy Shorter (left) and Kay Herzog.

In June, the **Behrmans**, **Stacks**, and **Woodbridges** hosted a neighborhood pitch-in in the Stack's backyard.

The Woodbridge's son **Trevor**, a senior at Brebeuf, spent six weeks living with a family in Japan, under the auspices of Youth for Understanding. Trevor came back brimming with enthusiasm about the experience and about Japan.

The residents of Hampton Street, between Meridian and Illinois, celebrated their annual garage sale and block party in June. The **Hampton Block Club** has been meeting for more than thirty years. The party was such a success this year that the group gathered again for a Labor Day party. The **Krause** and **Handley** families are the prime organizers of block events on Hampton.

Amy and **Ed Prine** are expecting their third baby this month.

Wayne and **Rees Olander's** oldest son, **Emerson**, is getting married in Boston in June.

The homes of **David** and **Nancy Behrmann** and **Peggy Barnes** will be the St. Margaret's Guild Decorator Show Homes of 2003, returning that event to Meridian Street after an absence of several years.

The home of **Marla** and **Tony Smith** is one of several in the neighborhood that will be on the 15th Annual Holiday Home Tour in November, which offers a peek at beautiful homes, resplendent with holiday decorations by area florists. The tour proceeds benefit Crossroads Rehabilitation Center.

If you have neighborhood news that you would like to share, please contact Helen O'Guinn, htoguin@aol.com or 255-0071.

Volunteers Sought To Help Beautify the City

The Meridian Street Foundation has been overwhelmed by the positive response to the "River of Flowers" project! In this, our first year, we will be planting nearly 400,000 bulbs to fulfill your orders!

The Meridian Street Foundation is beginning to plant a carpet of early blooming, low foliage bulbs (Glory of the Snow) along the North Meridian Street historic district, between Westfield Boulevard and 40th Street. The flowering bulbs will be planted in the grassy area between the sidewalk and the curb or near the street in the areas that do not have sidewalks. The flowers are maintenance free and will spread over time to fill the space, creating a dramatic "River of Flowers" each spring, announcing the arrival of the season and bringing goodwill to Indianapolis from our neighborhood.

To help plant the thousands of bulbs along Meridian Street, we need a few hundred volunteers to participate this fall. The Meridian Street Foundation plans to plant the bulbs during the first three weekends in October: October 5-6, October 12-13, and October 19-20. Times are 8:30 a.m. – noon and 1:00 p.m.– 4:30 pm. We encourage families, friends, and social groups of all ages to come be a part of this historic event!

For more information or to sign up, please call Kathy Shorter at 283-5322.

Message from Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association

By Roberta Ross, President

Make this the year you help me hold the City of Indianapolis accountable. Wouldn't it be nice if when we work hard to secure the safety and beauty of our neighborhood, the city would use the laws and code enforcement available to them to make everyone, regardless of financial or political standing, have consequences for their actions? Witness the mess at 4821 North Meridian Street.

We need the mayor's help on this now. The Indianapolis Police Department and the inspectors at Health and Hospital Code Enforcement are working closely with us to keep the neighborhood safe and cleaned up, but there seems to be a lack of clout when they could use the assistance. I will work to encourage this additional force of the law, the equal application of which will benefit all.

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Meridian Street News & Views is compiled by Helen O'Guinn, who may be reached at btoguinn@aol.com.

The Meridian Street Foundation

invites all members and neighbors to the dedication of the

O. C. and Jeanette Winters' bench

and the annual business meeting of the Meridian Street Foundation.

Monday, October 7, 2002 6:30 p.m.

Dedication at the southern end of Alice Carter Park 7:00 p.m.

*Dodd's Townhouse fried chicken dinner,
recently acclaimed by American Airlines as best fried chicken dinner,*

5694 North Meridian Street 7:45 p.m.

MSF Annual Business Meeting, open to all membership

Please plan to attend any one or all of these events!

Parking at Dodd's Townhouse.

*R.S.V.P. with a check payable to Meridian Street Foundation
for \$10.00 per person for the dinner.*

*Send to Elaine Klein, 4343 North Meridian Street,
Indianapolis 46208 | 283-1835
by September 30.*

Real Estate Roundup

By G.B. Landrigan, Realtor*

	Meridian Street	Pennsylvania Street	Illinois Street	Side Streets
Currently on the Market	5 available	2 available	2 available	1 available
Price Range:	\$519,900-1,150,000	\$239,900-369,900	\$234,500-249,000	\$159,900
Pending Sales	1	1	2	1
Closed Sales	5	6	2	6
Averaging Price	\$697,150	\$517,000	\$254,000	\$340,929

**For each issue of News & Views, G.B. Landrigan provides this column for our newsletter. Many thanks to him for this feature, which constantly draws comments from readers. G.B. can be reached at: Century 21 Realty Group, gb@landrigan.com, or 767-0774.*

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