MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

www.meridianstreetfoundation.org

To Insure Domestic Tranquility

FALL, 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

As I reflect on my two years as president of the MSF board, I am reminded of the incredible volunteer efforts of many of our neighbors. For example, it has been extremely gratifying to witness the leadership of Brent Harvey, who chairs the Alice Carter Park Project. It has been energizing to all of us to be joined by new board members Stacey McCarthy and Laura Daly, who have taken on many challenges in the areas of beautification and social events. I could go on and on---- we truly have some wonderful, dedicated neighbors!

However, I would like to highlight the dedication and responsibility of two individuals who continue to go the extra mile year after year. Peggy Sabens is our Meridian Street Foundation Newsletter editor. Cindy Zweber-Free chairs our Land Use Committee. Peggy and Cindy both contribute tireless, ongoing, and quality efforts.

Peggy Sabens has ensured the timely, quality publication of this newsletter three times each year. For each edition, Peggy contacts people to get articles, assembles, edits, works with the printing company, ensures proofreading, and, with her committee, takes care of all details associated with getting the publication to you. In addition, Peggy has secured many high quality advertising sponsors. Our newsletter serves as an important communication tool to those in our neighborhood and to officials who need to be aware of our neighborhood's needs and issues.

Cindy Zweber-Free has chaired a committee that has dramatically helped to educate the neighborhood and clear up the confusion about requirements of the Meridian Street Preservation Law. With Cindy's leadership, much personal assistance is available to individuals who are seeking to gain approval for changes to their homes from the Meridian Street Preservation Commission. Thanks to the efforts of Cindy and her committee, people are much more informed about the law and know what to expect from the process. Misunderstandings have been largely avoided. Great strides have been made in the consistency of the process. For this, we are all extremely grateful.

Great neighborhoods require a lot of work. So…..has it been a while since you've been involved in a neighborhood project? Are you new in the neighborhood and interested in helping? If so, please give me a call. Do it soon! Committees are reorganized in October and November. It is the perfect time to get involved.

Remember, we are an ALL VOLUNTEER organization. The more you are willing to participate, the more we will achieve. I hope to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Shorter
931-1935

MEMBERSHIP

What a year we've had! Thanks to all of you, The Meridian Street Foundation has almost doubled membership. Again, thank you one and all.

The end of October 2006 will start the "new year" for membership. After the October annual meeting we will start calling and mailing letters asking you to join for the year 2007. We make a huge effort to collect all membership dues by the end of January. This gives your Meridian Street Foundation the ability to budget for the year.

The membership dues that you so generously give will help fund the development of an historic walking tour, a gateway to the historic district at Alice Carter Park, continued beautification with our "River of Flowers" and our "Lawn of the Season." Your dues will also help fund our welcome packets. These packets may be the most important expenditure because they inform all new neighbors of the Meridian Street Preservation Statute which governs the preservation of our beautiful neighborhood.

We have wonderful volunteers working all year round to preserve and connect this community, but we also need your financial contributions to make it all work. Please be generous, send in your tax deductible dues for 2007 in the attached membership envelope.

Your membership committee:
Alice Berger, Chair
Rosie Sweeney
Virginia Handley

ANNUAL MEETING

Meet Greet & Mingle

MSF Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

At Highland Golf and Country Club

7:00 p.m.

Heavy Appetizers and Cash Bar

Meeting at 7:30

Cost is $25 per person

R.S.V.P. with check payable to

Meridian Street Foundation

Attn: Laura Daly

4375 N. Meridian

Indianapolis, IN 46208

For more information email:

ledaly@gmail.com or call 985-5570

Special Guest - Marsh Davis,

President of Historic Landmarks Of Indiana

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

5354 N. Meridian Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

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OH WHAT A HAIL STORM IT WAS!

By Cindy Zweber-Free

Many of our homes incurred significant damage from the Easter weekend hailstorm this past April. One can only drive up and down the streets and see the numerous roofing company signs. The good news is many homeowners are getting their roofs replaced with the same materials-slate, tile, etc. Additionally, many homeowners are also getting their gutters replaced. Please make sure that if you are getting your gutters replaced that the same gutter materials , design and size are being used. Many of the copper gutters on our old homes are very ornate such as spiral downspouts and very detailed designed gutter boxes. If a homeowner's insurance company is willing to replace their gutters with the same material they will also agree to the same design. As a homeowner and insurance policy owner you need insist on exact replacement.

BOARD MEMBER BIO – DR. MARILYN STRAWBRIDGE

Board member, Marilyn Strawbridge has lived in two different Meridian Street houses and 2 additional homes in Meridian Kessler. I guess one could say she likes her neighborhood. This could be in part because it is so close to her job as an Associate Professor in the College of Education at Butler University. She is program coordinator for the Physical Education and Exercise Science Programs and teaches classes such as Exercise Physiology, Kinesiology and related courses. Marilyn and her husband Bob have 4 children: Kevin, and Andy who are thirty-something and Amy and Katy who are 15 year old twins, and one grandchild, Zoe Strawbridge. Amy and Katy are freshmen at University High School. They play basketball and like to sharpen their skills at the Riviera Club. Another reason why Marilyn loves her neighborhood is because she has been a long time runner, previously winning the Indpls Mini Marathon twice, She uses the neighborhood streets, the canal and the Monon Trail as her training ground.

Having competed in gymnastics at Indiana University when women's sports were just officially beginning, she keeps active in the governance of that sport through her work as a Board member of USA Gymnastics. She and Bob also are active in the North United Methodist choir, are regulars of the Indpls Opera and stay busy renovating the current house at 55th and Meridian Streets. A champion of women's sports she stays busy watching the girls compete in a variety of sports and advocating for increasing opportunity in sports for girls and women everywhere.

The membership on the MSF Board has given Marilyn a chance to meet the great people of the neighborhood that would not be possible without that common activity. She considers the board membership to be a great opportunity to preserve and celebrate the history, beauty, friendliness and many more great things about our neighborhood.

AROUND THE BLOCK

By Helen O'Guinn

We happily welcome new neighbors to the historic district. Jason and Emily Burke purchased a home that had stood vacant for many years, becoming a fixer-upper of the first order, a task the pair are taking on with enthusiasm, with the goal of returning the home to its former luster. The couple have two young children who attend St. Richard's School. Lance and Meredith Mitchell have recently moved here from Cleveland. Lance, who was born in southern Indiana, is returning to the Midwest. Meredith, an Easterner, had only stepped foot in the city one other time before her husband accepted a transfer her. They moved into a beautiful home, which they are personalizing. Steve Laugher and Rob Goeke will be splitting their time between Meridian Street and the Saugatuck/Douglas, Michigan, area, where they own The Pines Motor Lodge and Circa, an art and antique shop in downtown Douglas. they, too, are working on their new Meridian Street home. Jennifer and Bob Sloan, along with their children, Blake and Emily, have also moved into the neighborhood.

Although Marsh Davis and his wife, Grace, and their two girls won't be living on Meridian, we welcome the family back to Indianapolis. Marsh, who left Historic Landmarks Foundation to take a position with Galveston Historic Foundation, is now leading Historic Landmarks Foundation, which has always been a friend to the Meridian Street Foundation. Another friend to many on the street, Benjamin Hunter, who was the IPD North District Community Relation's Officer (and a familiar face at Foundation meetings and events), is running for a seat on the City-County Council, with the support of many who remember his fine service to this community.

If you have not noticed the new look at Forty North Meridian (the former apartment building on the southeast corner of 40th and Meridian), take note. According to those who have toured it, the building has been transformed into a splendid condominium community. You can see for yourself at the company's web site, 40northmeridian.com.

Send your neighborhood news to Helen O'Guinn at htoguinn@aol.com.

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Lisa Haynes Whorley

MSF board member

Lisa joined the MSF board in May of this year. She and her husband Jeff returned to Indianapolis in March of 2005 after living in Las Vegas for five years. Both Lisa and Jeff have an affinity for older homes and, when word came that they would be relocating to Indianapolis, they both knew that Meridian-Kessler was where they wanted to raise their family. Lisa is currently at home with their two year old son, Haynes. She is also a CPA who specializes in not-for-profit organizations. Jeff is an executive at Sallie Mae. Lisa and Jeff are expecting a daughter in December.

CRIME PREVENTION STEPS

Hello to all,
On behalf of Deputy Chief Holman I would like to take this opportunity to Advise you all of the updated actions taken to help fight crime throughout the city. Officers will now work mandatory ten (10) hour shifts around the clock. Patrols will be stepped up around the city on a 24hr basis.
The most important part is where I need you to help us in this effort, Traffic stops! As you all know, most criminals are caught for various types of crime, via traffic stops. We will begin to stop more and more vehicles on a daily basis. We are not unmindful that this may cause friction with some of our good citizens. Please help us to spread the word and explain that this is a necessity if we are to fight this battle. We all must pull together as one so we can be effective in accomplishing the mission. Mayor Peterson, Chief Spears, Chief Wyatt and Deputy Chief Cliff Meyers are very concerned about are great city and the safety of those who reside therein. Let us all do our part to ensure our quality of life is not threatened. Remember this... Whatever affects one directly, affects all in directly!

God Bless,
Brian K. Dixon

FROM YOUR COUNCILMAN - JIM BRADFORD

Since the property tax reassessment, many, in our neck of the woods, like Meridian-Kessler neighborhood have struggled to make their payments due to the increase in property taxes. Some have sold their homes, have sold off investment rental properties in the area, or put off expensive repairs to an already worn home. And for many of us , we have even seen our property values decline dramatically due to the increase in homes for sale in our neighborhoods.

The increase in our property taxes has come from rising costs for the Health & Hospital Corporation, The Office of Family and Children, water and sewer services, and public schools.

These last several years we have watched services decline in sidewalk and street repairs due to the rising costs of petroleum products and dwindling state taxes. The Broad Ripple fire station has closed. Our crime rate has increased because of falling manpower and low moral in our police department, insufficient funding for an effective judicial department, early release of prisoners from overcrowded prisons, and most of all, because of the failure of many families to provide adequate structure and supervision for their children.

Now that I have depressed everyone, I want to thank you for being the many people who have decided to stay on or move into this wonderful area to fight for our neighborhoods and the place we call home.

The mission for all of us is to stay informed and be active in our neighborhoods, our places of worship, and yes, the most dreaded word, Government. You must challenge your elected officials and ask the hard questions of all candidates for public office that affect our daily lives. Make sure you turn out and vote in every primary and fall election. And don't vote because you're from a particular party or someone told you to vote this way. Vote because You are informed, and You want to make a decision for You and Your family's future!

My last and final comments are from statistics from The Belmont Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that exists to provide role models for children growing up without fathers:

1) 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes,(20 times the national average).
2) 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes,(20 times the national average).
3) 80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes, (14 times the national average).
4) 71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes, (9 times the national average).
5) 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless home, (10 times the national average).
6) 70% of youths in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes, (9 times the national average).
7) 85% of all youths in prisons come from fatherless homes, (20 times the national average)

Continue to work hard for your neighborhoods and make those sacrifices for your city, but above all hug your children and tell them that you love them. If we all do that, we will have a better community, a better Indianapolis, a better Indiana, and a better Nation.

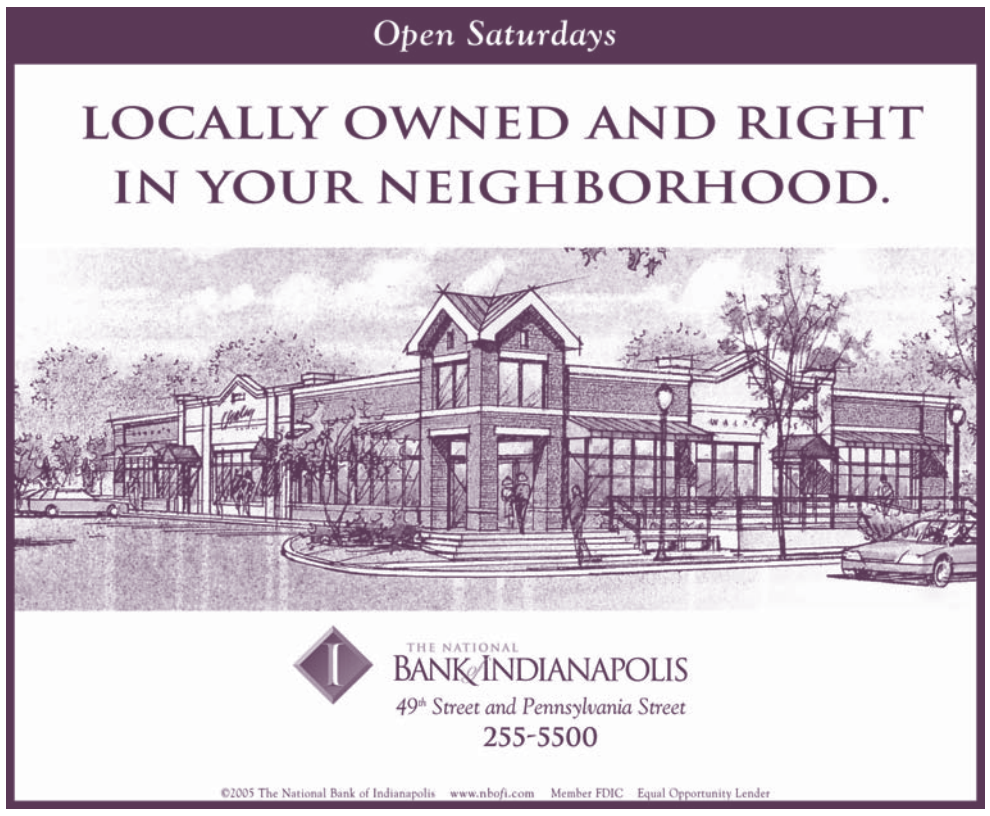
And remember what a wise old bear used to say, only you can prevent forest fires.

Thank you, and may God bless,
Jim Bradford
City Councilor, District 3

RECYCLE INFORMATION

Call Republic Waste Services - 926.5491 to ask questions, begin service and be told which day of the week materials will be picked up. Our day is Tuesday the same day as garbage pick up. It's easy. We place our recycling bins a little bit a part from the garbage bins Monday evening and the bins are emptied the next morning.
The service charge is $5.50 per month which includes two bins.

RWS will pick up:
- # 1 and # 2 plastic
- aluminum and metal cans (remove surrounding paper)
- glass
- newspapers placed in paper bags



More pictures from the ice cream social on page 7

AROUND THE CORNER

By Richard F. Piccolo

The Maple Road Development Association has entered into a Landscape Management Contract with The Brickman Group, Ltd. for the 38th Street Median Maintenance. Jack Munson, a Board Member of the Association, was instrumental in working with various landscape architects and contractors, the City of Indianapolis, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Indiana State Fair Commission in putting together this arrangement that will see to it that the landscaping and plantings along the 38th Street Corridor will be properly maintained through the 2008 season.

The contract is certainly available to anyone who wishes to review it; however, the Association would also welcome your comments, general observations, and suggestions about the plantings and maintenance work being done. Also, as a member of the Meridian Street Foundation, or a resident within the Historic District, you may find it very worthwhile, and certainly rewarding, to join your neighbors in becoming an active Member of The Maple Road Development Association. Feel free to contact Richard Piccolo at 752-7686. By FAX at 466-9856, or email at rfpiccolo@aol.com, with your comments or request for additional information.

DID YOU KNOW?

Back in the 1950's and 1960's, no one wanted the big old houses on Meridian Street. The houses in Butler Tarkington and Meridian Kessler were still selling but not the "oversized" mansions on Meridian. By the middle of the 1960's, it looked like the N. Meridian Street corridor would become commercial like Meridian Street south of 38th Street. When Tarkington Tower went up at 40th and Meridian, the Meridian Street Foundation and the residents of the area knew they must take action.

Property owners from 40th Street to the canal appealed to the state to create legislation to form the Meridian Street Preservation Commission. The protective legislation, passed in 1971, requires property owners to get "Certificates of Appropriateness" from the Commission for exterior changes to their properties. The MSPC can stop attempts to change the single-family residential character of the street or alter the houses and landscaping in ways unsympathetic to their historical appearance.

The residents gained further protection when the North Meridian Street Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The "Main Stem" (copyright 1992 by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana) says of Meridian Street: "North Meridian Street's future as an Indianapolis showcase appears secure. The city's most publicly observed neighborhood, Meridian Street presents an attractive image of Indianapolis to passerby and residents, a pastoral garden where country and city, past and present live together harmoniously."

The very first chapter of the Meridian Street Preservation Statute, created in 1971 by the Meridian Street Foundation and this community, states: 36-7.11.2-1 Section 1.

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to preserve: from deterioration; from improperly conceived or implemented change; and for the continued health, safety, enjoyment, and general welfare of the citizens of Indiana; a historic, scenic, esthetically pleasing, and unique part of a street lying within Indianapolis constituting the backbone of a unique residential area.

(b) The general assembly intends, by passage of this chapter, to:

(1) encourage private efforts to maintain and preserve that part of the street and other similar streets and areas in Indiana;

(2) promote orderly and proper land usage; and

(3) preserve significant tourist attractions of historical and economic value in Indiana; by limiting and restricting unhealthful, unsafe, unaesthetic, or other use of unique areas that would be inconsistent with their character as tourist attractions and the general welfare of the public.

Alice Berger, Commissioner, MSPC

MARSH DAVIS - HEAD OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Dear Meridian Street Friends,

When Peggy Sabens asked me last winter to write for the Meridian Street Foundation Newsletter, I had no idea that I would be writing again, so soon, and this time as one who would be residing only a few short blocks from North Meridian Street. It's a tremendous honor for me to return to Indiana and to Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana as its president, a position that I fully expect will afford opportunities to become reacquainted with the people and the heritage of Meridian Street.

The North Meridian Street Historic District holds many great memories. I recall with fondness the backyard parties—more than twenty years ago—where we promoted the National Register of Historic Places nomination; many hot days encamped at Stan and Barbara Markusons' house which served as headquarters during seven years of "Meridian in Bloom" tours; countless planning meetings with the irrepressible Alice Ross; and many days spent photographing the grand homes of Meridian Street for The Main Stem.

I remember in particular one of those backyard parties when Chris Velonis spoke about how the Meridian Street residents, in the process of working toward a common goal of recognizing and protecting the heritage of their street, had actually become a neighborhood —not just a long stretch of houses, but a true neighborhood. That was a wonderful testimony to the undergirding goals of those who worked hard—and to those who continue the good work—to preserve the heritage and the character of North Meridian Street.

I look forward to seeing you soon and working with the Meridian Street Foundation in pursuit of its worthy mission.

All best wishes,

Marsh Davis
President
Historic Landmarks Foundation
of Indiana
(as of September 1)

SCHOOL NEWS

from Kelly Bentley, IPS School Board Member representing District 3

I am very proud of what has been accomplished over the past several years in the Indianapolis Public Schools District. I am especially excited about the leadership of Superintendent Eugene White and the new initiatives he has brought to IPS. Dr. White shares the Board's vision of creating a culture of excellence in IPS by holding staff accountable and by having high expectations for all children.

School started on August 17th for over 38,000 IPS students. This year has brought many exciting changes to the north-side of the IPS district. As your elected representative to the IPS School Board, I wanted to share news about some of the public schools your tax dollars help support. I hope you agree that these changes will have a positive impact on the neighborhoods of Meridian Kessler and Butler Tarkington by providing even more neighborhood schools for parents to choose for their children.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, comments, or suggestions about how we can make IPS a better place for all children.

Kelly Bentley
4629 Cornelius Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
283-1477
BentleyK@ips.k12.in.us

SCHOOL #84

I am a very proud former student of IPS School #84 and I am very excited about the changes happening at 57th and Central. School #84 has been converted to The Center for Inquiry (CFI), a school-wide magnet program serving kindergarten through 6th Grade. The school will grow a grade level per year up to 8th grade. The academic focus of CFI is inquiry-based and global learning. It is also a candidate for the prestigious International Baccalaureate program. CFI at School #84 is an expansion of the very popular CFI located in the historic Riley Neighborhood in downtown Indianapolis. Admission is by lottery and applications are due in December). Priority admission will be given to neighborhood children who apply by the deadline.

Renovation work at School #84 will begin during spring semester of 2007. The first part of the project will build an addition to the east side of the building, and then the entire existing building will be renovated in several phases. The addition has been designed to complement the existing building and will use green roof tiles to match the building's distinctive roof. The Indianapolis firm of CSO Architects has done a wonderful job of designing an addition to complement the existing historic structure. The interior renovation of the existing structure will create a learning environment for the 21st Century while respecting the historic character of the building.

For more information about CFI, please call the school at 226-4284. And feel free to stop by and meet the Principal, Mrs. Chris Collier. She is very proud of the program she has helped build and she is particularly excited (and so am I) that there has been a significant increase in the number of neighborhood children who attend the school.

BROAD RIPPLE HIGH SCHOOL

I am also a proud graduate of Broad Ripple High School, Class of '77. Both of my children are Ripple Rockets and both have received an excellent education. Recently, students, family members and community members celebrated the completion of renovations at Broad Ripple High School. Highlights of the renovation include new science labs, full air conditioning, improved restrooms, a major renovation of the auditorium, and reconfiguring the building to support the IPS Small Schools Initiative.

Broad Ripple High School has been converted to four small schools through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. BRHS is also home to the Center for Humanities and the Center for Performing and Visual Arts. Both of these programs continue to be very popular and successful. Admission in by lottery and applications are due in December. There are requirements for admissions—grades, test scores, and teacher recommendations for Humanities; portfolios and auditions for Performing and Visual Arts.

For more information about the magnet programs at Broad Ripple High School, please call Mrs. Sandy Reiberg at 693-5722.

SCHOOL #43

A brand new School #43 building at 40th and Capitol was dedicated May 24. The Indianapolis architectural firm of Blackburn and Associates did a wonderful job designing the building to compliment the character the surrounding neighborhood. The new, air conditioned building contains a modern media center, separate spaces for the cafeteria and gym, updated classroom technology, modern special education and kindergarten classrooms and a safer drop-off area for school buses.

Not only is there a new School #43 building, but there is also new leadership at the school. Last Spring Superintendent White appointed Ms. Kamona McDowell as Principal and she is very excited about creating a culture of excellence and high expectation at the school.

If you are interested in a tour of the new school, please call Ms. McDowell at 226-4243.

SHORTRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Currently Shortridge serves grades 7-8 and is home to the middle school Math/Science/Technology Magnet program and the middle school Visual and Performing Arts Magnet program. Admission to these programs is by lottery and applications are due in December.

Plans are underway to create a school wide Law and Government Magnet at Shortridge that will build on the long time tradition of academic excellence at the school. By 2008 the historic school will serve grades 6-12, bringing back the high school that educated Senator Richard Lugar, writer Kurt Vonnegut, and many other notable Hoosiers. Renovation work will begin this fall to update this historic building. The renovation will include fully air conditioning and modernizing the building, and making repairs to the exterior limestone that faces Meridian Street. The building will be reconfigured to make the Meridian Street entry the main entrance for the school again.

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If you would like more information about the current programs or the future plans at Shortridge, please feel free to contact Ms. Linda Davis, Principal, at 226-2810

SCHOOL #70

I am very excited about the future plans for School #70 (46th and Central Ave.)! Preliminary discussions are underway to create a Performing and Visual Arts magnet program at the school to serve kindergarten through 6th grade (and possibly through 8th grade). A task force has been formed that includes representatives from various arts organizations, parents, and community members to help plan the new program. The school is also scheduled for renovation in Phase III of the IPS 10-year Capital Improvement Program. Currently the school has an arts focus and provides after-school activities to students kindergarten through 6th grade.

School #70 is also under new leadership. Last Spring Mr. David Newman was appointed as Principal by Superintendent White. Mr. Newman's background is music education and he has served as a middle school principal. Feel free to stop by and meet him. The phone number for the school is 226-4270. For more information about the future plans for School #70, please call Karen Monesmith, Magnet Coordinator, at 226-4199.

SCHOOL #91

Rousseau McClellan School #91 (51st and Evanston) continues to provide a Montessori education for students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. For over 25 years many families in the Meridian Kessler and Butler Tarkington neighborhoods have chosen to send their children to School #91 because of the excellent teachers and wonderful community of parents. Admission is by lottery with applications due in December.

School #91 was renovated in 1996 but air-conditioning was not part of the renovation. The school is scheduled to receive air-conditioning and other improvements in Phase III of the IPS 10-year Capital Improvements Program.

If you are interested in a tour of the school and learning more about Montessori education, please feel free to call the Principal, Ms. Margie Higgs, at 226-4291.

ALICE IN MERIDIAN LAND

By Alice Berger

It has been the "Long Hot Summer" in the historic district. It started with a beautiful but early spring. Our gardens were lush and green long before they should have been. Then just to keep us on our toes, mother nature hits us with an unbelievable hail storm. Ah, but life goes on; we clean up the mess, re-roof our homes and wait for what comes next. What came next was day after day of 90 to 95 degree weather, with humidity that made it feel even hotter. But so what, this is the Historic District, and history tells us that summers like this come and go.

Don't get me wrong, in many ways it was a typical summer. House guests every other week, wonderful parties in well landscaped back yards, beautiful weddings with all their festive trappings and long evening walks past lovely old houses.

By the time you receive this newsletter, fall will be in the air. Children will be back in school, pumpkins will be on porches and vacations will be just a fond memory. I'll be hard at work putting my garden to bed, anticipating another long winter and longing for spring. As I rake the leaves and feel the cool breeze of autumn, I know I'll feel a sense of contentment. After all, I live in this beautiful historic district with wonderful neighbors and a knowledge that every year adds to the tapestry of our history.

"YOU'RE MOVING WHERE?"

BY JIM AND PEGGY SABENS
NOTES FROM 1993 - THANKS CINDY FOR REMINDING US

continued from last issue

There was a sense of wonder for young children living in such a large house with so many hiding places and vistas. In fact at school one day, their teacher handed out a single piece of drawing paper to each child and one of our little neighbor boys raised his hand and said, "Teacher, if you want me to draw a picture of my house I will need at least two pieces of paper". (As a note, we had decided that we would put our boys in private schools because we were unsure about the public school system, but they transferred to the very good public school serving our neighborhood after one year in private school.

If you think that we just sat back and watched our investment grow, you have another thing coming--even though we had agreed that even if the real estate values decreased at least we would have cheap rent for a period of time. We were told that houses just weren't selling in this area and maybe we should buy two or three=wish we had listened to that advice. We had no sooner unpacked what few belongings we had when the phone rang. Alice Ross, a recent resident like us, called to tell us that there was going to be an emergency meeting. They were going to widen Meridian Street (a state highway) from 4 to 6 lanes and this would have a serious impact on the housing along this throughfare. We went to the meeting and were able to muster enough support to keep this from happening. We often recall with much delight that this said emergency meeting was held at a church in the neighborhood at which was being held a seminar on sex in marriage. One of the more proper matronly residents of the street in error attended the sex seminar; she politely sat for some time them primly raised her hand and asked, "What does sex have to do with Meridian Street?" She was directed quite promptly to the correct meeting. The powers that be decided just to repair the street and sidewalks with no widening. The day the street crews started along the street, I was amazed to see the number of residents who were out in their front yards like modern minutemen to make sure that not an inch of "our" street was violated. There were meetings at which many residents who were very private people who were not the "visiting over the back fence" types who showed up in force to support the street; someone wanted to put a highrise on a property right in the middle of our residential area; someone wanted to start a nursing home; there was talk of having the governor's residence moved to another area instead of remaining on our street. All were defeated by our fellow residents and others in the community who like us didn't want this area to cease to be.

Finally, in 1970, we were successful in having the Meridian Street Preservation Committee established which was a state sponsored watchdog to protect the neighborhood and keep intrusions from occurring which would negatively impact the area. Later, our entire 17 block long rectilinear neighborhood was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, which further protected the area from negative encroachments. People started writing or knocking on our door offering to buy our property. On a personal note, we made ourselves enemies of some neighbor who wanted to put a chain link fence around his property, his petition being denied. Some people moved into the neighborhood and felt that "their home was their castle" and no one had the right to tell them what to do with what was theirs; usually they didn't stay too long before putting up a sale sign.

After we had been here a few years (since we bought the house I opened a medical practice here in town instead of some exotic locale unless you consider Indy exotic), we noted property values were on the rise; young families were moving back into town from the 'burbs and those residents transferring from other parts of the country couldn't believe their good fortune to obtain such bargains in housing was offered. Two neighboring areas started up a very successful neighborhood associations which served to buffer our house deep area and again increase property values.

We have been most fortunate that our neighborhood for the mos part hasn't had need of restoring; they have been maintained and many of the original 20's lighting, bathrooms, etc., have remained. They were built as quality home, some for individuals and some for speculation but all shared a mutual love of beauty and workmanship which caused people visiting or living in the area to enjoy and feel welcome.

** to be continued next issue*

EDITOR'S NOTE

Meridian Street Foundation News & Views published three times a year is the communication arm of the Meridian Street Foundation, a 501C3 not for profit neighborhood association. 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
John Peoni, Raul Burciaga, Phil Cox
Kathy Shorter, Vaughn Hickman
Also Rome Nkosi, email rnkosi@aol.com attn: MSF
We will gladly accept letters or comments for inclusion in upcoming issues.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

No Rain! The backwards rain dance proved successful for our Ice Cream Social, Sunday, August 27th. Storms threatened the skies all day but when 3:00 rolled around, the clouds had thinned. Many MSF neighbors turned out to enjoy ice cream and conversation. Many were surprised by the amount of news the Board had to share. Representatives from MSF committees displayed information about activities in the works that are strengthening our community and facilitating neighborhood interaction. Everyone was greeted by the smiling faces of Anne and Richard Rich who invited everyone to don a colorful fall leaf name tag. Sheila Little shared public safety information, reminding us that we need to keep our doors locked and look after one another as good neighbors do. Stacey McCarthy displayed a colorful table for the beautification committee showing photos of the new lawn of the season program, and handouts regarding lawn and garden tips. Some generous participants dropped donations into the light post holiday decoration project box. Virgina Handley promoted the benefits of MSF membership. Social shared save the date cards for the upcoming annual meeting, October 11, and the Holiday Party, December 7 and invited the younger neighbors to render their home with geometric shapes and crayons. President Kathy Shorter mingled and manned a suggestion box for the board, Cindy Zweber-Free had information to share about presenting building projects through the land use committee while Jodie McClain shared her knowledge to those interested about history of many homes in the neighborhood. The highlight of the mini fair was headed by Ted Planje and Brent Harvey who presented the newest conceptual plans for Alice Carter Park. Much enthusiasm was shared about the project. The hero of the day was Kevin McCarthy as he broke in his new John Deer on the overgrown park and though a touch football game did not manifest itself on the newly manicured field, this committee chair has high hopes for next year. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a great success with a special appreciation to Elaine Klein, Jeff Daly and Kevin McCarthy for providing the tables and chairs and to Peggy Sabens and the Mitchell Insurance Agency, Linden, IN, insurance for securing risk management for the day.

How to block off the street for an event

Here is the information for requesting to block off a lane on Meridian for event parking:

Contact indygov.org, then search on controller special events in the search box on the upper left.

Go to permit application, fill out in as much detail as possible.

If you need to speak with someone, the contact is DeeAnn Milliken at 327-2198.

Upon approval, you can call Flasher Barricade Co. to rent the arrow sign, 541-2727.

Fees apparently vary depending on need for Police coverage.

G. THRAPP
HOME

JOHN HARDY HOME · LALIQUE · BACCARAT · ISIS · VAGABOND HOUSE · JAY STRONGWATER · KOSTA BODA

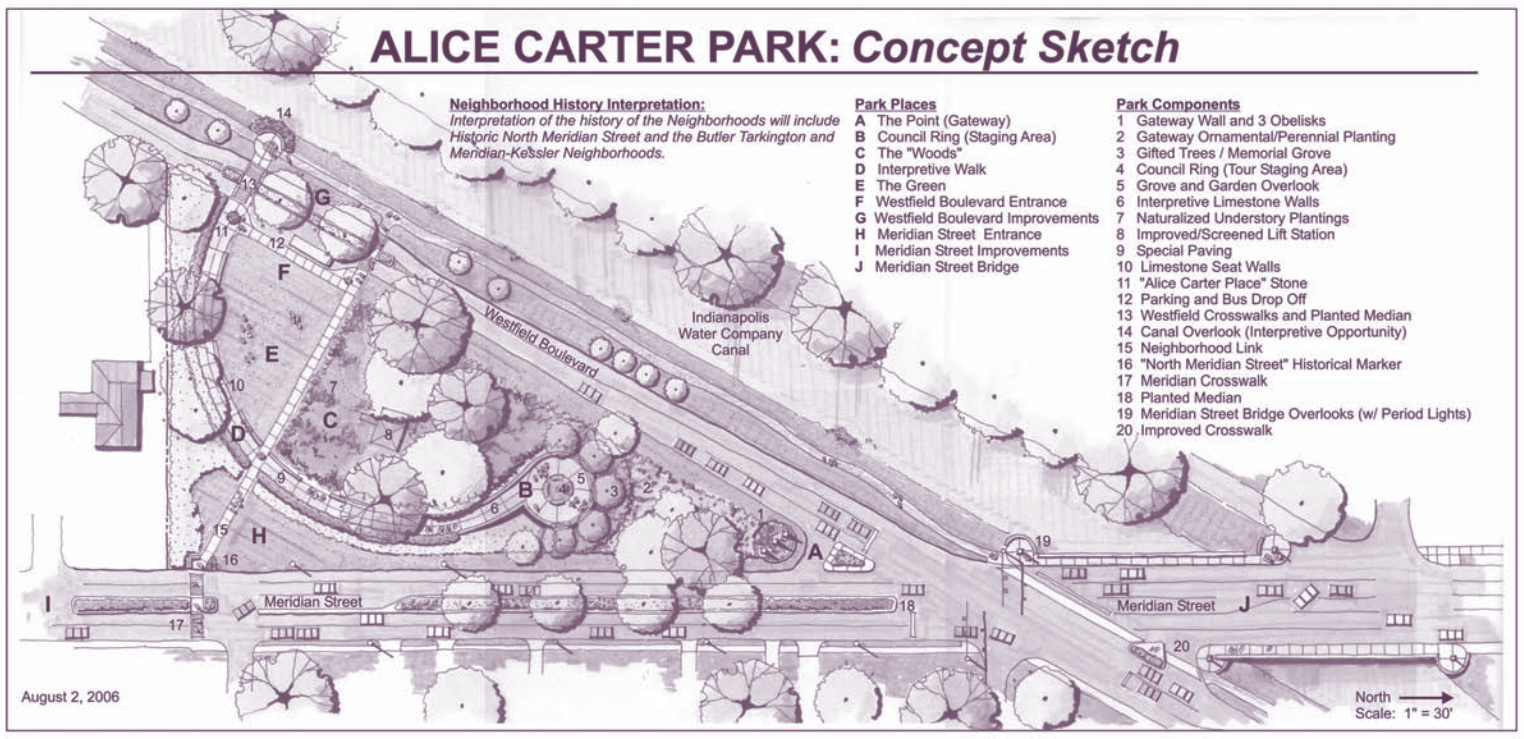
G. THRAPP JEWELERS
5609 North Illinois Indianapolis, IN 46208
317.255.5555 www.gthrapp.com

ALICE CARTER PARK UPDATE

The Alice Carter Park committee is very pleased to report we have a wonderful conceptual design sketch. We utilized ideas from the Ball State University charette, fleshed-out key elements, and found a public spirited professional landscape architect to develop a sketch. David Roth and Jonathan Bonham with Storrow Kinsella donated their time and resources to prepare the sketch. It's an exciting rendition of what the space could look like; a striking gateway, a public source of historic information and/or cultural offerings, and a trailhead for the canal towpath.

First, the gateway includes a focal point with 3 obelisks symbolizing the three adjacent neighborhoods; Butler-Tarkington, Meridian Street, and Meridian-Kessler. It also includes bridge lighting and a Meridian Street median to improve public safety as well as to provide more of a neighborhood feel. Second, historic information about the neighborhoods, people, institutions, and architecture can be captured along the winding path, celebrating the rich history. Finally, the park can serve as a trailhead in the city's rapidly growing, heavily used green-way. Whether someone wants to wander the winding path or simply quickly access the East side of Meridian Street, the park provides the conduit.

If you are interested in learning more about the project please contact me at Brenth@indy.rr.com.



prepared by David Roth with Storrow Kinsella

CLOUDS OF WITNESS

Dr. Laura Hare, age 100

The Meridian Street Foundation neighbors have lost their oldest friend with the passing of Dr. Hare in May, 2006. She had lived with us since 1911 when her widowed mother, Marea Fletcher Hare, built a home in the 4200 block of Meridian Street, until 1925 when the home was sold to Booth Tarkington, the famous Indiana author. She subsequently moved around the corner to East 43rd Street where she resided until her death. She was most generous in sharing her reminiscences of early Meridian Street days and provided photographs for our "Main Stem". Some of her memories were recorded in an early issue of the MSF newsletter and reprinted again last year. She graduated from Shortridge High School and Purdue University. Dr. Hare taught biology at SHS and then earned her PhD in entomology. Later she enrolled at the IU School of Medicine, specializing in Internal Medicine. She practiced for many years in the Hume Mansur Building. She loved animals, drawing, gardening and music. She was a member of many professional and philanthropic organizations.

Editor's Note You can read the reprinted article about Dr. Hare at our website newsletter archives 2005.

4370 N. Meridian Street
photo taken by Bass photo in 1915

The Meridian Street Foundation notes with regret the passing of a long time neighbor, **Robert M. Albershardt** in August, 2006. The Albershardts have been active in our neighborhood for many years, with some family members being in the architectural and construction industry. Robert is survived by his wife, Carol, children, Conrad (Liza), Cassie and Michael (Michele), brother Fritz (Joan), two grandchildren and Parker his faithful Airedale terrier. Albie, as he was known to his friends, was a wealth of information about our neighborhood because he lived in the same house his parents built on 55th street most of his life. His uncle built 5501 N. Meridian in 1966 on the densely wooded lot. he would tell stories of how the ice man would deliver ice and the horses would eat the apples off the trees that grew on the corner lot. Albie loved cars as many others on Meridian street do also and he collected a variety of classics over the years. Albie liked to cruise the streets of the neighborhood with his beloved dog as a passenger. His many deeds of kindness will be remembered and missed by his friends and neighbors.

Editor's note - Thanks to Marilyn Strawbridge, Albie's neighbor, for her remembrances

Meridian Street, 1915
Indiana Historical Society
Bass Photo Collection

BEAUTIFICATION

Hello neighbors! Hopefully you and your lawns have survived the summer heat. High temperatures and humidity set the tone in July. Like it or not, daylight savings time gave us an opportunity to work in the yard even after supper. Sad to say goodbye to vacations and hear the school bells ring? Don't worry September marks an exciting season ahead.

River of Flowers: For those of you who placed an order for the purple flowers, the bulbs should arrive the weekend of September 1, 2006. I will contact you to arrange pick-up times or drop offs. Thanks for taking interest and placing orders.

Lawn of the Season: Congratulations to our first three "Lawns of the Season".

The following lawns had plaques on display for 6 weeks during Summer 2006:

Mrs. Patsy Solinger at 4906 N. Meridian Street-This stunning lawn was a complete creation of the Solingers when they moved into the neighborhood 6 years ago. According to Mrs. Solinger, they re-furbished it all. The unique, green, carpet like front lawn is softly accented by white hydrangeas on the north . Many shades of green overlap one another to create an elegant, formal, historic landscape. The topiaries across the front patio are perfectly manicured and create unique interest without overwhelming the space; appropriate for the architecture of this home. A patina finished fence and gates are along the side yard. Here you may get a glimpse of two beautiful fountains in the back of what once was a circular driveway.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wiltraut at 47 N. 56th Street-No one could deny the 'oohs' and 'aahs' which called for this "lawn of the season". A blushing Mr. Wiltraut shyly admitted to doing it all himself. His wife concurred. A vibrant, green front lawn is accented by rows of bright red impatiens and pockets of white flowing all the way to the front door. We were tickled to place the plaque in the mulch bed which is full of symmetrically placed green and white hostas around a nicely shaped ornamental tree. A peak at the side of the home revealed rectangular shaped stone planters spilling over with red and white impatiens.

Mr. and Mrs. Underwood at 5686 N. Pennsylvania-This family came home from vacation to find a 'Lawn of the Season' plaque in their yard. What a cheerful blend of colors borders every bed and the walkway in the front yard of this home. Consistently blended and planted closely, the brightly colored impatiens create tributaries within this green sea. Mrs. Underwood spent plenty of days planting just one flat per day to finish this masterpiece. A massive row of white hydrangea bushes along the driveway elegantly balances the landscape. Personal touches indeed make you feel as if you are standing in front of a British estate.

The MKNA Home Tour marked the beginning of the plaque display period. We felt it was great time to recognize these lawns and remind visitors that our community works hard to keep our neighborhood beautiful. Thanks again to the homeowners for having such beautiful lawns. Keep your eyes peeled for the Fall "Lawns of the Season". Please email nominations starting the second week of September. mccarthystaceyd@yahoo.com

Contractor Signs

Please refrain from having contractor signs in the green medians in front of your homes. This creates clutter in the neighborhood. Please keep all signs to a minimum, display only for a short time, and not right along the street. Keeping trash off of the medians/sidewalks reminds passersby that this is a neighborhood.

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

The Beautification Committee has submitted for a partnership with KIB granting us the trees to plant in the bare areas along Meridian St. This can provide a buffer between busy traffic and pedestrians walking or jogging along the street. Many of you have already been contacted, but we will continue to try contacting homeowners. Please email or call me if you'd like to have trees planted in front of your home. We will keep you posted.

Holiday Decoration

Look for a mailing requesting donations for the holiday bows and greenery we like to have placed on the lamp posts along Meridian Street each winter Holiday Season. We have had much positive response to the decoration and would like to continue, but it is costly to have done. We will need to have more support so that we can continue this program. Donations should be sent to Meridian Street Foundation-please make a note on your check it is for Holiday Décor.

Thanks for keeping our neighborhood beautiful!

Stacey McCarthy 410-9580
mccarthystaceyd@yahoo.com

Your Business Name Could Be Here!

The MSF *News & Views* is now accepting a
limited number of appropriate advertisements.
For information, call 257-3741 or email jmsabens@indy.net

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

BY G.B. LANDRIGAN, REALTOR

BOARD OF REALTOR'S MSF STATISTICS

figures from Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors

This is being written as the last elephant ears are being consumed at the State Fair, residents are returning from their vacations, and the children are investigating the latest trends in shoes, bookpacks, and other school-related items.

The MSF market remains relatively unchanged from previous articles. Like the rest of Central Indiana, something of an over-supply of available homes remains in the upper price ranges. Still, selling prices are healthy. Many of your area Realtors are seeing an increase in the number of buyers who want to do very little work to a home. For them, it is not unheard of to hear that even routine interior painting is considered "a lot of work." It is true that each generation has different priorities in life and this may simply be a "blip" in the great scheme of things.

The big news this summer was, of course, The Hail Storm. Perhaps half the roofs in the area were sufficiently damaged to warrant a complete replacement. It is not an overstatement to presume that there has not been as much construction activity in the neighborhood since before World War II. Most homes in the MSF area are guided by regulations that insist that a slate or tile roof be replaced by the same. There are MSF homes not so governed, however. As most insurance policies are "replacement" policies, most every affected roof will probably be fully funded by your policy. It is very important that your new roof maintain the same quality of materials, workmanship, and design to retain the "cachet" that is vital to your property's value. If your copper guttering is being replaced, for example, make sure that the new guttering matches the design.

Following are the area statistics since 1 January 2006 to 20 August 2006. More detailed information may be found in the Landrigan Quarterly which may be downloaded at www.landrigan.com.

All statistics are from the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors.

North Meridian Street
Number of Homes For Sale/Average List Price: 12 / $866,841
Number of Homes Pending: 2
Number of Homes Sold/Average Selling Price: 7 / 696,742

North Illinois Street
Number of Homes For Sale/Average List Price: 8 / 303,637
Number of Homes Pending: 1
Number of Homes Sold/Average Selling Price: 16 / 280,823

North Pennsylvania Street
Number of Homes For Sale/Average List Price: 10 / 635,150
Number of Homes Pending: 2
Number of Homes Sold/Average Selling Price: 4 / 412,600

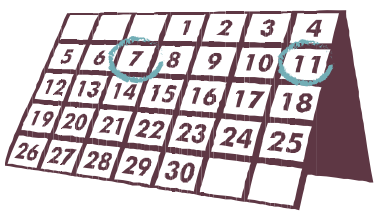
Cross-Streets
Number of Homes For Sale/Average List Price: 6 / 384,700
Number of Homes Pending: 3
Number of Homes Sold/Average Selling Price: 5 / 286,380

SAVE THE DATES:

Meet Greet & Mingle

MSF Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2006
At
Highland Golf and Country Club
1050 West 52nd Street
7:00 p.m.
Heavy Appetizers and Cash Bar
Meeting at 7:30
Cost is $25 per person
R.S.V.P. with check payable to
Meridian Street Foundation
Attn: Laura Daly
4375 N. Meridian
Indianapolis, IN 46208
For more information email:
ledaly@gmail.com or call 985-5570



HOLIDAY PARTY
Thursday, December 7, 2006
Tentatively set at the newly renovated
Governor's Residence
Wine and Cheese
Watch for details in the upcoming mailing
ledaly@gmail.com to be included on the mailing list

"I would leave a whisper of a song in these old oaks

A footfall lingering til some distant summer

Another singer down this path may stray..

...and may remember I have passed this way"

Charles O'Donnell

CSC, poet-president of Notre Dame

OUR MISSION

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

The Meridian Street Foundation is a charitable (501C3) foundation originally organized in 1960. The Foundation's chief purposes are the maintenance and improvement of existing health, safety and ecological standards, and the preservation of the architectural, historic and aesthetic significance of residential North Meridian Street and the neighborhood in which it lies.
Please Note: We live in the North Meridian Street Historic District, governed by the Meridian Street Preservation Act of 1971, administered by the Meridian Street Preservation Commission. Before undertaking any changes in structure or usage of your property, please check with either the MSPC or the Land Use Committee of the Meridian Street Foundation.