



MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

N E W S L E T T E R

SUMMER 2004

MY THOUGHTS

VIRGINIA HANDLEY, MSF PRESIDENT | 283.2576

In this issue I would like to introduce you to some board members and tell you of the outstanding work they are putting forth for the benefit of all of us.

Kathy Shorter, vice president, is very hard at work on MSF traffic issues. The meetings focus on "calming" MSF traffic. (Did you happen to notice the Historic Marker got knocked down at 40th & Meridian? A recent accident destroyed it). The committee is seeking to find some answers to these ongoing traffic problems.

Dr. Raul Burciaga, secretary, is the keeper of the minutes, sometimes a thankless but a very vital job for maintaining the records/history of MSF. His minutes are always thorough and on time.

Rosie Sweeney, treasurer, even while working on a second master's degree, has her report ready and up to date. She is also busy on the Land Use Committee.

Cindy Zweber-Free, past president, resumes her duties as fembership chair. (If you have not received a reminder about this year's dues, you will soon). Cindy is also working on the Alice Carter Park project.

Melissa Oesterle's beautification project, the bulb planting for the past two years to be continued this year, plus the River of Lights at Christmas time, makes you wonder what new fun ideas she has in store for her committee.

Peggy Sabens and Vaughn Hickman make a great team; their work on the newsletter shows the results. The look is topnotch.

Sheila Little and Elaine Klein have been working for two years on the Neighborhood Crime Watch campaign. This has been no small task setting up the logistics. It is now in its final phase. If you are interested in becoming a block captain, please call Sheila or Elaine.

I also want to thank Governor Joe Kernan for naming the new members needed to make the Meridian Street Preservation Commission a full Board.

Meridian Street Foundation Board of Directors March, 2004



In Attendance

Front Row: Austin Ritterspach, President Virginia Handley, Raul Burciaga, Alice Berger, Linda Gilman

Middle Row: Kathy Shorter, Rosie Sweeney, Melissa Oesterle, Cynthia Knabe, Mary Jean Easter, Sheila Little

Back Row: Erick Ponader, Brent Harvey, Vaughn Hickman, Peggy Sabens, Richard Piccolo, Ed Madden



M E R I D I A N
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SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND OUR "RIVER" IS BLOOMING!

As I sit down to write today, the sun is shining, the birds are singing and the "River of Flowers" is springing into full bloom. The hint of blue is lining both sides of Meridian Street from Westfield to 38th street. What a beautiful sight and delightful accomplishment for the community! BUT, WE AREN'T FINISHED!

The "River of Flowers" planting project has reached its third and final year. In the first two years, 80 percent of the frontage has been planted with a million Glory of the Snow bulbs. This has been a huge, spirited undertaking and has involved thousands of volunteer hours. We are hoping to complete the planting of the remaining 20 percent in October 2004. Our goal is an uninterrupted "river" of blue flowers throughout the Historic District.

If you have not participated yet or you are a new homeowner and haven't had the chance to order your flowers, look for a lavender envelope coming in the mail soon. This mailing will include all the information and answers to questions that you may have

concerning the "River of Flowers" project. PLEASE order your bulbs according to the information/dates provided in the mailing since this will be THE LAST YEAR this "service" will be offered. We do not want to leave anyone out!

Also, we are seeking additional contributions to offset the cost of planting the remaining bulbs.

The Meridian Street Foundation works very hard to keep our hundreds of volunteers safe, efficient and comfortable while they work. This requires the rental of safety equipment such as arrow boards/cones, aerator rental to ensure efficient planting, permits and refreshments (to keep folks planting longer!). Other expenses are also associated with the project.

If you would like to make an additional contribution to the "River of Flowers" project, please complete the following by May 30th and return to: Melissa Oesterle

4621 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(928.9388)

Make checks payable to Meridian Street Foundation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number/Email address _____

Amount of tax-deductible "River of Flowers" contribution
\$ _____

NOTE: If there is anyone on a side street or neighboring streets that would like to undertake a similar "River of Flowers" project for their street section, we would be happy to share our experiences and bulb sources with you.

PROFILE OF OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Virginia Wiesen Handley comes to Indy via Pittsburgh, Pa; without hesitation she considers this area.

Migrating to Indy as a result of her father's joining the Adkins Saw Company, the family settled on Berkley Road close to Butler in the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood. It was at this time in our city's history that flight to the "burbs" was commonplace. The Butler connection provided many "ties"

that bound her to this area and converted her to a girl.

Virginia attended School 43, Shortridge High School and Butler University, followed by employment at Butler's Alumni Office for five years plus 27 years fulltime part-time with Registrar's Office. The Handleys have called 17 West Hampton Drive home since 1967. Community, family and civic activities have tightened the ties and kept her busy. She has

been a board member of MSF for several years, participating in many successful efforts, including raising funds to publish "The Main Stem."

As rabid Butler basketball fans, the Handleys followed BU's '03 team to Albany, N.Y., for NCAA's Sweet Sixteen.

Finally, Virginia and husband Neil have one son, Peter, and a house full of pets.

REPORT ON NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY-BUILDING FORUMS

During the past year the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center has been working closely with the three interconnected neighborhoods of Keystone-Monon, Meridian Kessler, and Butler-Tarkington to devise a plan for addressing housing and economic concerns in the respective areas. The efforts culminated at a Community Forum that was held in February at North United Methodist Church where efforts were focused on determining solutions for the previously determined issues.

In addition to the number of solutions suggested, the Forum established two working groups – one to lead continuing efforts with regard to economic development; and the other to lead similar efforts as related to housing. Carl Pebworth will lead the next meeting, relating to economic development, which will be held on April 29, 2004 at North United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. On May 6, 2004, Mary Ann Yates will lead the meeting relating to housing, which will also be held

at 6:30 p.m. at North United Methodist Church.

The Meridian Street Foundation has been following these events and will become an active participant in the groups' efforts. At its April 14th meeting, the Foundation will be discussing the issues raised and the solutions that have been offered, as well as the Foundation's continuing participation with our surrounding neighborhood associations. We will keep you advised of the progress being made.

If you wish to be a part of this project, call Richard F. Piccolo at 752-7686 (rfpiccolo@aol.com).

ALICE IN MERIDIAN LAND

ALICE BERGER | 283.2453

In November of 2004 I was kindly invited to a party at the Governor's Residence to see the new addition. Governor Kernan and first lady Maggie were very gracious to have a party so soon after moving in. It was a wonderful opportunity to get a look at the new restrooms, offices, caterer's kitchen and the beautiful meeting room.

It was also great to chat with Mrs. O'Bannon and all the people from the O'Bannon staff who had worked tirelessly on this project. Mrs. O'Bannon beamed with pride as she pointed out the new lights and the handy storage closets. We all smiled when we saw the handicap ramps being maneuvered with ease as people flowed from the new area to the old house.

As I watched my friends and neighbors enjoying the party, I appreciated all the hard work and stress that went into this project by the Meridian Street Foundation and GRIT. They worked relentlessly to

keep the Residence on our street and to be sure the new structure worked well with the old historic house. I can honestly say it's a great success!



View of the newly completed handicapped-accessible gathering room at the Governor's Residence. The Governor's Residence is planning to host an open house later this spring or early summer for Butler-Tarkington, Meridian-Kessler and Meridian Street Foundation neighbors.

FROM CAVE TO TRANSLATOR'S DESK

AUSTIN RITTERSPACH | 317.924.4661

2004 is an anniversary year for the King James Version of the Bible. On Feb. 10, 1604, King James of England commissioned a group of scholars to complete a translation of the Old and New Testaments and the Apocrypha into English. His Majesty stipulated "that a translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all churches of England in time of divine service." The text was not completed until 1611 but was destined for greatness. It remains one of the monuments of English literature and is treasured as a devotional work by Protestant Christians. There were many translations as Europe embraced the protestant Reformation with its principle of encouraging all to read the text for themselves. Many translations – but only one of these early works has remained in widespread use. One reason for this is the elegance of its prose; in addition the royal commission avoided the partisan disputes that characterized other translations. In its nascent "ecumenicity" it anticipated the work of modern scholars who are Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and of no religion.

Each time that I convene a class in Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) at the university I am asked, can we use the King James? (Some times people say "Saint James"!)

I discourage this because for study purposes we need a modern translation that reflects advances in our knowledge of what the text says, the meaning of Hebrew and Greek words, etc. Using the King James for study would be like using a physics textbook from the 17th century! While the King James' translators used the Vulgate or Latin text prepared by Jerome and some relatively recent Hebrew texts, scholars today can refer to the famous Dead Sea Scrolls 1000 years older than any previously known Hebrew manuscript of the Bible and therefore much closer to the original.

The Scrolls include approximately 200 manuscripts of Biblical and apocryphal books. Most are represented by only fragments of text. However, among the whole copies is the entire book of Isaiah – all 66 chapters in Hebrew on papyrus. The scrolls were discovered (initially by accident) in caves along the shores of the Dead Sea in what is now Israel. They date from 250 b.c. to 70 a.d. and thus give us copies of every Old Testament book (except Esther) that are much closer to the original of, say, Genesis than we had before. Given the dates for the writing of these scrolls, no New Testament books are there since the New Testament library was written later.

We all know that the Hebrews when they fled from Egypt in the exodus crossed the Red Sea which

miraculously parted. However, that is based on a mis-translation of the Hebrew phrase yam suph which actually means Sea of Reeds. This correct name may give some understanding why the more heavily armed Egyptians got bogged down in the waters. Another basic example of our better understanding of language and syntax is the book of Psalms. In King James' time we did not recognize Hebrew poetry, which does not rhyme. Therefore all of Psalms is in prose. Modern scholars have understood for several generations the meter, syntax, and parallelism of Hebrew poetry thus enhancing the beauty of one of the Bible's most treasured books.

On this anniversary year of the King James Version we should treasure its enduring literary quality and also be appreciative of Biblical scholarship both in the 17th century and the 21st century. Discoveries such as the Scrolls have added much to our knowledge of the original text of the Bible and to our abilities to translate accurately. This is a benefit to both Jews and Christians, as Biblical scholarship transcends religion's boundaries.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our neighbor is adjunct faculty, Religion and Philosophy, University of Indianapolis, specializing in Hebrew Bible and Near East Archeology

LAURA HARE REMEMBERS BY CAROL WEISS

Although most of us think of 4270 N. Meridian as the Booth Tarkington house, retired physician Laura Hare does not. She thinks of it as the Hare house, and with good reason. It was Dr. Hare's widowed mother who worked with architect Frank Hunter for nearly two years while the house was being built. It was Dr. Hare's mother who in 1912 moved her six children and her own mother into the house. It was Dr. Hare's mother who raised her three daughters and three sons there until 1923 when Laura, the youngest child, went off to college and Mrs. Hare then sold it to the famous author.

"I loved that house with a passion; it was fun growing up there," Dr. Hare recalls. "That was my childhood home and I have fond memories of it." Dr. Hare's remembrances are a refreshing reminder of an era long past. "My most vivid recollection is of the Christmas celebration in the great big recreation room on the third floor. My grandmother was as German as she could be and so we celebrated Christmas with our relatives in the German way. The night before, we had a tremendous tree that almost touched the ceiling and it was just covered with candles. Why we never had a fire, I'll never know."

As imposing and as elegant as 4270 appears, the Hares used it in its entirety. "The house was built for a big family," Dr. Hare explains, "and there was nothing pretentious about it. Every inch was lived in. With six kids in the house, it was very informal." A maid and yardman lived in the backyard in what is now called the carriage house. "Then it was half servants' quarters and half barn. I remember distinctly the sunken gas tank back there which filled our gasoline cars and I remember the horses and ponies."

Reprinted from the February 1988 issue of the MSF News & Views



Bass Photo, Indiana Historic Society, 1914

As a little girl, Dr. Hare went to school at 40th and Capitol Streets. A neighbor down at 40th Street had a large yard with a big stone wall that ran from Meridian to Illinois. "I'd climb that wall and walk on it clear over to Illinois, and then I just had another block to get to school. On rainy days, they'd hitch up a horse and carriage and drive my sister and me there."

"Talking about your childhood is very nostalgic," Dr. Hare admits as another memory appears. "There was a little room in the back of the house where we used to gather to clean up fruit. We'd get a couple of bushels of peaches or apples, then peel the fruit and can it. Things like that stand out in my mind. It was a pleasure, a sharing of family duties."

The Hares lived on Meridian at a time "before television was ever dreamed of. Evenings were spent with friends," Dr. Hare continues, "and we read a lot. When we were little, my grandmother would take my sister and me to an upstairs bedroom after dinner and we'd listen to her read Louisa May Alcott stories until bedtime. Frequently my oldest sister would bring friends home

from the University of Chicago and they would stay with us on vacations rather than go back east to their homes."

Dr. Hare described a childhood with pony rides on unpaved streets, ice boxes filled with Polar Ice by the ice man and ice cream freezers requiring salt, ice and a lot of cranking.

After attending the University of Chicago, Dr. Hare returned as a young woman to Indianapolis and the new home her mother built around the corner on 43rd Street, where she still resides. *Editor's Note, 2004, Dr. Hare still resides in this home at the age of 98.*

"I can close my eyes and visualize Booth Tarkington out walking with his big black poodle and a cane. He'd walk down Meridian and cross 43rd. Sometimes he'd stop at our front door and if my mother were here, she would invite him in."

Dr. Hare retired from the practice of internal medicine in 1970; however, she continues to play the piano and take lessons, hand paint china birds, animals and mugs, care for her rambling roses and daily walk Dante, her pet terrier, through the grounds of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.



Photos are courtesy of Historical Landmarks. Hare family collection 1912 "Main Stem"



KATHRYN SHORTER

Kathryn (Walls Roudebush) Shorter was born in Indianapolis and graduated from North Central High School and IU. She worked for IBM (Marketing) in Ohio, Tennessee and Louisiana, returning to her hometown in 1988 to manage the state/local government/K-12 sales team. She retired from her career in 1994 when she and Fred Shorter were married. They have a “Brady Bunch,” which includes one daughter and seven sons: Fritz, Ryan, Adam, and Jake Shorter, and Doug, Jill, John, and Steve Roudebush.

Kathy has served on the MSF Board for three years. She is currently vice president as well as chairman of the Strategic Planning and Traffic Committees. She has also served as co-chair of the “River of Flowers” project as a member of the Beautification Committee.

Kathy is a member of North United Methodist Church, where she also volunteers. She has numerous hobbies including reading, gardening, photography, antiques, traveling and writing. Mostly, however, she enjoys friends and family. She loves our neighborhood and wouldn't dream of living anywhere else.

HOME SECURITY

BY ROME NKOSI | 921.8881

With recent burglaries in the area, home security is of concern to us all. In 2003 there were at least 13 burglaries in the MSF boundaries. What can you do to protect yourself? First, realize that the police have limited resources and, although responsive, by the time the police arrive, the burglary has already been committed. Secondly, conduct a home security analysis. Such an analysis helps to identify vulnerable areas and allows you to take a proactive approach to preventing a burglary before it happens. How many times have we heard the saying: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Don't assume that because your home has not been burglarized that it is not vulnerable. A few changes in your home can spare you the anguish, hurt and sense of violation one experiences from a robbery. Take a pen and paper and go through your home and ask yourself these questions. Your answers will identify areas of vulnerability. Most solutions to secure your home can be done for less than \$1,000 except for security fences. You may think that the expense is not justified. The average break-in costs a homeowner a minimum of \$1,500 or more (per robbery) when you add the costs of insurance deductibles, window and door repair, locks, stolen items, etc. Take a pen and paper and go through your home.

Think levels of access.

Level I: Access to the Property

How accessible is your property? Is there a gate that surrounds the property to prevent unwanted access? Is there a gated driveway? Oftentimes stolen items are carted away in a car. It is more difficult to steal items than to carry them down the street in broad daylight. Do you have a dog(s) that roams the yard?

Intruders would rather avoid homes with dogs than run the risk of being bitten. Potential thieves often peruse the area at night while we are asleep to identify which house to burglarize, often peeking in windows and garages to see what is available to steal. If you answer “no” to these three questions, your house is vulnerable.

Level II: On the Property

Ok. Now they are within your property line, on your property. They are looking to see what's in the home and garage and the best way to get in. Are there windows on the garage where lawn mowers, lawn vacuums, leaf blowers, etc., can be seen? If so, cover the windows. If you maintain your own lawn, thieves may know you have lawn equipment by seeing you working on your yard. Secure these items in the garage with chains. Also extend your house alarm to include your garage. Does your house have windows without curtains, displaying VCRs, DVDs, cameras or items of value that can be easily carried by hand? Close the curtains, especially at night or if there are no curtains, remove these items from sight. Is the side or back of your house accessible via stairs, windows and patios? Close off these areas with a gate or fence. Is your alarm company sign visible? Display the sign, but know it will not deter all thieves. Does your garage door opener change code upon entry? This will prevent thieves from recording your signal. Remember, a robber is much more likely to return to get something they have seen than to enter a home not knowing if there is anything worth taking.

Level III: Preventing Entry

Do you have an alarm? Is your alarm on at night when you are

asleep? The alarm should always be on when you are away and definitely on when you go to bed. Never assume someone will not come in while you are asleep. Thieves entered one of our area resident's homes while they were asleep, stealing a purse and two cars. Are there visible signs of someone being at home during the day? Do you have storm doors that would require a burglar to get past two doors? Do you have deadbolt locks on all doors? How secure are the locks on your French doors? Small locks can easily be broken. How accessible are your windows? Windows without panes can be easily broken and entered.

Level IV: Entry

The intruder is now in the house. Hopefully you are not home. If your alarm is on, by the time the alarm company notifies the police and they arrive, it could take up to of 30 minutes. That gives criminals almost a half hour to take what they want and leave before police arrive. The alarm will cause the intruder to panic or rush to take stolen items. Consider how they entered the house. Did you identify the source of entry as vulnerable? Once inside, the best defense is a sounding alarm. If there is no alarm, a robber can take his time, finding items to take without fear of capture.

Remember, spring is approaching, which means residents are often traveling on vacation or gone for the holidays. Let's watch out for each other and remember, you are your best defense against a burglary. Join your Neighborhood Watch program. To find out the name of your area captain, call Sheila Little at 276-3506 or Elaine Klein at 283-1835.

PROGRESS ON MAPLE ROAD

BY MICHAL J. NOLAN, SECRETARY, MAPLE ROAD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By now it's apparent to anyone in our neighborhood that construction on the new 38th Street roadway is well under way. The new sidewalks and curbs on the south side of the street between Martin Luther King Boulevard and Boulevard Place are complete, and traffic will soon be switched over to that side of the street so work can start on the north side. When that side is finished, the final construction will take place on the new raised, irrigated medians, and the landscaping will be planted.

If all goes as planned, there will be beautiful, boulevard-style streetlights in those medians as well. These elegant fixtures will complement the new black wrought iron traffic lights, directional signs and other street furniture, and will provide a space for colorful banners that can be used to promote cultural activities in the area. The money hasn't been found for these streetlights yet; for now, the old cobra-heads that were in place will be reinstalled so the street isn't without lighting.

The Maple Road Development Association, which worked for several years on the street's design elements, has now turned its attention to raising funds for the streetlights. Keith Norwalk, CEO of Crown Hill Cemetery and Funeral Home, and Indiana State Fair Executive Director Bill Stinson are serving as co-chairs of the fund-raising committee. Neighbors, businesses, institutions and foundations are being asked to donate to this project, which will help beautify this important corridor and spur its revitalization. Already, generous

neighbors and institutions have pledged more than \$20,000, including a \$5,000 pledge from the Indianapolis Museum of Art, \$5,000 from the State Fairgrounds, and a recent \$10,000 anonymous donation. The full goal is \$750,000, and MRDA is planning a kickoff event later this spring at the round barn (Agricultural Heritage Museum) across from the fairgrounds. Details of the event, which will include music and a buffet, will be announced soon.

Also, the association has asked city officials to endorse changing the name of the central core of 38th Street back to what it was originally called, "The Maple Road Parkway." Several elected officials support this renaming, notably City Councilor Monroe Gray and State Representative Greg Porter, both of whom grew up in the Maple Road neighborhood.

If you look closely, you can see the first elements of the new streetscape taking shape: the handsome black rigid-arm traffic lights have been installed. They're still wrapped in plastic so they don't get scratched or damaged while the construction goes on. Once construction is complete, these traffic lights will be a welcome replacement for the cables and wires that now hang across the intersections.

As construction proceeds, the intersection at Illinois Street has been one of the worst trouble spots. Progress has been delayed there because the Department of Public Works decided to work on the sewers near that corner while the street is torn up, and this has made crossing 38th Street bumpy



Oxford Gables 320 East 38th Street (1928)
Bass Photos, Indiana Historical Society

for motorists and hazardous for pedestrians. And if traffic wasn't tied up enough already, later this spring work will begin on the eastern leg of the project, from Salem Street to Fall Creek Parkway. Although travel between MLK and Fall Creek will be problematic, the city and contractors have done what they promised by keeping two lanes open in each direction at all times. Access to all businesses along the corridor has also been maintained.

Finally, MRDA is in the beginning stages of forming a Maple Road business association. It has done preliminary work by polling business owners at 38th & Illinois to discover their concerns and goals, and hopes to help develop a more formal business organization soon that would include businesses along the entire four-mile length of the Maple Road project.

Those interested in making a donation, joining the business association, or assisting MRDA in other ways, please contact president Steve Logan at 927-7271. Editor's Note: This article recently appeared in the BTNA newsletter, but we felt the project was important enough to reprint it in our newsletter.

ABANDONED CAR INFORMATION BY RUTH VIGNATI | 317.254.1686

When you see an unlicensed (or inoperable) vehicle parked in your neighborhood, on the street or on private property, report it directly to the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4MAC (4622), MACcenter@indygov.org or www.indygov.org/MAC.

The needed information is the exact address, color and make of the automobile, whether it is unlicensed or inoperable, and then the general location of the automobile (i.e. on the street in front, in the driveway, etc.)

Where the auto is located, public right-of-way or on private property, dictates how long the process will take. Regardless, the faster the MAC knows about the car the sooner it can be addressed.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Meridian Street Foundation News & Views is the communication arm of the Meridian Street Foundation, published three times a year. We welcome comments and ideas from our neighbors. Our main thrust is to reinforce the idea that while a certain degree of discipline and commitment is necessary to live in a unique and significant neighborhood, the rewards far outweigh any disadvantages.

*Peggy Sabens ph. 257-3741, fax 475-0224, email jmsabens@indy.net
Kathy Shorter, Vaughn Hickman*

ALICE CARTER PLACE PARK UPDATE

The Alice Carter Place Park master plan has been finalized. Plans for the park include:

- Pull off parking on Westfield with an entrance to the park across from the canal.
- Screening of the lift station.
- Walkways throughout the park with benches.
- Gathering circle with planting, columns with arch.

- Paving and landscape plantings for the winter bench area.
- Monumental art feature with landscape planting and lighting.

Currently the plan will take place over a five year period depending on funds raised for the project. The total cost for the project is estimated at \$200,000. Fund-raising efforts are currently underway. Once we are

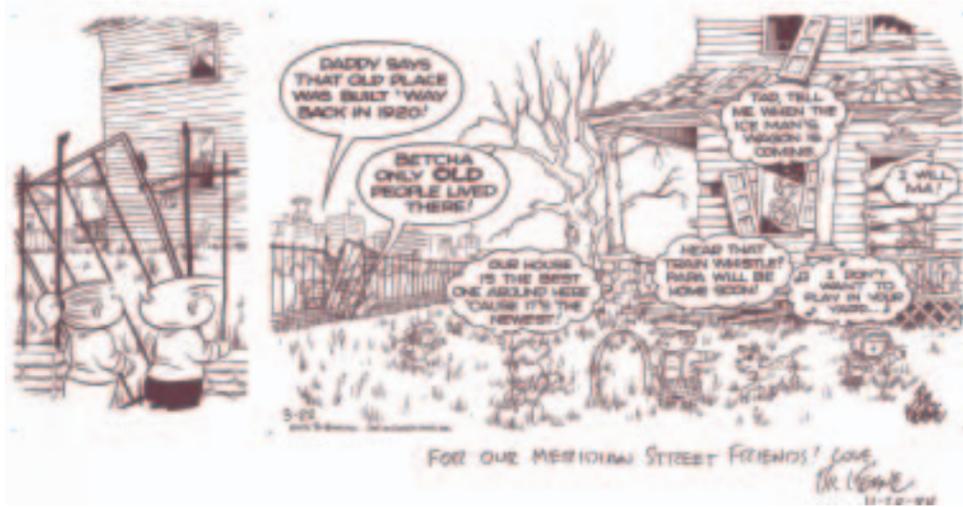
able to raise the major part of the funds along with the Indy Parks commitment we will be able to begin the work on the plan.

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to our beautification effort, please contact Cindy Zweber-Free at 921.9571.

SLOW DOWN, EVERYBODY!

Summer is approaching and the safety of our children is paramount. Watch for more speed limit enforcement on Meridian Street and the side streets. Our policemen will be working closely to help us. Speeders will be ticketed.

How can you help? Always drive the speed limit and set an example! Please call Kathy Shorter, traffic committee chairman, 283-5322 if you'd like to help with the project to calm traffic on Meridian and in the rest of the neighborhood.



Congratulations to neighbor Jean Easter of Easter Conservation Services who is the recipient of an American Institute for Conservation grant to study "French Furniture Making Techniques." The grant will take place in France in various locations. The purpose is to introduce American conservators to the techniques used in French furniture-making to enable them to conserve furniture in a more accurate and authentic manner.

NEW NORTH DISTRICT CHIEF NAMED LT. PAUL GIESIELSKI | 317.327.3424

Public Safety Director Robert Turner and Chief of Police Jerry L. Barker made the announcement today of the appointment of Major Richard Benton to deputy chief of the North District. The announcement was made in the presence of North District residents, community leaders and officers from the North District at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

"For the past four years, Major Benton has served as the Commander of the IPD Training and Community Education Bureau and has been instrumental in revitalizing the PAL Club and the entire training curriculum," said Chief Barker. "His knowledge of community policing and problem solving, not to mention his proven leadership skills, will be a perfect fit for North District."

Deputy Chief Benton, 46, is a 20-year veteran of the Indianapolis Police Department. Chief Benton earned a bachelors degree in criminal justice at Indiana University in 1995 and a Law Degree from the IU School of Law in 1999. He has previously served as a major on the East District and has over 10 years of investigative experience serving in the Family

Advocacy Unit, Homicide, Gang Task Force and Narcotics. Chief Benton has also served as a hostage negotiator for over 15 years.

During his past four years as Commander of the IPD Training/Community Education Bureau, Chief Benton has led the charge to revitalize the PAL Club and the GREAT Program. He is also a member of the board of directors of the National Association of PAL. Benton represented IPD on the Mayors Task Force, formed after the 2002 Indiana Black Expo. His leadership helped bring change

and understanding to the law enforcement mission during the event. Chief Benton also led his training staff and successfully trained 200 additional officers hired under the Peterson administration.

He will begin his new position on the North District immediately.

Editor's Note - Feel free to call the Chief at 327.6991 or 327.6111 or his assistant Val Cunningham at 327.6554.



REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

BY G.B. LANDRIGAN, REALTOR

The MSF area has long been among Central Indiana's strongest markets. Following last year's property tax controversy, the market dipped to an unusually low level in our area in the last half of 2003. Buyers simply were postponing their buying decisions, leaving homes on the market. The rather bizarre wintry weather was also not particularly friendly to the market. Beginning in mid-

February, however, we began to see this inventory lessening in certain price categories in the area. It is my thought that we will experience sales activity for the MSF area at near-normal levels as spring and summer approach.

The average price for a home in the Indianapolis area is \$148,103. The average sales price per square foot is \$63. Here are the Board of Realtors' statistics for the MSF area:

BOARD OF REALTOR'S MSF STATISTICS

NORTH MERIDIAN STREET
Homes Currently For Sale: 8
Average List Price: \$814,462
List Price Per Square Foot: \$215
Homes Currently Pending: 1
Homes Closed since 1/2004: 0

NORTH PENNSYLVANIA STREET
Homes Currently For Sale: 9
Average List Price: \$577,172
List Price Per Square Foot: \$195
Homes Currently Pending: 2
Homes Closed since 1/2004: 2
Average Sales Price: \$304,250
Sales Price Per S/F: \$112

NORTH ILLINOIS STREET
Homes Currently For Sale: 7
Average List Price: \$295,357
List Price Per Square Foot: \$127
Homes Currently Pending: 2
Homes Closed since 1/2004: 1
Average Sales Price: \$575,000
Sales Price Per S/F: \$132

SIDE STREETS
Homes Currently For Sale: 9
Average List Price: \$279,688
List Price Per Square Foot: \$120
Homes Currently Pending: 1
Homes Closed since 1/2004: 0

HELP WANTED!

The Land Use Committee of the MSF reviews all petitions to be presented to the Meridian Street Preservation Committee and makes itself available to all neighbors who have questions or concerns about the changes which affect their properties. The committee meets the first Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. in a member's home. Two stalwart members, Alice Berger and Nelda Coxey, have been named by

the Governor to serve on the MSPC and must relinquish their membership on this committee. Also, Ruth Vignati, long time neighbor, is moving from the neighborhood as well. If you are interested in serving on this most vital committee, please call Linda Gilman at 255.9435 or email at lgilman@iupui.edu. Remember you don't have to be a Board member to serve on any MSF committee.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Elaine Klein (283-1835), Social chair and her committee are hard at work planning MSF neighborhood events. Watch your mail for further information.



3rd annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 10th, 2004

MEMBERSHIP

CINDY ZWEBER-FREE | MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Thanks to the many, many neighbors and friends who support Meridian Street Foundation by their membership dues. The Membership committee and Vaughn Hickman are busy obtaining a "thank-you" for each of you, which will be hand delivered.

If you would like to be a member you may join with the enclosed membership envelope. Your membership dues cover the cost of our newsletter and also help

subsidize the cost of many of our events. Your support for our neighborhood association is greatly appreciated.

Please call Cindy Zweber-Free if you have any questions regarding membership at 921.9571. Thanks!

MSF UNVEILS NEW LOGO



M E R I D I A N
S T R E E T
F O U N D A T I O N

Perhaps you've noticed the new Meridian Street Foundation logo gracing these pages. We're quite pleased with the new logo and would like to thank marketing communications agency Hickman + Associates for their wonderful design. The logo was designed to reflect the beautiful gardens and architectural style found along Meridian Street. It incorporates a Japanese aesthetic that's found in many of the arts and crafts style homes in our neighborhood. We hope that the new logo will promote Meridian Street as a Garden Avenue of Indianapolis, much like famous avenues of other cities.