MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

meridianstreetfoundation.net "Happy Days Are Here Again?" WINTER '08

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By John Peoni

Greetings to all of our neighbors from your Meridian Street Foundation Board -- Happy New Year!

To start on a sad note, I am writing to you mid-December and have learned this morning that Virginia *Handley* passed away yesterday, December 14th of cancer. Virginia had served on our board for several years, and was twice President. We will be forever grateful for her commitment to our neighborhood, and encouraged by her enduring leadership qualities, and especially by her unselfish gift of time. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Neil, and her son, Peter. We will miss our good friend and neighbor. Her memory shall remain in our hearts, and she in our prayers.

Turning to the business of the Foundation, our annual meeting was held n October 9, 2007, at the Meridian Street United Methodist Church. As a result of that meeting we elected the following officers to serve for 2008. They are John Peoni, President; Stacey McCarthy, Vice-President; Raul Burciaga, Secretary; and Lisa Haynes Whorley, Treasurer. We also have several new board members. We welcome Emily Burke, John Countryman, Pam Dedinsky, Ryan Fisher, Christi Malasto, Meredith Mitchell, and Nancy Whitaker. We also offer a huge thank-you to the members whose terms have just completed: Kathy Shorter, Rosie Sweeney, Linda Gilman, and Roberta Lamberson. We are planning an orientation meeting for January, looking forward to working well together, and a productive 2008.

You have heard much conversation in recent years regarding the redevelopment of Alice Carter Place Park, and the creation of a northern gateway at that approximate point on North Meridian Street. These early ideas have expanded to create a project that has been named HARMONI, an acronym for Historic Mid-north Neighborhoods Initiative. HARMONI addresses the area west to Michigan Road, south to 38th Street, east to the Monon Trail, and north to the canal, and focuses on infrastructure, safety and livability. You will be hearing more about HARMONI. Perhaps you already have picked up a brochure in an area restaurant, or bank, or have received a mailing, or listened to a representative from your respective neighborhood organizations speak of it. HARMONI is a living organization, created to benefit us, and our neighborhoods. It has been endorsed and supported by our city officials, and is gaining much momentum throughout northern Indianapolis. I encourage you to take the time to learn more about HARMONI. I hope you will take an active role in supporting it as an important endeavor, meaningfully giving of your time and resources to improve our neighborhoods, our property values, our safety and well being. We all need HARMONI in our lives!

Just when you thought you were familiar with your neighborhood, you may have noticed something different while driving or walking along Meridian Street. The property at 4936 N. Meridian Street was recently sold and purchased by a neighboring owner. Restoration work began a few weeks ago, with the gentle clearing of a thicket of undergrowth to unveil perhaps one of the most impressive houses on Meridian Street. Especially beautiful is its placement on an unusually large lot. Then, as you travel north up the street toward Westfield Boulevard, you begin to notice the new steeple, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. What a transformation we have seen of this church over the past year! I am especially appreciative of the sensitivity shown toward the original architecture. It is truly a north-side landmark. Parishioners and staff alike must be proud of the outcome. Congratulations on a job well done!

As we close the year, we have experienced many significant changes, including the election of a new mayor, and the departure of an old one. Congratulations to Mr. Ballard, farewell to Mr. Peterson, and thank you for your willingness to serve, and for all the good things you have accomplished these past eight years to make our city a better place to call home. We also had to say goodbye to Julia Carson, our historically significant U.S. Representative of the 7th Congressional District, serving as the first black, and also the first female, congressional representative from Indianapolis. God bless you Julia!

Our Legislature is busy trying to determine the best property tax solution. Hopefully, they are carefully examining proposals from the designated Commission on State Tax and Financing Policy, Governor Mitch Daniels, and State Representative David Orentlicher, among others. We need to continue to be vigilant until we find a fair, equitable, and permanent solution to this problem. Contact your respective state representatives and let them know your position. Don't miss this opportunity to be heard!

Our regular board meetings are scheduled the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM. They are held at the Meridian Street United Methodist Church, at 5500 N. Meridian Street. Your attendance is always welcome. You may also log onto our website at www.meridianstreetfoundation.net, or call any of our committee chairs listed on the insert in this newsletter. If you provide us with your telephone number you will be included on our Calling Post, informing you of upcoming events and issues affecting our neighborhood.

If you are not a current member, we encourage you to consider joining. We need your help and support! Our membership chairperson is Alice Berger. You may contact Alice at (317)283-2453. Your dues will help to support important projects such as tree planting, holiday lamp post decorations, start-up funds for HARMONI, defraying costs for public meetings, social events, and on going historic preservation issues, to name a few important areas.

Have a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2008. Peace in the new year to all,

John Peoni
President

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

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MSF WEBSITE

By Gary W. Whitaker

www.meridianstreetfoundation.net

The Meridian Street Foundation Website has a new address extension and has been updated. There are many new features for the site visitor. The Meridian Street Foundation (MSF) and the Meridian Street Preservation Commission (MSPC) have separate "home pages" that make the site easier to navigate. The membership lists for the MSF Board of Directors and the various committees have been updated. New functionality has been incorporated to allow the visitor to email the MSF committee chairpersons with comments and questions regarding their committees. A social calendar is being added to the site for all upcoming MSF events. Also updated are the MSPC resource documents for aiding residents in petitioning the Commission for approval of Certificates of Appropriateness and changes in variances.

The site has interactive photo albums of the homes and Google Maps are incorporated into the site allowing the visitor to search for specific addresses. Also included are interactive Google Street View Maps that give the visitor the capability to virtually "drive" around the neighborhood (i.e., the visitor can "backup", "turn corners", etc. to navigate the streets) looking at the homes, shops, etc.

Current plans include adding a featured topic section, which may include special photo tours of homes, Alice Carter Park, and other subjects of interest. For the MSF Board of Directors, there will be many administrative tools included for automatic mailing, finance reporting, MSF membership tracking, and Crime Watch Zone mapping.

The website is now a friendly and fun adventure. It will continue to grow in all aspects so the visitor will want to come back to view new features and functionality routinely. Log onto the website today and check it out. And don't forget to bookmark the site for convenient future use!

(My thanks to efforts of: Alice Berger, Elaine Klein, Nancy Whitaker, and Robert Wilch for updating all the related resource documents linked to the Website and to Steve Vickery for support in the transition from the previous version of the website)

-GWW

MKNA HOME TOUR

By Lisa E. Haynes

Some of you may have seen the article this past summer in the Indianapolis Star home section that featured our neo-classical home. The feature was a direct result of having our home on Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association Home Tour last June. Jeff and I felt honored (and more than a little scared) when Caroline Ferrar first asked us if we would open our home. We quickly decided that it would be the impetus to make the finishing touches that never seem to get done – especially with two little ones to care for. We have a three year old and a one year old and there always seem to be about 100 things to do that are more important than unpacking those last few boxes / choosing dining room chairs / hanging art – you get the idea. But procrastinating on those things also kept us from truly enjoying our dream home. The MKNA Home Tour gave us the best reason possible – the ability to raise funds for the MKNA's many charitable programs.

Of course we had a lot of help. Matt Harris (MW Harris, Ltd.) was responsible for helping with so much of the design and decorating. He designed each of the 3 new bathrooms that we put into the house and helped choose much of the furniture and other decorative items. He really understood Jeff's and my desire to have a mix of antiques and modern furniture and did a tremendous job of choosing materials. Stacey McCarthy came by the afternoon before the tour and arranged the office bookcases that had just been installed. Michael Harris (no relation to Matt) took on the challenge of getting the outside ready. In a matter of days, his company (The Landscape Company of Indianapolis) had cleared out an amazing amount of weeds, vines and scrub, and planted all of the annuals. The results were beautiful!

Of course, no matter how much time we allotted for preparing for the tour, everything happens at the last minute. The photos in the Star article were taken about a week before the tour and, I admit, made the very best of a less than stellar situation. Poor Charlie Nye (the Indianapolis Star photographer) had to choose his photos carefully to avoid tons of toys, dirty dishes, un-hung pictures and potty chairs! Bonnie Britton was very diplomatic as she toured the house, noting that "amazing things can happen in a week!"

Overall, it was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone. The MKNA volunteers were so helpful. They were there every step of the way and took great care of our home during the two days of the tour.

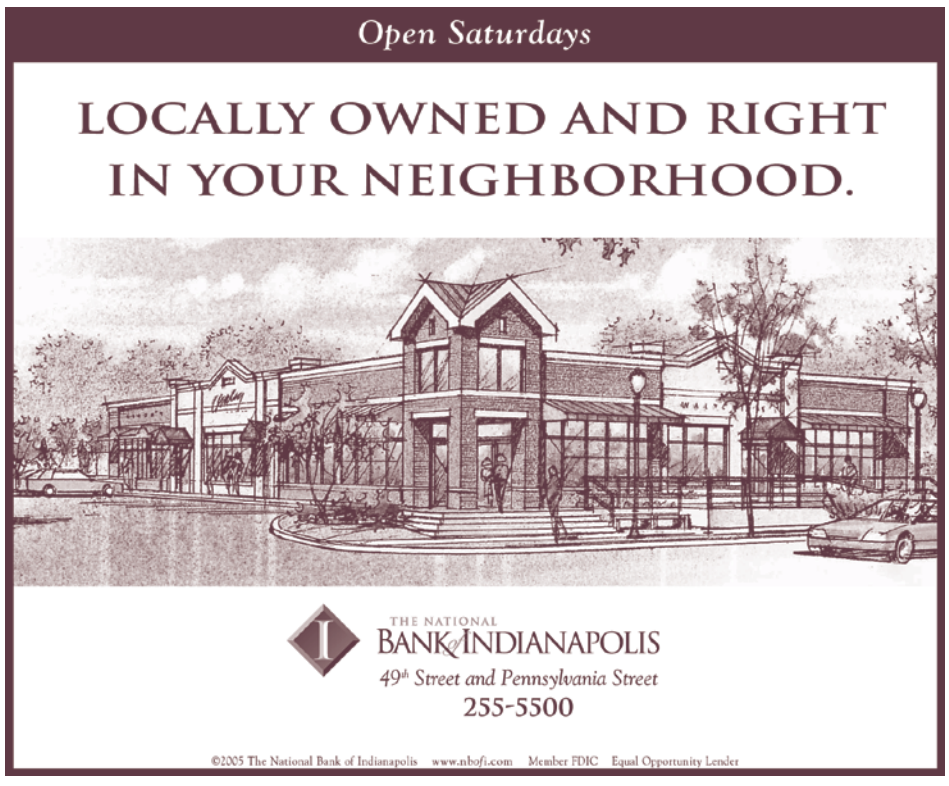
SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

Sunday Evening February 24th

Come visit with your friends and neighbors and learn about the **HARMONI initiative**!
Invitation to follow.

Saturday March 22nd

Annual Easter Egg Hunt
10AM at the Klein House
(4343 N. Meridian St)
Only $3 per child
Don't forget to bring
your Easter Basket!



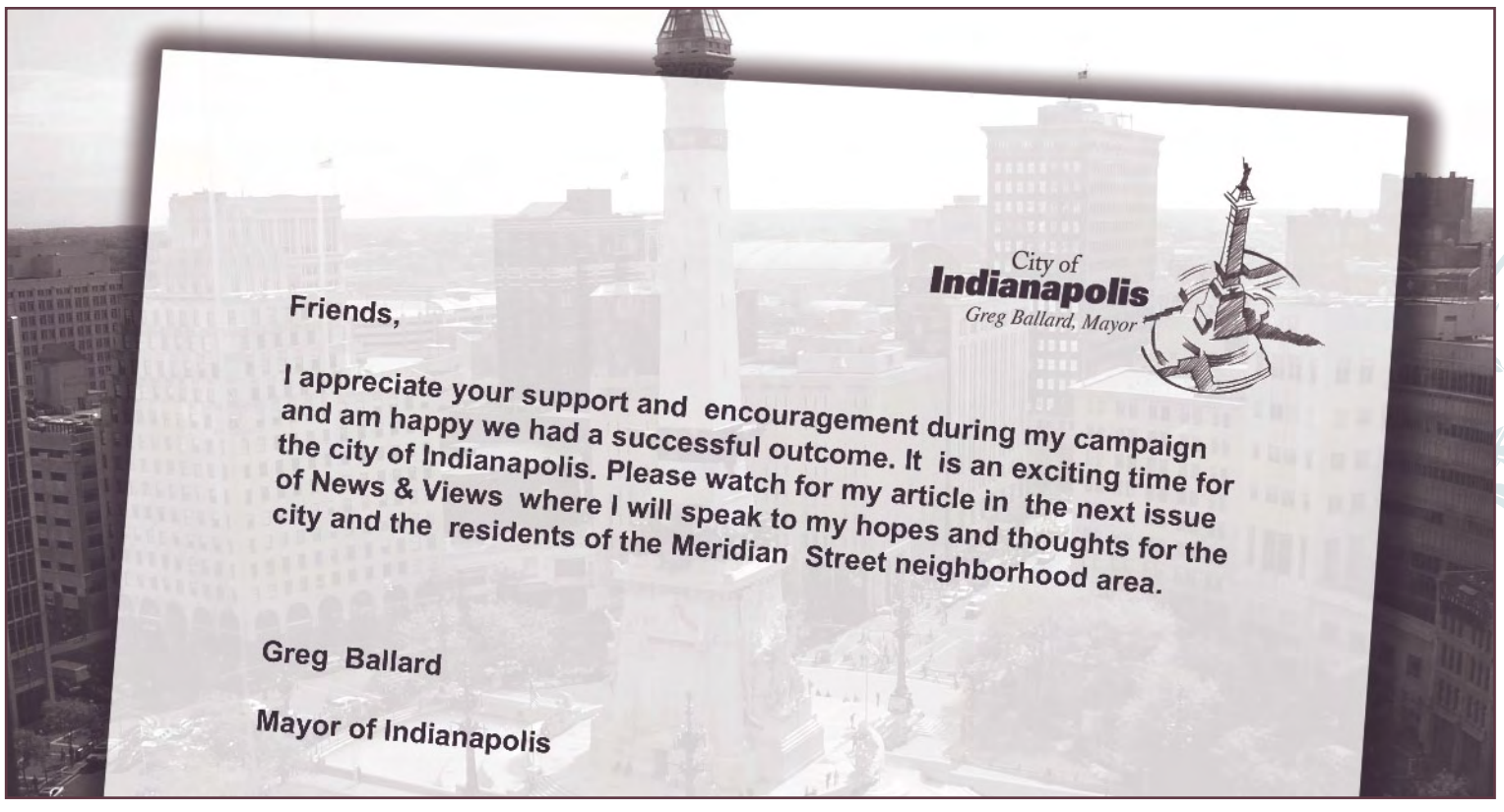
NEIGHBOR NOTES

By Peggy Sabens, Editor

Where do we begin? So much has happened since the last newsletter of September, 2007. First we mourn the recent passing of Virginia Handley (see remarks elsewhere). We will miss an old neighbor, friend and newsletter contributor. Helen T. O'Guinn, has left the neighborhood. We wish her well. On a happier note we welcome Mary Claire, new daughter of Kevin and Stacey McCarthy born November 17. She joins two year old brother Mac. Everyone is talking about the new restaurant, the Meridian at the site of the former Dodds Townhouse, exciting changes at 56th & Illinois with a new Starbucks and Flying Cupcake. Work is progressing (finally) on the Fresh Market at the Atlas site at 54th & College. IPS School 84 is rapidly becoming a neighborhood school again; the changes there were approved well before our tax imbroglio. The Herron High School at 16th & Delaware continues to win accolades. There are major construction projects at 4936, 5519. 4621 and 4919 N. Meridian as well as more minor but still important activities. The "For Sale by Owner" signs are gradually disappearing and several "Sold" signs are evident. The Indianapolis Opera continues with negotiations to purchase the Greek Orthodox Church property at 40th & Pennsylvania, The Kurt Vonnegut Foundation is investigating the acquisition of Kurt's childhood home on N. Illinois Street, and to quote our late and lamented neighborhood author, "And so it goes". Emmett's has relocated to 49th & Pennsylvania, next to Café Patachou. On a sad note, Hamaker's Drug Store a neighborhood landmark for many years is closing soon. We wish George and his staff the best and will miss them. That was one of the last "Mom and Pop" pharmacies around. The Beautification Committee led by our "energizer bunny" Stacey McCarthy had a massive tree planting in October and saw to it that the greenery and ribbons were placed on every lamp post for the holiday season. The holiday lights and decorations all over the neighborhood seem even brighter this season. Hopefully Rudolph and Santa with sleigh will again enchant passersby at the home of the late Earl Townsend this season. Everyone seems so much more upbeat. We have gotten to know each other a lot

better.

Membership grew to the largest number in our history with many benefactors. Alice Carter Park project aka HARMONI is making remarkable progress with all the neighborhoods actively participating and fund raising is underway. We thank former Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell for his interest in our neighborhood and David Orentlicher for braving the storm of protesters and appearing at almost all the rallies and meetings. We congratulate our long time friend Ben Hunter who was successful in his city county council race. And Go Dawgs—the Butler Bulldogs continue to be a major source of interest in our basketball crazy state. If you have news about neighbors or the neighborhood you wish to share, let us know. Call or email any of the Newsletter staff printed elsewhere in the newsletter.



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, We will gladly accept letters or comments for inclusion in upcoming issues.

RESTORING 4936 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET

By Rob Sloan

I was asked by the Meridian Street Foundation newsletter to write a short update on the property we are restoring at 4936 North Meridian Street. Over the years people living in the area may have noticed the Tudor style home if looking closely, however most passersby would not have noticed the once grand old house on more than 2 acres because it was so well hidden behind a wall of overgrown locust shrubs.

The home was originally designed by Frederick Wallick, a noted Indianapolis architect, and built in 1923 for Goethe Link MD (1871-1981). Goethe Link M.D. was a remarkable individual: a professional cyclist in youth, accomplished naturalist who studied hummingbird behavior and herpetology, astronomer - builder of the Link observatory (now owned by Indiana University and located in Mooresville, IN), balloonist (winner of the 1909 national balloon race), well known thyroid surgeon who performed over 22,000 procedures in his career, and one of the founders of the Indiana University School of Medicine. The home was later sold to J.K. Lilly in 1927, where he lived prior to moving to the Oldfields estate, which is now part of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. The home was then sold to William Adams M.D., and later to Julian Bobbs, heir to the Bobbs-Merrill publishing fortune. Finally it was purchased by Alfred and Anne Reynolds in 1953.

Alfred Reynolds owned the Jiffy Pot company, at one time the largest peat-moss pot producer in the country. Anne Rauch Reynolds, who grew up at 3050 Meridian Street (The Schnull-Rauch House - now home of the Junior League of Indianapolis) and whose family owned the IGA grocery chain. Once purchased by the Reynolds, a major remodel of the house was undertaken which included complete overhaul of the kitchen, butler's pantry, and all but one bathroom, the installation of multiple closet areas, a dumbwaiter, and the erection of a new carriage house where there had been a small brick playhouse.

The main portion of the home has 3 floors, an attic, a full basement, 6 bedrooms, 2 libraries, 7 bathrooms, 5 fireplaces, drawing room, party/ballroom, and a 3 car heated garage. A porte-cochere provides access to a motor courtyard and to the carriage house which has an additional 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, basement, 2 car garage, and a large kennel. There is an underground tunnel (which was constructed as part of the 1953 remodel) that connects the basement of the carriage house to the basement of the main house.

Jens Jensen, the great American landscape architect, who designed many large parks in Chicago (Lincoln Park, Douglas Park, and Columbus Park) was commissioned by Goethe Link for the home's original landscape design. In his career Jensen designed approximately 350 private residences, of which only approximately 35 are still intact. Jensen's work included the Henry and Edsel Ford estates in Michigan, Rand McNally estate in Chicago, and the Allison Mansion in Indianapolis (now home of Marion College). In the course of his long career he worked with many well known architects including Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Here on the Meridian Street property there is an extensive moat-like water feature which begins with several ponds that allow for the flow of water down a series of rock rivers, over a large waterfall, and finally into the main portion of the water feature. Most of Jensen's water features used slabs of limestone stacked up to recreate the natural river systems of the Midwest. The original plans for the property, including the perennial planting diagrams, water feature, master plan and topographical plans were located in the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan, and will be used to restore the gardens and property.

My wife Jennifer and I purchased the home in the fall from the Reynolds family, who had not occupied the house for over 25 years. Although the home was superbly constructed, it has seen its fair share of damage over the years. A large flood occurred approximately 6 years ago on Meridian Street which drained through a broken backflow valve into the basement, and resulted in a $200,000 insurance claim for clean-up of water and repairs. The once-finished basement of the home, complete with an area for the "laundrist", family room, workshop and mechanicals rooms is now stripped to the block foundation. The recent hail storms destroyed the integrity of the slate roof, and multiple leaks developed causing extensive water damage to the decorative plaster moldings and trim work, as well as several of the plaster walls. Fortunately many parts of the house were spared, including a beautiful paneled mahogany library, all of the wide plank cherry flooring, and the large intricately carved walnut staircase.

We have now started the renovation, and Rob Bennett of Bly Bennett is supervising the project. For those who thought an alien spaceship dropped a new house on the street, we have started by clearing out the overgrown vegetation on the property, and have removed all of the dead and diseased trees. Most of the old slate has already been removed, and the entire roof and copper work will be restored in the early spring. The 1950's additions are being demolished, and several small changes previously made to the floor plan are being undone to return the home to its original configuration. The new kitchen and bathrooms will be returned to period correct tile and woodwork styles, and all of the marble and floors will be refinished. The plaster repair work will be extensive, and molds are currently being made to reproduce the original crown moldings and details that were damaged. The external woodwork repairs are also underway and new paint, stucco work, and masonry repairs will commence as the weather permits. We are excited to be able to bring the home back into its former glory, and would be happy to give any interested neighbor a tour during the progress.

Rob Sloan
507-7605

CLOUDS OF WITNESS
– OUR HEARTS WILL GO ON AND ON –

Virginia Handley passed away on Saturday, December 15, 2007. She was a titanic presence in our neighborhood. She was one of the first to recognize that this neighborhood was indeed a significant place to invest time, effort, money and most importantly oneself. Virginia served on the very first Meridian Street Foundation board She and husband Neil were always to be counted on whenever someone needed to stand up and be counted.. They were tireless workers for the Meridian in Bloom project which allowed funds for our "Main Stem" book, our annual neighborhood picnics and events, MSF board duties with Virginia serving as President not once but twice. They were on the front lines against those who wished to use the neighborhood for their own purposes rather than for the good of all. Virginia showed her mettle in waging a courageous yearlong battle against her final illness, the struggles of which were prayerfully followed by her many friends and admirers Born in Pennsylvania, she lived in our neighborhood since 1952 and was an ardent Butler supporter. She is survived by husband, Neil, brother Howard, son Peter and grandson Aiden.. –Yes Virginia, Near, far , wherever you are—we believe that your heart does go on.

Editor's Note-There will be a memorial service in the spring, Ginny's favorite time of year. The family wishes memorials be made to the Meridian Street Foundation Harmoni Project, PO Box B88451, 46208-0451, the North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian, 46208, Butler University Athletic Dept, 4600 Sunset Ave, 46208.

Our hearts will go on and on

THE LAST TIME I SAW GINNY

By Alice Berger

The last time I saw my friend Virginia Handley (Ginny), she looked so beautiful. I know that's an odd thing to say about someone fighting cancer and being savaged by chemo but it's true. Her hair was gone but she wore a colorful scarf around her head and her brown-hazel-green eyes looked larger then ever. She looked almost translucent, as if she were not of this world anymore.

We talked of working in her garden this spring and how good that would feel. We talked of Meridian Street Foundation and how sorry she was that she couldn't fulfill her term as president. With tears in her eyes, she spoke of her illness. She spoke of how hard this process was and how she was a "little" afraid. I tried to comfort her by making her laugh at stories of my Scottie, McDougle, my adventures as MSPC commissioner (being yelled at over a roof or a window) and stories of my life with David.

That was the last time I saw Ginny. She died Saturday, a week before Christmas. My heart aches. Virginia was always a good friend and neighbor, always someone I could count on to be honest and forthright. Someone I could go to for advice or encouragement, even a pep talk when life was getting me down. I new exactly where she stood; most of the time she stood beside me, fighting the good fight. I never found her to be petty or back stabbing, like so many people in this world. Our Virginia was one to tell you exactly how she felt but always without malice. I am honored to have known her and blessed to have called her my friend.

SOME REFLECTIONS ABOUT VIRGINIA

By Kathy Shorter

When we moved to this neighborhood in 1988, "Virginia Handley" was one of the first names I became aware of. It seemed that she was involved in every aspect that was about "neighborhood." I realize now that, even before that time, she had truly embraced the whole concept of "building neighborhood." Whether it was being the president of MSF or just making name tags for social events, planting flowers, or ironing holiday bows for the lampposts, Virginia was in there helping. No job was too big or too small for Virginia.

I will always remember her smiling and serving donuts and coffee from the back of her green SUV on all those early weekend mornings where neighbors were planting bulbs along Meridian. Virginia was all business when it came to getting people to belong to MSF. Virginia always "got it" that people needed to know each other before you could have a neighborhood.

Virginia has served as an excellent mentor for all of us, defining what it means to be a "good neighbor." She will be greatly missed by everyone.

Pictures from Trunk or Treat at Meridian St. United Methodist Church

Halloween at the Governor's Residence

ALICE IN MERIDIAN LAND

By Alice Berger

GREAT NEWS!!!!!

Seven years ago I attended several meetings at Historic Landmarks concerning Meridian Street giving up our state law to become part of IHPC the Indiana Historical Preservation Commission. The people of our community rightly decided that giving up our state law for the city law was not wise. At that point in history, several of us started discussing how to make our preservation law more effective and less adversarial (neighbor against neighbor). The two major flaws in our Meridian Street Preservation statute were lack of enforcement and lack of professional staff. (Professional staff is a person who can walk the applicant through the process, explain the law and the guidelines and give an applicant a clear picture of what is historically appropriate when making changes to their historic home, as well as make recommendations to the Commission. Professional staff is someone who would have appropriate credentials for this position.)

Within two years we had solved a great portion of our enforcement problems. We appealed to the city to enforce our law the same way they enforce IHPC which they finally did. We found that reporting our code enforcement issues to Rachel Buckmaster, Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison, meant almost immediate action.

The problem of staffing the Meridian Street Preservation Commission (MSPC) loomed ever unsolvable. MSPC has very little money to pay for staff and really only needed a part-time person to work as staff. Early in 2007 MSPC voted to allow me and Dr. John Klein to pursue finding a staff person by requesting help from Historic Landmarks. We met with Marsh Davis several times over the summer to explain the needs of our commission and ask his help in finding a person with the credentials that would fulfill those needs. We also checked with the Attorney General's office (Susan Guard) to make sure our law would allow a staff. Finally in August we had a viable applicant. Starting January 2008, Meridian Street Preservation Commission will have a professional staff person to help guide applicants through the process of applying for a Variance or a Certificate of Appropriateness.

My personal hope is, with the guidance of this staff person and the continued assistance of the Meridian Street Foundation (MSF) land use committee, applicants will be well prepared for their commission hearing and no longer feel angry or offended by the process.

Before applying to the Meridian Street Preservation Commission, please contact Connie Zeigler, Staff MSPC (955-0377 conniezeigler@sbcglobal.net and Nancy Whitaker, Chair MSF land use committee (259-0978 whitakerng@yahoo.com). I would suggest you make these contacts before you hire an architect. This could save you time and money.

If you would like to donate to the Meridian Street Preservation Commission (we need your help to pay for our new staff) please send your contribution to Bob Wilch, Chair of MSPC, (327-5115 BWILCH@indygov.org).

SCHOOL 84 RENOVATION UPDATE

By Kelly Bentley

If you've driven by Joseph J. Bingham School 84 at 440 E. 57th St., it's easy to see that the renovation work has begun. IPS is modernizing and air conditioning the building to give it new life. During the 2007-08 school year, construction crews are building an addition on the east end of the building. Steel for the addition will begin going up during the second half of December, and you'll see a crane working on site. At the same time the structural steel work is being put in place crews will pour the slab for the addition basement.

Fifty-Seventh Street has been temporarily closed during construction, and with some minor adustments here and there, school families and neighborhood residents seem to be adapting to new traffic patterns around the school. IPS is still working with the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development to finalize approval on the site plan to ensure that green space and fences are appropriate for the historic neighborhood.

The addition will complement the existing structure with matching brick and a green tile roof. Interior renovation of classrooms in the existing building will begin during the 2008-09 school year, and classes will be moved as necessary to accommodate construction. The project is on track for completion in 2009.

The current school year marks the second year for the very popular Center for Inquiry (CFI) magnet program at School 84. The K-8 school incorporates the International Baccalaureate curriculum and formal authorization by the IB organization is expected within two years. CFI at School 84 and its sister at School 2 are the only schools in Indiana offering the IB Primary Years Program.

While the December 14 deadline for applying to IPS magnet programs for the 2008-09 school year has passed, there are occasional openings for specific grades. If you have not submitted an application for your child and are still interested in CFI at School 84, please call the school at 226-4284.

GS wellness

george salinas
fitness instructor

(405) 664-7759 • georgesalinas@hotmail.com

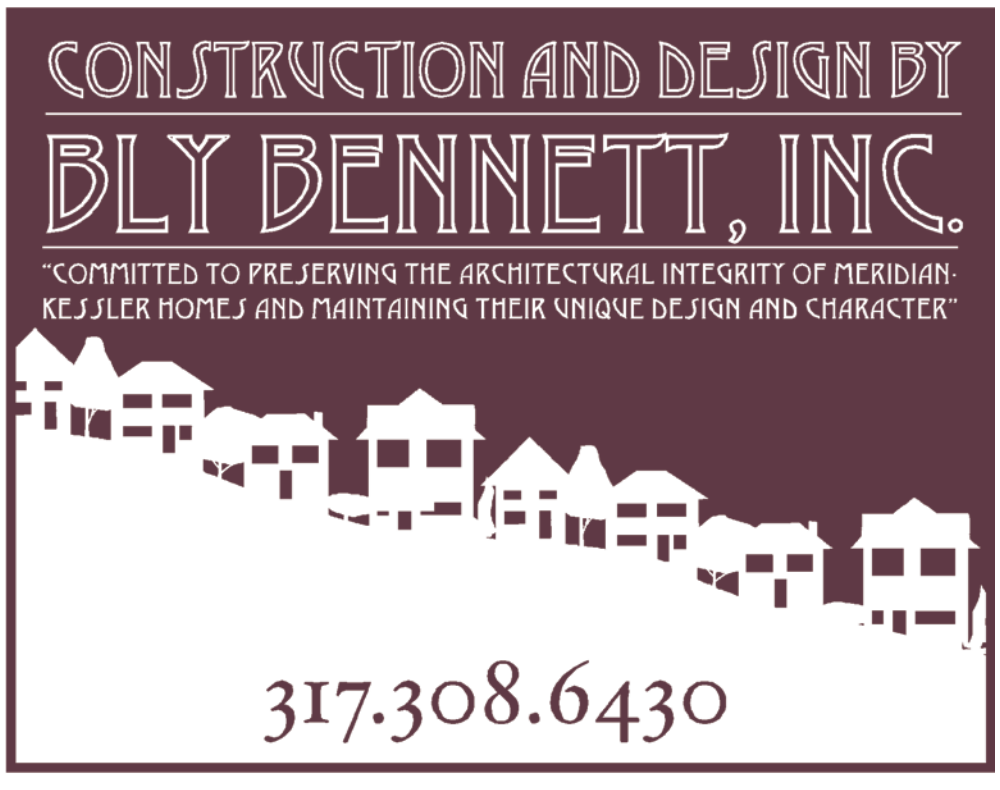
personal training

body conditioning

weight loss

dance instruction

individualized programs



MAKING SOULS GROW ▪ A KURT VONNEGUT CENTER FOR INDIANAPOLIS

By David Hoppe

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. was one of the most beloved literary figures of the 20th century. His works remain in print and find legions of readers across generations – an extraordinary achievement in an age that frets about literature's future. Upon his passing, in April 2007, the true depth and breadth of Vonnegut's following revealed itself in the form of tributes and remembrances that appeared in virtually every newspaper in the country as well as across a range of other media, including television and the worldwide web.

Kurt Vonnegut's story begins in Indianapolis. Vonnegut himself said on many occasions, "Everything I am I owe to Indianapolis." This is where he grew up, received his high school education and got married for the first time. This is where his family left an enduring mark through, among other things, its formative involvement in the creation of the city's public schools and the creation of some its most important buildings.

The Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Center will honor the life and works of Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. It will provide citizens of Indianapolis and visitors to this city with insight into the sense of place and the times that shaped the creator of Slaughterhouse Five and Cat's Cradle. It will also serve as a platform for the on-going exploration of many of the ideas that preoccupied Vonnegut throughout his life and found expression in his works.

The Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Center's organizing principle will be the life and works of Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

The KVC will provide a point of entry into Vonnegut's important relationship with Indianapolis, enabling readers of Vonnegut's works to see and experience firsthand the place that informed and inspired him. This will be done through the creation of a public facility for programs, exhibits and workshops in the Athenaeum, a building designed by Vonnegut's grandfather; and through preservation of Vonnegut's childhood home, a house designed and built by his father and where Vonnegut lived until he was seven years-old.

Together, these sites will connect elements of Vonnegut family history and Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s biography with the ideas and themes that manifest themselves in Vonnegut's works and continue to have relevance today.

Kurt Vonnegut was a great believer in the power of human creativity and expression. "It makes your soul grow," he used to say. And so a cornerstone of Athenaeum programming, developed with the Writers' Center of Indianapolis, will be aimed at readers and writers and will work to enliven the literary arts in Indianapolis through workshops, seminars and presentations by local, national, and international writers.

These programs will be augmented by a permanent exhibit on Vonnegut's life, complemented by periodic exhibits and additional programming inspired by Vonnegut's life and works. Visitors may see programs based on such Vonnegut-related themes as the German-American heritage in Indianapolis, the First Amendment, the Freethinker movement, Pop art, 1930's Indianapolis jazz, silk screen printing, and/or screen adaptations of Vonnegut books and stories, to name a few options.

Meanwhile, the Vonnegut childhood home, in addition to its intrinsic value as an historical site, will serve as base for a writer-in-residence program that will be open to writers from around the world on an application basis. Writers will live in the house for one year and conduct programs and workshops through the Athenaeum.

The house will also be available for receptions and social gatherings connected with the KVC and other local nonprofit organizations.

The KVC will truly be a center. Its programs and exhibits will provide myriad opportunities for collaboration with and platforms for virtually all of the city's other cultural institutions, including the public library, state historical society, historic landmarks, museum of art and art center, as well as such academic institutions as Butler University, IUPUI and the University of Indianapolis.

The Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Center will be a living institution – one that connects the origin story of one of America's greatest artists with ideas and themes that inspired him – and that continue to be of moment for those familiar with his works, as well as for the uninitiated. It will be a destination dedicated to making souls grow – and a significant addition to Indianapolis' cultural portfolio.

HARMONI – WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT???

By Kathryn Shorter

To attract residents to Marion County and to reinforce the positive aspects of Indianapolis urban living, neighborhood leaders from Meridian-Kessler, North Meridian Street, Butler-Tarkington, and Broad Ripple Village have organized and developed a turnaround strategy, in collaboration with the respective neighborhood associations. This effort is called HARMONI, Historic Mid-North Neighborhoods Initative. HARMONI, made up of neighborhood residents, an urban design firm (Storrow and Kinsella), and city officials, is in the process of being incorporated as a 501(c)(3).

HARMONI, with a 5-year (or less) timeline, seeks to promote a "Midtown" for Indianapolis, a district with emphasis on improved overall livability: walk-ability, bike-ability, vital business nodes, and sense of place. The initiative includes drastic traffic calming measures (for safety and to connect people), uniformity in street resurfacing and excellent sidewalk condition, bike lanes, brick crosswalks, beautification, economic development, park improvements, landscaped streetscapes, historic lamps and signage to create a "district" feel, tourist destinations, and other amenities. HARMONI will continue to require full partnership with the City administration, public officials, and private citizens and foundations who value this historic community and its heritage.

The target area for HARMONI is the following: Michigan Road to the Monon, 38th Street to the Central Canal. This area was built in 1910-1935. As it approaches 100 years of age, there are many infrastructure requirements that have not been properly addressed and destructive traffic patterns that are unacceptable. Many of the business corners need intense revitalization. HARMONI provides a sense of urgency for setting priorities, planning, and implementing these positive changes and thorough repairs by seeking public and private funds to restore and improve Indy's midtown to the condition that is expected.

Phase I of HARMONI is already in the works. It is, by design, at a highly visible spot--- the intersection of Westfield and North Meridian, where three historic neighborhoods meet. For this phase, drawings are being finalized and most City approvals are complete. A center median will be installed where Meridian is five-lanes wide and pedestrian and bicycle accessibility to the park at the point and the Canal path will be made possible. The installation of this pedestrian-friendly gateway to our neighborhoods will signal that big changes are afoot. Commuters will be reminded that these neighborhoods are places where children cross streets and ride bikes. Private monies are being raised by and from residents (a goal of $500K by December 31), and a fund-raising campaign is well underway. Future phases are being evaluated and planned.

The rejuvenation of the historic mid-north area is critical to the future of Indianapolis.

HARMONI seeks to make this happen with a "whatever it takes" approach.

More info on page 10

BENJAMIN HUNTER

While working in the Meridian-Kessler and Butler-Tarkington areas as a police officer I made several contacts through community-policing techniques. As a newly elected City-County Councilman, representing the eastside of Indianapolis, I look forward to using those skills.

With the challenges ahead I thank many of the residents on the northside who assisted my campaign. When I announced I was seeking my Council Seat, Meridian Street residents Alice Berger and Elaine Klein were the first to host a fundraiser to support my efforts.

There are many similarities to the district I will represent; Irvington is the largest Historical Preservation District in the State. Cumberland is nestled on the county line and shares in the rich tradition of protecting its historical roots. I look forward to the challenge to find resources to fund stronger eastside development, and keep crime low.

Keri and I have been blessed with our daughter Emily, and we continue to serve our community by volunteering on different non-profit boards. I will continue my role with the Peace Learning Center Board of Directors, and she was named Chair of Ray's Sunshine Foundation this past year.

Although I don't represent my friends on Meridian Street directly – my actions on Council will impact you. I encourage your thoughts, advice, and feedback on the many issues our City will face over the next four

years. Please contact me through my web site at www.BenjaminHunter.org – and I will do my best to assist you once again.

I encourage each of you to visit or invest in the eastside of Indianapolis. From Irvington to Cumberland – my goal is to make the eastside the best community in Central Indiana.

INDIANAPOLIS OPERA INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING "OPERA CENTER" THROUGH PURCHASE OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH.

By John C. Pickett, Executive Director

For many years, the staff and board of directors of Indianapolis Opera have recognized the need and desirability of an opera center to house the various activities of Indiana's only fully professional opera company. While it has always been part of our long-term strategy discussions, until now we have been primarily focused on near term and intermediate term fund raising issues. However, the IO has been presented with a unique opportunity to purchase Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, on 40th and Pennsylvania

The mission of the Indianapolis Opera is "to entertain by creating the passion, excitement and art of opera and to develop the widest possible audience for opera through educational, cultural and community activities." The Opera Center will greatly enhance our ability to achieve that mission by substantially increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of IO by combining many of our activities under one roof. An Opera Center provides the organization with quality office, rehearsal and audition space, storage, classrooms, and, in some cases, design/production areas for sets, props and costumes. An Opera Center does not endeavor to replace the performance venue for main stage productions of the company. It will solve a longstanding challenge the company has faced by professionalizing our rehearsal situation and thus providing a better impression of IO and Indianapolis to the nationally renowned professional singers we engage. Current accommodations at the Natural Resources Building of the Indiana State Fairgrounds are not climate controlled and hence often not conducive to singing and staging. Additionally, an Opera Center will provide private voice studios and rehearsal space for visiting singers during the process (something we currently cannot provide) and classrooms in acting/singing/movement for our Young Professional Artist Development Program embodied in the Indianapolis Opera Ensemble.

For more information contact John Pickett, Indianapolis Opera Executive Director at 317.283.3531, ext. 113 or johnp@indyopera.org.

At this time we understand all neighborhood associations and governing bodies have given their recommendations and/or approval to their request for a variation in use zoning. There is a meeting planned for January, 2008, with the Department of Metropolitan Planning for final approval. They are actively soliciting funds.

MSF BOARD MEMBER BIO – JOHN COUNTRYMAN

When my wife, Michaela, and I made the decision to return to Indianapolis to raise our family, the decision was more specifically to return to this neighborhood. We knew this meant buying less house for more money, paying higher taxes for less house (hopefully this will change soon) and performing regular projects on our older home. However, we were motivated by the opportunities for our children to walk to school and ride their bikes to friends' homes, the chance to meet and work with other Indianapolis residents that have a similar sense of nostalgia for and desire to preserve and improve our neighborhood, and the experience of raising our children in the very same area in which I grew up. I have called this area home for most of my life: growing up in the Meridian-Kessler neighborhood, attending Butler University and now finally settling into our current home which is part of Butler-Tarkington.

My decision to join the MSF board follows an earlier decision to join the BTNA board, where I currently serve as Treasurer. Through my active participation in our neighborhood, my hope is that my efforts will continue to preserve and improve our neighborhood so that my children and maybe even their children will have a safe place to grow up with friendly and vigilant neighbors who care for their well-being. Michaela and I are actively involved in our parish and my alma mater, Immaculate Heart of Mary, where our children, Joe (1) and Caroline (0) will one day be students. By day I endeavor to preserve and improve my clients' financial condition as part of my practice, Countryman Wealth & Asset Management of Raymond James & Associates. By night, I hope to assist in preserving and improving our extraordinary neighborhood for our current residents and for generations.

BEAUTIFICATION

By Stacey McCarthy

Fall 2007 Lawn of the Season

4180 N. Pennsylvania-Brian Stienkamp has lived in the neighborhood for 15 + years. Adirondack chairs, pumpkins, & bales of hay provided a nice festive welcome to fall. Mature trees provide a nice canopy for the home with beautiful, complementing fall colors. Impressively, even with such a large yard, they do their own lawn maintenance, planting, etc.

4546 N. Pennsylvania-Greg & Amy Sabens have done a beautiful job perfecting this corner lot & home. Only living in the home for 1 year this fall, their goal was creating a low maintenance lawn with a clean look. Kudos to them because that is exactly what we saw. They do their own weekly maintenance of mowing, weeding, mulching, edging, & fertilizing to create this neatly manicured lawn. Not only is their landscape picturesque, but they added some fun, festive & tasteful décor for halloween.

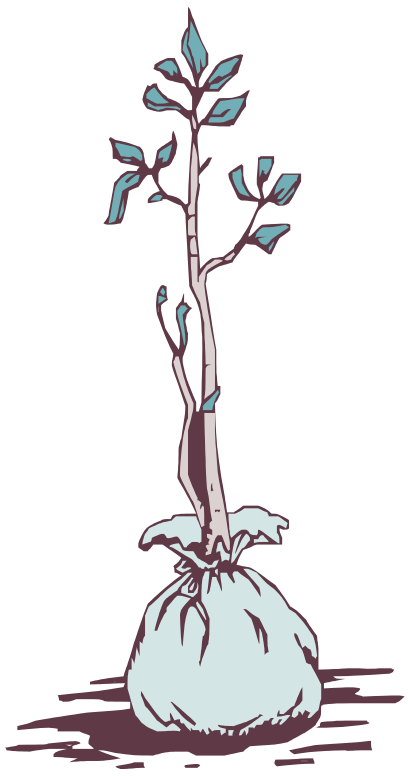
5104 N. Meridian-Despite their "work in progress" this past summer, this home looked great this fall, especially its graveyard tombstones for Halloween. That's the spirit we like to see! These homeowners have been seen working in their yard & having help cleaning up their overgrown hedges. In fact, they are working with their neighbors just south of their property in a joint effort to redo the landscape along their property lines. Way to go!

Thanks for keeping our neighborhood beautiful!

If you have nominations for your favorite Lawn of the Season, please email mccarthystaceyd@yahoo.com.

If winter comes can spring be far behind?

Tree Planting

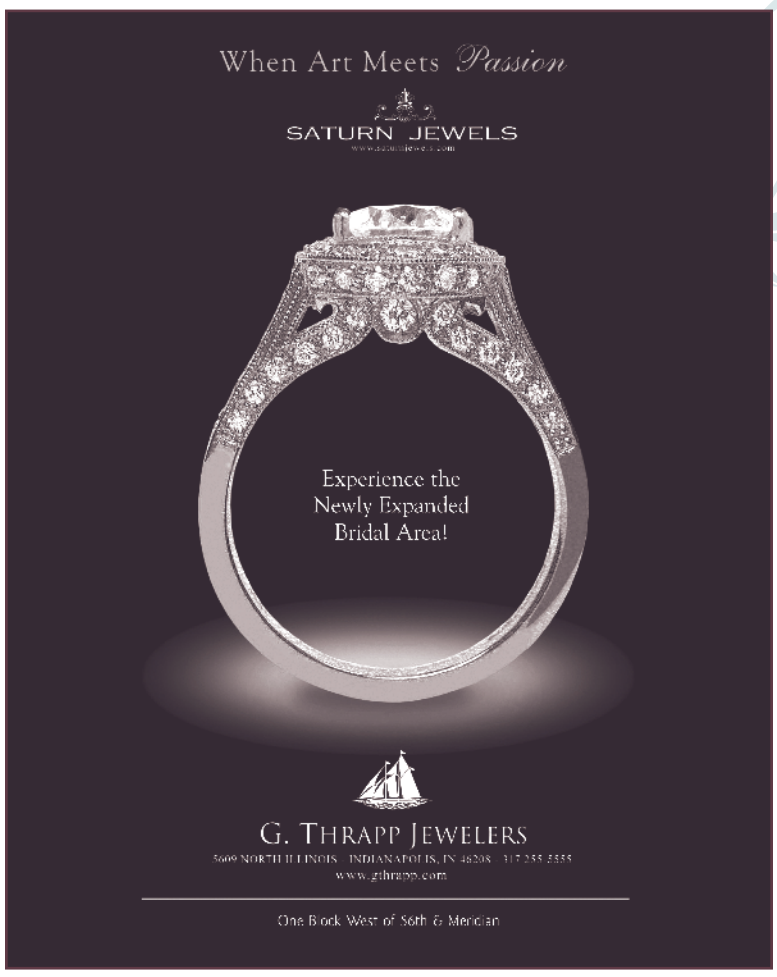


October 20 turned out to be a perfect, fall day for our Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) tree planting project. In addition to the KIB staff, we had about 20 neighbors & 20 students from IUPUI who worked diligently & efficiently to plant 44 trees in about 3 hours. What a great way to get to know the neighbors & their children. We worked in teams of ten. Each team had a team leader and about 3-4 people shoveling at the same time. We planted London Plains (sycamore), American Elm, & Red Oak trees along right of ways between the street & sidewalk. Due to the size of the trees vs. size of the right of way, some trees were planted in the yards of the home along the street or side walk. Each tree is providing many benefits for the health & value of the individual homes & our neighborhood. Not only are these trees beautifying our neighborhood, but they are providing buffers for pedestrians from traffic, buffering noise & providing wind breaks, improving oxygen levels & water quality , and hopefully, eventually slowing traffic on the street. What a rewarding experience to work together as a neighborhood and see such immediate results. We also had some fun afterwards at our pitch-in lunch. Lots of laughs & relaxing time after a few hours of hard work. Thanks to all the neighbors who attended the event & worked so hard to make this a success! We look forward to planting more trees in the spring. Now, don't forget…it will be critical to keep these trees watered for the next two growing seasons.

Start in April 2008 through fall... 15 gallons of water/tree per week.

Holiday Décor

Thanks to all of you who contributed to our Holiday décor Project. While we still haven't quite meet our goal, we received many contributions. We think the décor turned out great this year & hope we can continue this tradition.



HARMONI INTRODUCED AT OCTOBER 23 EVENT

By Cindy Zweber-Free

An exciting, positive event took place on the evening of October 23. Neighbors and city officials packed the sanctuary of Bethlehem Lutheran Church to hear a nationally renowned urban planner, Dom Nozzi, and to hear about HARMONI from Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell and from Kathy Shorter. (Many thanks to Melissa Oesterle, Helen O'Guinn, Caroline Farrar, Sid Eisgruber, Sarah Larkin, Storrow and Kinsella, and many others who helped coordinate all this.)

The audience was first charmed by students from the International School who began the evening by singing the "Harmony" song, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing in Perfect Harmony." This musical message helped to highlight the concept of HARMONI, Historic MidNorth Neighborhoods Initiative, which is all about pulling our neighborhoods together into a recognized Indianapolis "district" and strengthening the east to west connections of Indy's midtown.

First Dom Nozzi, an executive with Walkable Streets, spoke about the following concepts:

- Speed makes streets hostile to people.
- A lot of cities have let traffic engineers make the mistake of creating places that are DRIVE THRU not DRIVE TO.
- At one time, PEOPLE were supreme. Now it seems that CARS are supreme. We end up promoting conditions which are good for cars. We are losing our sense of place in America. Let's stop letting cars dominate our world.
- Widening doesn't work. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy. It simply creates and encourages more car trips. You simply get 12 lanes of congestion instead of 4.
- Healthy cities have a grid with a high level of connectivity.
- Forgiving" roads are less safe. It is better to have curbs, trees, lampposts, etc.
- Traffic congestion is our friend. It creates demand for transit options.
- A concept called "ROAD DIETS" has become popular across America. Four lane streets are changed to 3 lanes, with the center lane having medians and turning function. The remaining lane is split in half to create bike lanes. (Note: What a positive idea for Indy for North Meridian and other area streets. Think how great this could be!!)
- America needs "Place-making" not more strip malls. An example was shown of a charming Georgetown streetscape vs. a WalMart parking lot. Which do we want?
- Some great examples of cities who are making it happen? Vancouver, BC. Portland, Oregon. Richmond, VA.
- Improving quality of life is sound economic development policy.

Helen O'Guinn, Kathy Shorter, Dom Nozzi, Alice Berger

After Dom Nozzi spoke, Kathy Shorter presented the key points of the HARMONI initiative, including visuals. This presentation is available at www.indyharmoni.org. Also, please take time to read the q and a section and the overview of HARMONI in this newsletter. You will be hearing a lot more about this initiative in the months to come. Watch for a brochure in your mailbox.

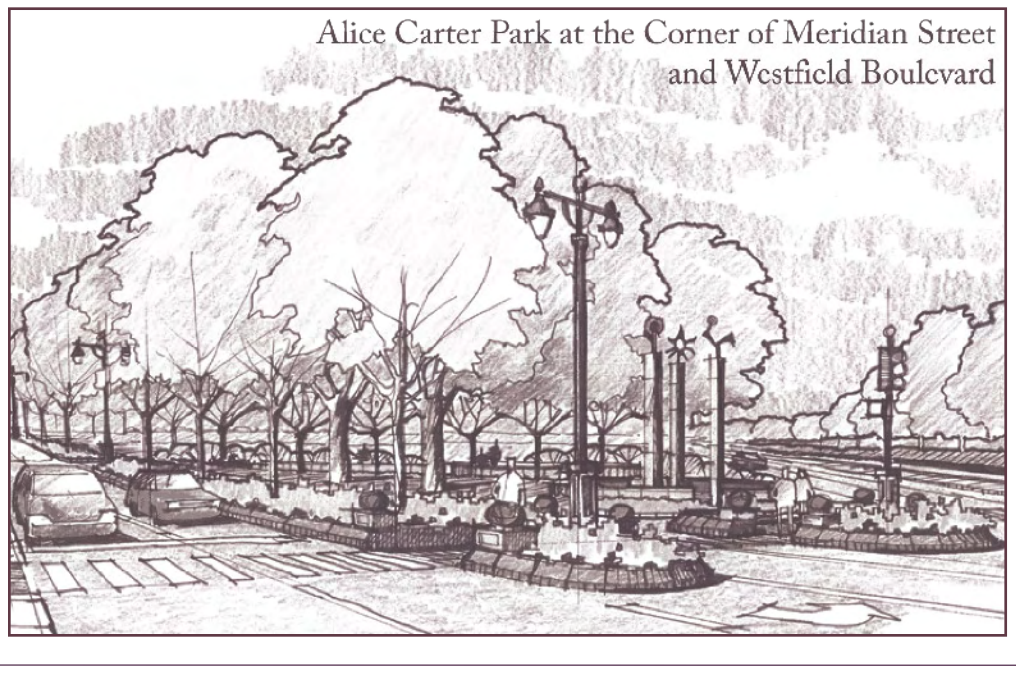
Steve Campbell spoke after Kathy's presentation. He highlighted the City's role to date:

- The City has been a HARMONI planning partner for the past 18 months.
- Phase I of HARMONI, which includes the Alice Carter Park in the Indy Parks master plan, a center median at Meridian and Westfield, crosswalks and sidewalks, has been approved by the city.
- Funding of design consultants and project management to date.
- Fundraising partnership.
- Prioritization for federal grant "asks"
- Traffic Calming to be taken seriously by Metropolitan Development--sessions have been held that include northern suburbs.
- Sidewalk ordinance has passed.
- City support for additional phases of the Cultural Trail and bike path concept expansion. (Please note what is taking place with these issues downtown. We are a logical expansion to the north)

Following the event of October 23, the HARMONI prospectus was finalized. Phil Cox provided fundraising education to the HARMONI team, and a number of fundraising calls have been completed. In the quiet phase of fundraising, nearly ½ of the $500,000 objective in pledges has been attained. The fundraising will continue throughout the 1Q'08 as we work with the new administration. This fundraising will be highly leveraged in matches.

HARMONI was begun through the leadership of the Meridian Street Foundation, who provided seed money. The initiative now includes Butler-Tarkington. Meridian-Kessler, and the Broad Ripple Village Association, along with the City. The HARMONI area is Michigan Road to the Monon, 38th Street to the Central Canal.

Please call Kathy Shorter (402-1715) or Cindy Zweber-Free (921-9571) with questions or to get involved. Check www.indyharmoni.org for more information and visuals.



Alice Carter Park at the Corner of Meridian Street and Westfield Boulevard

HARMONI

HISTORIC MIDNORTH NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

I/We pledge and agree to pay to:

The Meridian Street Foundation
(HARMONI account)

The sum of $_____

A 3-year payment plan is available to meet your financial goals.

I/We will make the gift according to the following schedule:

$_____ on _____ date

$_____ on _____ date

$_____ on _____ date

_____
Mr./Ms./Mrs.

_____
Address

_____
City State Zip

_____
Telephone Email

_____
Signature

The Meridian Street Foundation is a charitable (501C3) Foundation founded in 1960.

Mail all forms and payments to:

212 W. 10th Street • Studio A440
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-3007
indyharmoni.org

MEREDITH MITCHELL BIO

Meredith Mitchell joined the Meridian Street Foundation this month. She will serve as co-chairman of the social committee along with Ryan Fisher.

Meredith and her husband, Lance, moved to Meridian Street in May of 2006. They fell in love with the community during their home search earlier in that year. It reminded them of Cleveland Heights, Ohio from where they had moved. Immediately prior to moving to Indianapolis, they had just finished a complete renovation of a 1920s Tudor home when Lance was recruited to be president of CSI, a division of Alcoa. Given their history of renovation, they were looking for a home that did not require much work. They found that in the meticulously maintained 5330 N. Meridian Street. However, an interior designer at heart, Meredith could not resist renovating the master suite and then the kitchen. Work was completed on the kitchen just weeks before the birth of their first child, Drake, born May 4, 2007.

Preceding becoming a stay-at-home mom, Meredith worked in the health care community for the last 14 years. She also owned an interior design company. Most recently, she was a biotech sales representative for Abbott Immunology. She has an undergraduate degree from Miami University (Ohio) and an MBA specializing in health care administration.

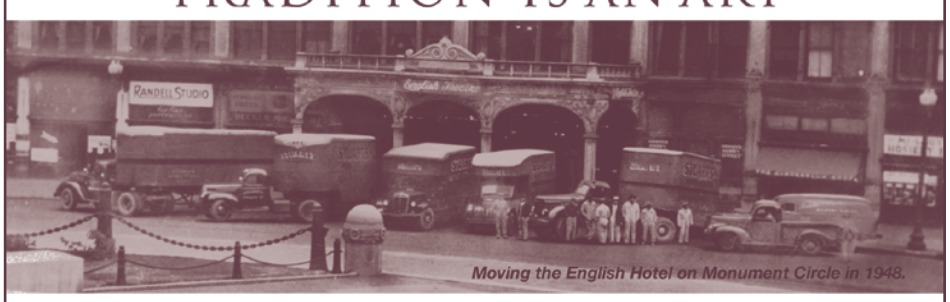
Currently, she serves on the alumni board for Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio. Meredith's other community service participation includes: The Betterment Foundation, Arthritis Foundation and United Way. Her two favorite hobbies are design and travel.

Meredith looks forward to serving this wonderful community. She would welcome thoughts and suggestions for upcoming social events. She can be reached at meredithdmitchell@gmail.com or 216.406.0938.

MSF ANNUAL MEETING A RESOUNDING (& SOUNDING) EVENT

The parlor at the Meridian Street United Methodist Church was filled to overflowing; Well over 100 neighbors and friends attended the annual meeting of the Meridian Street Foundation on October 9, 2007. Guests included Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell representing Mayor Bart Peterson, Monroe Gray City Council President, Kurt Webber District 8 Challenger, Greg Ballard challenger to Mayor Peterson and John Price, attorney. After conversation and refreshments prepared by the Committee headed by Elaine Klein, the group listened to the speakers and asked many questions. Most as expected had to do with the humongous property tax increases we had thrust on our neighborhood. Everyone agreed that the tax situation was not an easy one to solve but that it had gotten everyone's attention at long last. It seemed that when the going got tough, the tough got going. We regret that an annual meeting without such an issue is not so well attended. It is vital to our neighborhood's preservation that our neighbors and friends show interest in happy times as well as less happy times.. Get involved in our activities and keep up on our concerns and hopes.

TRADITION IS AN ART



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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:
  (1) from deterioration;
  (2) from improperly conceived or implemented change; and
  (3) 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

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

By G.B. Landrigan, Realtor

While the Meridian Street Foundation neighborhood did not entirely escape the Central Indiana real estate downtick, it has weathered the market a bit better than many other areas. The area currently has approximately 10 months of inventory on the market, compared with just over 11 months for Central Indiana as a whole.

There are some disparities, of course, depending on the price range. The hardest hit range appears to have been the $400-600,000 price point. Many area agents believe that this was the category most affected by the property tax imbroglio of earlier this year. Now that it appears that there is wide consensus at the legislative level for a hard cap of 1%, we are beginning to see increased showings and sales in this range.

It does seem important to note that the region's real estate downturn has many causes – usually fairly local in nature. Buyers in the MSF area were chiefly concerned with property taxes. Some areas in the region actually experienced slightly lower proposed tax bills. Those in other townships have been entangled in foreclosed properties. Some such properties were the result of ill-advised new construction loans, while others simply refinanced using the now-infamous sub-prime arrangements. The MSF area hasn't experienced this to any great degree. Still other areas were hit by a local/neighborhood industry that had closed.

Like politics, real estate is local – right down to the neighborhood.

All statistics are from the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors as of 12/15/2007. More detailed statistical information may be found at www.landrigan.com.

North Meridian Street	North Pennsylvania Street	North Illinois Street	Cross-Streets
Number of Homes Now For Sale: 13	Number of Homes Now For Sale: 9	Number of Homes Now For Sale: 13	Number of Homes Now For Sale: 4
Number of Homes With Pending Sales: 2	Number of Homes With Pending Sales: 0	Number of Homes With Pending Sales: 0	Number of Homes With Pending Sales: 0
Number of Homes Sold: 11	Number of Homes Sold: 11	Number of Homes Sold: 11	Number of Homes Sold: 8
Average Sales Price: $583,491	Average Sales Price: $557,745	Average Sales Price: $363,263	Average Sales Price: $297,213

56TH & ILLINOIS

For those of us who frequent the 56th & Illinois shopping node(that is the current term to use, we understand) we cannot help but notice the many changes there. Some of these are:

- *G. Thrapp Jewelers annual holiday party took place Thursday, November 15th. The party, catered by Dine Magazine, was a success with nearly 1,000 people in attendance. It was a wonderful evening filled with food, entertainment, and good friends.*
- *The merchants from the Shoppes at 56th and Illinois hosted a Holiday Open House on Thursday, November 29th. The evening included a face painter, children's author Will Hildebrandt, and a visit from Santa Claus on the fire truck!*
- *Gary Thrapp's Veranda Village Shoppes has recently expanded with the addition of Flying Cupcake and Starbucks Coffee.*
- *The renovation at G. Thrapp Jeweler's is completed. Thrapp has expanded with the addition of a new bridal area, as well as several new bridal lines including La Reina, Sholdt Design, Martin Flyer, and Christian Bauer. Thrapp has also overhauled their website, creating a brand new site complete with 2 minute videos, new photos, updated history, and lots more! Website is www.gthrapp.com.*

We all appreciate Gary Thrapp's vision for the center and his support of the neighborhoods.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Elaine Klein

Not only is Gary Whitaker rebuilding the MSF web site, but he is working on a database for the historic district. The MSF database will reside on the MSF web site within password protection so only authorized users can see and use it. The database will be created in MicroSoft "Access" Relational Database and will contain all membership information (address, phones, email, dues payments, etc. It will allow using mass mailings (snail mail and email) to board members or all members, automatic generation of financial cash flow reports, and Crime Watch Zones.

Each information type will be restricted to the persons who need access to the data. The information within the database will be backed up automatically and never lost. It will be integrated with Calling Post so the information will not have to be entered two different times.

Work will begin as soon as the web site is published and will be completed sometime in January. We have about 450 names and addresses, but would love to add yours to our list. Please email Elaine Klein with your name, address and phone number to garden006@aol.com. We would like to keep all neighbors informed. Elaine Klein

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.