MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION
NEWSLETTER
www.meridianstreetfoundation.net
FALL 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Stacey McCarthy, President

Hello all members and neighbors. Fall has arrived in the blink of an eye. Because this is the last newsletter before the end of the year, my message includes reflection on the changes and accomplishments of the organization over this past year.

'Change' of any kind can be somewhat bittersweet, yet is one thing that is consistent in life. The more we anticipate and prepare for change (or what could happen as a result of change) the less adjusting we have to do thus, the less difficult it is. A few unexpected changes have occurred since our last newsletter.

This past summer my 'partner in Crime', MSF's Vice president and co-chair for the Beautification, & Social Committees, Elise Heslin, called me to share some shocking news regarding her health. As our community continues to embrace the Heslin Family as they 'battle' Elise's cancer, Elise remains the amazing spirited cheerleader she has always been. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. For more information go to www.whatfriendsdo.com to see how you can help.

I am excited to share Kristy Sherman has stepped up to the plate as MSF's Newsletter Editor. Thank you Kristy!

As it relates to the history of our neighborhood and the mission of the MSF, 'Change' is not something most people associate with MSF. However, to the contrary, it is 'appropriate change' that the Foundation likes and wants to see. MSF understands that times are evolving and life is different than it was in 1927. However, because of the history and treasures that each of the homes within the historical district holds, it is important to abide by the state statute which requires a 'Certificate of Appropriateness' prior to making changes to the exterior of our homes. If each homeowner employed the mindset that they are 'stewards' of their homes, then the Historic District and Meridian will remain one of 'America's 's Greatest Streets.'. Hopefully, you will look to MSF as a resource.

A question to our members: Have you shared with your neighbors who have not joined MSF the value of our organization and what it does for our community?

Creating a more pedestrian friendly connection between BTNA, MSF, MKNA, Broad ripple Village, & business nodes has been a vision of MSF for many, many years.

Have you shared with your neighbors who have not joined MSF the value of our organization and what it does for our community?

With health, safety, and ecological standards as part of our mission, MSF embraces the projects that positively impact our neighborhood. Years ago, someone suggested that planting trees along the street could possibly provide 'a buffer' for pedestrians between the traffic and sidewalk. The neighborhood now has over 100 trees planted along Meridian Street.

Keeping things how they have always been, given what the environment around it has become, is definitely challenging. In the last issue, you learned that Historic Mid North Initiative, HARMONI, received 501 c 3 status this year. This is great news as the scope of the HARMONIprojects broaden beyond MSF boundaries.

Hopefully within the next year you will see the fruits from the seed money (which MSF contributed)) 'harvested'. .

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our board who served this past year. While at first glance they may have feared a 'Reign of Terror'; However my goal as President was fairly simple. Get MSF 'Back to the Basics' of our mission. In efforts to achieve this goal we made some important administrative changes necessary to operate a successful organization. The time, talent, & resources brought by each board member are impressive and have been tireless. In addition, as President, I can share that time commitments for several of our Meridian Street Preservation Commissioners are expiring in the near future. Each of the three neighborhood organizations, MSF, MKNA, & BTNA, is given the privilege of nominating neighbors to serve on the Meridian Street Preservation Commission. All commissioners are appointed by the Governor. Anyone who understands the State Statute and is well versed in history and architecture is qualified. You should be thrilled with the MSF board as well as the MSPC panel. While separate organizations, each has been serving you and your neighborhood on a volunteer basis for many years. As the saying goes, 'it takes a village to raise a family.' We hope you too feel 'at home' in the Historic District of Meridian Street.

HARMONI UPDATE

by Kathryn R. Shorter

Phase I: Westfield and Meridian Project, *Fall fundraising underway*

This fall, each block on Meridian and many in surrounding areas will be invited to update sessions so that each resident will have the opportunity to better understand the details and impact of HARMONI Phase I. Many thanks to Tim and Paige Button, Bruce and Denise Cordingley, and Kevin and Stacey McCarthy for hosting the first three block parties to help neighbors understand the progress of HARMONI Phase I. The detail plan includes:

- Improved pedestrian protection, sidewalks
- Positive speed control
- Raised landscaped medians along the Alice Carter Park frontage
- Meridian Street Bridge improvements
- Pedestrian Crossing improvements
- Special paving for the center turn lane and intersections from 54th Street to Kessler
- New and infill sidewalks from 54th to Westfield
- New sidewalks from Washington Blvd. to Illinois on 56th Street
- Sidewalks on Illinois from Westfield to Kessler
- Improvements/amenities at Alice Carter Park and more…!

How can you help? The best way to help is to be informed. Be sure to attend one of the parties. Your financial support and leadership will also be needed. There is a 20% match of private funds (the goal for 2009 is $80,000) required for the public funding that has been designated for the project to "kick-in".

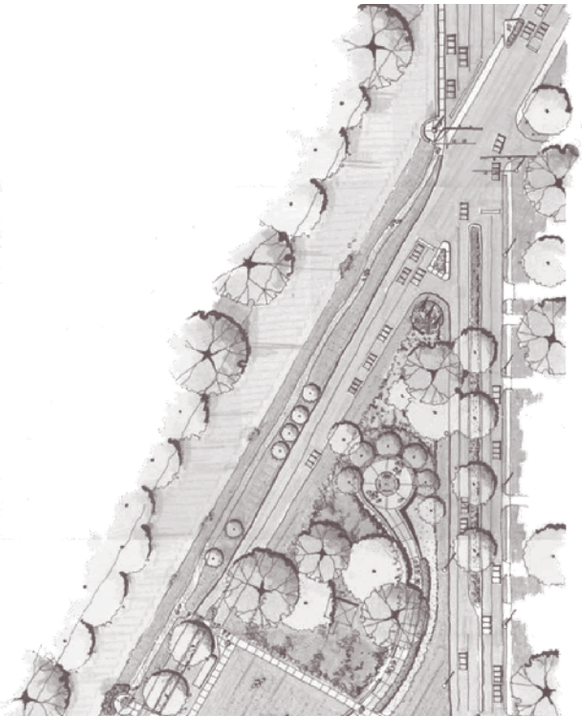
The completion of Phase I promises have a dramatic effect on the quality of life for our neighborhood and will address chronic pedestrian and traffic safety issues that have been with us for a long time. Please contact Cindy Zweber-Free at czwebfree@aol.com for further information or if you would be willing to host an event.

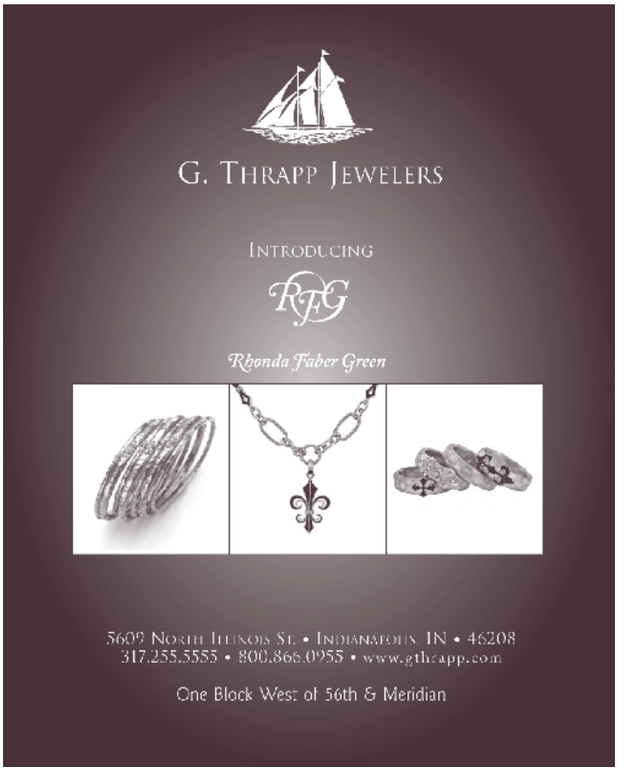
But wait, there's more! Come be a part of creating a new era for College Avenue from Broad Ripple to 34th Street, including the surrounding areas and business nodes. This is an opportunity for Midtown residents to define what we want to see in future development and reinvestment there.

Following the format that we have developed with the Department of Metropolitan Development for Envision Broad Ripple and Maple Road Visioning, HARMONI is in partnership with the DMD, MKNA, and CAN DO! organizations to work together to: reverse blight and urban flight, attract and support economic development, correct brownfields and increase safe, affordable living options, make all of Midtown walkable, bikeable, beautiful, encourage public transit options.

The results of the three visioning processes will culminate in design guidelines and sub area plans for Midtown commercial areas and ultimately form based zoning in some areas. Our goal is to be proactive in attracting the type of development and reinvestment in the area that the community prefers. For more information check www.indyharmoni.org or contact kathyshorter@gmail.com.

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





AN AGENT OF CHANGE

by John Countryman

Having moved to his current home in the Meridian Kessler neighborhood in 2000, Ed Potts brought a lifetime of experience contributing to and effecting social change. As a child growing up in Alabama, his grandparents, Clara and John Demus, were very important role models in his life. Ed served on the youth committee that provided water, refreshments and breakfast to the participants of the Bus Boycott, which introduced the world to Rosa Parks, who was a friend of Ed's grandmother. Throughout Ed's professional career he continued to follow his desire to implement change. While working in corporate America, Ed served as a management consultant to hospitals and manufacturers specializing in operational turn-arounds and improving efficiencies. Prior to retiring to spend more time with his family, he served as a department head with Methodist Hospital.

As person with a deep-rooted desire to make the world around him better, it didn't take Ed long to find an outlet for his talents within his community. Living in an urban community, he had the opportunity to observe and experience the ills, particularly as it relates to crime, often associated with these areas. His most important observation was that, while others experienced many of the same events and had many of the same concerns he did, often people were unable or uninformed as to whom to contact and what actions to take in order to bring about a positive change. In an effort to do just that, Ed joined the Public Safety committee of the Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association (MKNA) in 2000. Additionally, Ed established the Mid North Public Safety Committee (MPSC) in 2003 in the hopes of helping Indianapolis north side neighborhoods and their residents identify issues affecting their neighborhood and to take effective action to address those issues.

Of the dozen or so neighborhoods that the MPSC serves, including the Meridian Street Foundation and our immediate neighbors, MKNA, BTNA, BRVA and Mapleton Fall Creek, Ed and his team strive to serve as a funnel that provides direction and consultation to neighborhood leadership as well as civic and government agencies. This provides a forum for effective communication resulting in action and positive change for the neighborhoods and their residents. Over the last six years, Ed has gained an understanding of the diverse processes, responsibilities and functions of various agencies including IMPD, the Prosecutor's Office, Juvenile Courts, Health & Hospital and Butler University PD to name a few. In addition to learning how to navigate these resources effectively, Ed has established relationships with the organizations whose solutions he hopes to deliver to the neighborhood leaders with whom he works.

Our greatest resource as established and organized neighborhood organizations is also one of our greatest challenges…our volunteer boards. Our well-intentioned, civic-minded volunteer board members often times must juggle our civic involvement with our professional demands and family needs. This often times leads to regular turnover, which can lead to a lack of continuity in vision and direction. Ed's hope for the MPSC is to serve as a consistent resource to assist our neighborhoods' leaders and our city agencies to communicate effectively. Ed's work with the MPSC is being noticed in academic circles throughout the country. Recently, the MPSC participated in a study on community policing with IUPUI. Also, Ed coauthored a paper, with Dr. Tamara Leech, Assistant Professor of Sociology at IUPUI, on community policing. All are anticipating its publication in the near future.

In order to continue to manage and ensure that the work he has established can continue and expand, Ed welcomes your time, talents and treasures. From office supplies, such as printer paper and printer cartridges to financial contributions, Ed appreciates every bit of support.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support the work of the Mid North Public Safety Committee or to learn about its resources, Ed can be reached through the MKNA at (317) 283-1021, Ed Potts c/o MKNA, 526 E. 52nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46220, or MidNorthPublicSafetyCommittee@yahoo.com.

> " When Strangers start acting like neighbors, communities reinvigorate."
> – Ralph Nadar

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OUR OWN "LIVING" LEGEND

by Peggy Sabens

Chances are if you live in our neighborhood you either live in or near a home built by the storied and prolific home builder of the 20's and 30's, H. L. Simons. That is why we were delighted to have his granddaughter in-law, Silvia Simons-Foster and great-granddaughter, "Libby" Simons, visit us earlier this summer. They were on a cross-country auto trip and wanted to visit a home that their ancestor built. We were glad to oblige. They found our names on the MSF website (which they found most impressive-thanks, Whitakers!). Silvia is a math teacher on the outskirts of Washington, D.C, and her niece Libby is starting the 8th grade this fall. They graciously presented us with a copy of a prized family heirloom, a picture of Mr. Simons' playing golf with Babe Ruth. {Please note this picture accompanying the article).

We had a wonderful visit. They toured the house and took copious pictures including the other pictures with this article-Silvia and Libby in our living room, the Simons name burnt into a beam in our attic (which he did at all the homes he built), Libby in front of her great grandfather's home at 5151 N. Meridian and Libby on our front porch with my husband Jim and me. Thanks, Silvia.

Also, we disproved an urban legend---it was told over time that in the early 30's when Mr. Simons built a grand home off of West Kessler (now owned and lovingly restored by our former neighbors, David and Alice Berger) that he wasn't paid for it and thus committed suicide. However we found (in looking through the "Main Stem" book) that indeed he did not commit suicide, but he lived in a home he built for himself located at 5151 N. Meridian until 1945. We were pleased to learn this, as were his descendants.

Silvia and Libby have since returned to the east coast and we will always remember the pride they felt seeing a remarkable example of their ancestor's architectural mastery. Nor will we forget the pride we feel as caretakers of a home that recalls the glory days of American building.

H. L. Simons, although long deceased, lives on in his creations. A legacy not many of us can anticipate for ourselves.

HL Simons is just to the right of Babe Ruth

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IMPROVEMENTS AT 49TH AND PENNSYLVANIA

by Kathy Shorter

Watching the renovations at 49th and Penn with anticipation of excellent new "walk-to" and "bike-to" amenities for our neighborhood is exciting!

The new owners of the shopping center are doing some much needed upgrades to the buildings in addition to accommodating changes needed for the relocated daytime Café Patachou and the much anticipated evening restaurant, Napolese. Both restaurants will share a new, improved kitchen.

The work currently taking place is the demolition and remodeling of the former Hamaker Pharmacy for Café Patachou and a portion of the space most recently occupied by Emmett's. The former GB Landrigan space along 49h Street is also being completely renovated for Napolese. The roof, floor, structure and all of the mechanical systems also are being replaced.

Accommodations have been made for walking and biking with bike racks as part of the new landscape plan. Sidewalks will be wider and safer in front of the stores. The parking lot will ultimately be rebuilt and beautifully landscaped. Also, the rear of the building is being cleaned up with landscaping, removal of underground tanks, and tidy enclosure of dumpsters.

HARMONI is thrilled that Café Patachou owner, Martha Hoover, is expanding her investment at this corner. She is building on the 20-year success of one of our neighborhood's most valued destinations, Café Patachou. The shops at 49th and Penn have been and will continue to be an example of the thriving neighborhood corners that we must all strive to support throughout Midtown. One of the most distinctive aspects of Midtown is the treasured business nodes that offer charming independent restaurants, outdoor seating, and places to gather with our neighbors. We should celebrate the fact that people from other neighborhoods value these corners as well. Keeping the businesses in the neighborhood is healthy for all of us and for our property values. In the current economy it is especially critical that we remember to support our local businesses.

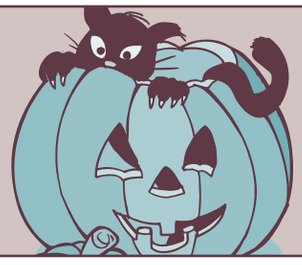
We understand that some neighbors have expressed concern about parking issues or possible trash due to visitors to this area. There has even been a tremendous sense of cooperation with the new owners to hear the concerns and solve such problems. There has been an offer from nearby lots that are only used in the daytime for use as evening parking. We hope that neighbors will work collaboratively and positively with the businesses to solve any problems should they arise. We remain confident that there will be good solutions.

Currently, there is a variance request for two items: Outdoor seating for Café Patachou and outdoor seating for Napolese.

One of HARMONI's missions is to ensure the economic health of our business corners because they are truly a reason why people choose to live in Midtown. It is up to all of us to help them thrive. We should all celebrate the success and growth of our own original, Café Patachou.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat

time as suggested by local police department, is from 6-8pm on October 31st.
Remember, be safe and always accompany your child when trick-or-treating



"As man draws nearer to the stars, why should he not also draw nearer to his neighbor?"
— Lyndon B. Johnson

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN MSF

by Nancy Whitaker

The Meridian Street Foundation Board of Directors would like to say THANK YOU to all of you who joined MSF or renewed your membership so far this year. For those of you who are not members - It's not too late – you can join at any time! Membership is renewed annually (your anniversary date is one year from the date of your last payment). Your generosity and support is very much appreciated and needed. Without membership, we would not be able to carry out the mission of the Foundation and since dues are the overwhelming source of current funds each member matters.

Membership dues are used by the Board of Directors to fund a wide range of foundation activities as well as community and social events for the neighborhood. MSF believes that communication between neighbors is an essential element of our unique neighborhood.

Your tax-deductible dues have helped fund many activities and services. Examples include but are not limited to:

- MSF Newsletter which is published 3 times a year and mailed more than 720 households in the MSF area
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt, the MSF Summer Picnic and the MSF Annual Meeting each October
- Beautification projects (e.g., "Yard of the Season" plaques, seasonal decorations on lamp posts, planting of trees along N. Meridian Street, MLK center and neighborhood parks, etc.)
- CallingPost™ phone messages to keep you aware of alerts and urgent neighborhood issues or activities
- MSF Website (www.meridianstreetfoundation.net), which provides neighbors with an easily accessible resource with up-to-date information about the community (e.g., local governmental officials' contact information, homes for sale in the Historic District, history about the District, information about the Meridian Street Preservation (MSPC), the MSF Board and MSF Committees, etc.)
- Mass emails (iContact™) sent to participating members about community information and events
- Flyers and invitations printed for community events
- Copies of the Meridian Street Preservation Commission (MSPC) Guidelines and MSPC resource documents for property owners
- Printed materials needed in Board and Committee meetings (e.g., Land Use/Historic Preservation Committee monthly meetings)

If you are receiving this Newsletter, and you are not already a member, MSF wants and needs YOU! The boundaries for the MSF area are Westfield Boulevard to the north, 40th Street to the South, the west side of N. Pennsylvania Street, the east side of N. Illinois Street, and all the side streets within. Our membership is made up of residents and business owners who pay annual dues and the board is made up of neighborhood volunteers.

The Meridian Street Foundation is organized into the following committees: Auxiliary/Events, Beautification, By-Laws, Communications, HARMONI, Land Use/Historic Preservation, Membership, Newsletter, Crime Watch/Public Safety/Traffic and Website/Database. All neighborhood residents are encouraged to participate on committees. You do not have to volunteer on a committee to become a member. Members have the right to vote on all issues brought to a vote at MSF public meetings, which includes nominations for board members at the Annual Meeting.

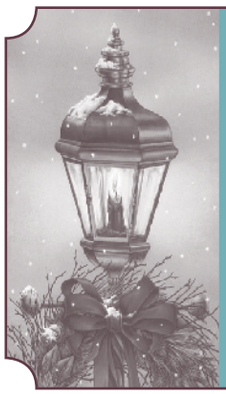
In the future, if you decide to improve your property and need to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) or a variance as part of this process, don't forget that the MSF Land Use Committee will be glad to assist you by helping to walk you through the process of going to MSPC. All agendas for MSPC hearings are posted monthly on the MSF website.

The Foundation keeps a watchful eye for possible encroachment of the residential area by commercial development and seeks to maintain the wonderful historic neighborhood and the elevated property values that result from being in such.

Hopefully, you have been a witness to recent MSF activities in the neighborhood and new services such as our email announcements (e.g., crime alerts, trash pickup changes, community events, MSF social events, property tax workshops, etc.). We welcome suggestions for future MSF goals and your involvement in the MSF.

To help ensure that MSF is able to continue to provide all of the services to our community that we have come to expect and enjoy, please use the enclosed envelope to join or renew your membership today.

Feel free to contact the Chair of Membership, Nancy Whitaker at 317.259.0978, 317.443.3680 or whitakerng@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



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MEMBERSHIP AS OF AUGUST 20, 2009

by Nancy Whitaker, Chair

A "big" thank you to our many members at the Individual or Family Level of support; your donations are essential in allowing MSF to fulfill its mission and goals. Members listed below have been especially generous in their membership contributions.

If you have not renewed your membership or joined MSF yet, please do so now, using the enclosed envelope or the membership form on the MSF website. Thank you again for your support in our wonderful historic neighborhood! (www.meridianstreetfoundation.net)

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Many thanks for your support All individuals who had paid dues within one year prior to August 20, 2009 were included. We regret any inadvertent omissions. Please contact Nancy Whitaker, Membership Chair (317.259.0978 or 317.443.3680; whitakerng@yahoo.com) if any questions.

EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING

by Roberta Lamberson

"Raindrops keep falling on my head…" and they fell…and they fell… but not even a downpour could dampen the spirits of the large number of neighbors who attended the Meridian Street Foundation's annual "picnic", July 19th (hot dog in one hand and umbrella in the other!) this year at the home of Lisa and Jeff Whorley. Some neighbors remarked they got to know more people because of the close quarters trying to keep dry—thus, the "silver lining!"

More than 100 adults and children braved the elements, shared umbrellas, took refuge in the Whorley's carriage house, consumed next-to gourmet pot-luck food and let's not forget John Klein's famous ice-cream sundaes. Neighbors got to meet lots of new friends, and had a great time catching up with old friends (the long time-no-see kind) and neighbors. As for the kids, they played in the Bounce House, rode trikes, splashed in puddles etc.--they had a great time!

Thanks to so many people for their time, hard work, delicious food, and dealing with all of the mind-boggling details that were handled with such grace and ease in the face of sudden and unplanned challenges-rain!

Those responsible for the success of the picnic were many. At the top of the list were Lisa and Jeff Whorley, who hosted the event at on short notice, Stacey McCarthy for her many hours of planning and work (the tables before the rain were an artistic experience!), Elaine and John Klein for doing "anything and everything" that had to be done, Nancy and Gary Whitaker for the technological skills they contributed; and others who did whatever needed to be done: Neil Handley, Dr. Paul Burciaga, Gaylon Melton, Len Pilarski, Bertie Lamberson, Ann and Rich Rich, Linda Gilman, Kevin McCarthy, John Peoni, Sheila Little, Marilyn Strawbridge, and Gwen Harvey.

Rain or shine--this is definitely an activity you want to put on your 2010 summer calendar. The Meridian Street Foundation annual picnic is a time to…Celebrate!

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PROPERTY TAX 101

by Raul Burciaga, MSF Property Tax Sub-committee

By the time you read this article, many of you will have received your next tax bill in the mail (or soon will be receiving it). This time around, the tax bills in the Historic District should not reflect an increase in taxes. A reminder, this is the first half of the tax bill for 2008, payable in 2009 and should begin to show the effects of the taper to the 1% cap. The next half will follow in early 2010. If you have not yet received your bill, it is available at http://cms.indygov.org/MyAssessedValue. Just enter your name and street.

Another interesting website is http://maps.indy.gov/propertyassessmentviewer/default.aspx. At this site, a map of the county allows you to compare the percentage of change in your property assessment with those around you and with the surrounding area. Zoom in and pan around to see how you compare.

While many of us experienced a significant increase in taxes in the spring of 2008, in general, the tax bills have fallen with the Governor's directed re-assessment and rebates last summer. This year the tax bills look to remain stable for the area. However, the area assessment map shows some increase in the Historic District beginning in the 49th Street block and becomes greater around the 52nd Street block then returns to the level of the rest of the area. The reason for this fluctuation is unclear.

It is this lack of clarity regarding the manner in which our Assessed Values are determined that has motivated the Meridian Street Foundation Property Tax Committee to work together with the property tax committees of Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association and other surrounding neighborhood associations in an attempt to add clarity to the process. By partnering, we hope to look at how assessments are determined from one "neighborhood" to another (how the neighborhoods are defined by the assessor's office is also unclear).

The committees are made up of neighbors with a penchant for numbers along with those with experience in the assessor's office and real estate values. We will look at "trending" and "multipliers" to see how they are used to determine assessed values. Other contributing factors are county expenses and referendums on bond issues from IPS as well as the upcoming Wishard Hospital bond issue. Our group is scheduled to meet with Mr. Matt Gutwein, President and CEO of Health and Hospital Corporation, to get more information on that topic.

All this is in preparation for hosting a panel discussion in conjunction with Watchdog Indiana.com regarding the constitutional property tax caps in Senate Joint Resolution 1 in next year's General Assembly. Watchdog Indiana.com is an online community providing Hoosiers with information about state fiscal policy. Their website is www.watchdogindiana.com for more information. The panel discussion is scheduled for December 1, 2009 with invited state legislators from both the Indiana State House and Senate. Once finalized, the MSF will notify neighbors of the exact time and place.

In general, we are working to collect and process information about our property taxes and to disseminate information to our neighbors to enable taxpayers to make informed decisions in voting and notifying legislators of our concerns.

RESTORING YOUR HOME? TRY THIS...

Before you throw out/replace any hardware because it is covered with layers of paint, try this non chemical method to remove the paint. 1. First remove the hardware from the item with a screwdriver or drill. 2. Place the paint covered hardware in a crock pot. 3. Fill the crock pot with enough water to cover the hardware. 4. Place the lid on the Crock pot. -Set cooker on medium for 8 hours. 5. After the eight hours (using a hot pad for the lid) & remove each piece using a pair of tongs. and place on thick stack of paper towels. (ALWAYS wear gloves & properly dispose of any old paint.) 6. The paint should peel off easily in one thick layer! 7. Once the paint is gone wash with soap and warm water. Use a 'no scratch' kitchen sponge for any small remnants of paint. 8. Polish or Leave it raw (This Old House, 2006)

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

By G.B. Landrigan, Realtor

North Meridian Street	North Illinois Street	North Pennsylvania Street	Cross-Streets
Number of Homes Now For Sale: 10	Number of Homes Now For Sale: 10	Number of Homes Now For Sale: 9	Number of Homes Now For Sale: 3
Number of Homes Pending: 1	Number of Homes Pending: 1	Number of Homes Pending: 0	Number of Homes Pending: 0
Number of Homes Closed: 2	Number of Homes Closed: 4	Number of Homes Closed: 7	Number of Homes Closed: 6
Average Sale Price: $707,500	Average Sale Price: $258,850	Average Sale Price: $576,714	Average Sale Price: $312,250

All statistics are from the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors as of 9/21/2009.
More statistics may be found in The Landrigan Monthly statistical report of Central Indiana at www.landrigan.com

BEAUTIFICATION

by Elaine Klein

Don't Forget to Water Your Trees

What fun it has been driving up and down Meridian Street and admiring all the beautiful trees (American Elm, Plane Sycamore, and Red Oak) that Keep Indianapolis Beautiful in conjunction with the Lilly Day of Service planted last May from 40th to 54th street. Did you know that more than 100 trees have been planted in our corridor over the last two years? That is amazing!

Just a reminder for those wonderful neighbors who agreed to adopt a tree, please continue to water (15 gallons a week) from May 1st until the first frost in the fall (usually the end of October) for three years. Further, it is very helpful to keep the tree mulched at all times while also being mindful to keep the mulch pulled away from the trunk at ground level about 3-4 inches.

Finally, a huge "Thank You" to all who agreed to do this extra work and an even bigger "Thank You" to all of you who agreed to water trees that are not on your property; Tim Buttons, Gaylon Melton, Len Pilarsky, Rob Sloan, and Marjorie Swinhart. It's not just the trees that make our neighborhood beautiful.

LAWN OF THE SEASON

by Stacey McCarthy

The properties in the Historic district are frequently vast and take a lot of work and time to maintain. Because of this, many choose to create beautiful spaces, but generally focus either in the 'front' or 'back' yard. Often the 'side yard' is overlooked. Because the home of the Citrino family is on the east side Meridian Street, yet technically the front door entry to their home faces south, it was the 'side yard' that caught our eye. The Citrino's are two-time participants of the MSF/KIB tree planting project so not only are they maintaining two young trees in their tree lawn (or public right of way) but they also planted 3-5 new trees throughout their property.

The Citrino's received the green 'thumbs up' award primarily for adding more healthy trees to their property, but that is not the only reason. As a first impression, visitors are welcomed at the entrance of the driveway, by a neat stone retaining wall & two overflowing urns of seasonal colorful annuals. A retaining wall on either side holds two nicely mulched planting beds full of attractive, low maintenance shade/sun liriope. The outer borders of pink miniature rose bushes highlight the wonderful backdrop of green grass and a canopy of mature trees extending around the front of the home and beyond. In the summertime, all that green certainly creates a beautiful palate for the focal point of the property, the home. One can only guess that soon it will explode with warm autumn colors for all to enjoy this fall.

Bridgette Ward Robeson

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Complete Home and Personal Management Services

b_robeson2@att.blackberry.net
317-255-1297

25 Years Experience
References Available

UPCOMING EVENTS

Maintaining Architectural Integrity Seminar
Monday, October 5th, 6:15-8:30pm

Speedway United Methodist Church, 5065 W. 16th St.
The seminar will include presenters will share their expertise on what one needs to consider when making home improvements – large or small.
Pre-register by Friday, October 2 by emailing oscna@comcast.net or by calling OSCNA at 243-0107

HARMONI: Envision College Meeting
Wednesday, October 7th, 5:30-8pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 526 E. 52nd St.
Come be a part of creating a new era for College Avenue from Broad Ripple to 34th Street, including the surrounding areas and business nodes.

Meridian Street Foundation Annual Meeting
Tuesday, October 13th, 6:30pm

Indianapolis Opera Center, 4011 N. Pennsylvania St.

(Located in the old Greek Orthodox Church)
All are welcome to attend the Meridian Street Foundation's Annual Meeting. After meeting, stay for a special performance by the Indianapolis Opera. Annual Meeting begins promptly at 6:30pm and is open to the public. Performance and refreshments will follow meeting. Cost for attending performance and refreshments is $20 per person (cash bar available)
If attending, please RSVP to, John Peoni at johnpeoni@aol.com

Holiday Lamp Post Bow "Prepping" Party
Thursday, November 5th, 6:30-9pm

5519 N. Meridian St., The home of Gary & Kristy Sherman
Join neighbors and friends as they "kick-off" off the holiday season
RSVP to Elaine Klein at garden006@aol.com

REFERENCE NUMBERS

Meridian St. Preservation Commission (MSPC), Chair
Bob Wilch, 327-5115
bwilch@indygov.org

MSPC, Staff
Connie Zeigler, 955-0377
conniezeigler@sbcglobal.net

Neighborhood Organizations
Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association, 925-1110

Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association, 283-1021

City Government Contacts
Indianapolis Mayor –
Greg Ballard
317-327-3601

Mayor's Action Center
317-327-4622 (4MAC)

Washington Township Neighborhood Liaison -
Catherine Moore
317-327-5380
cmoore2@indygov.org

City-County Councillors at Large
City-County Council office
317-327-4242
Ed Coleman 317-691-4505
Barb Malone 317-513-9658
Joanne Sanders 317-283-6040
Kent Smith 317-327-4242

City-County Councillor, District 9 - Monroe Gray, Jr.
(MSF area south of 56th Street)
317-327-4242 Office
317-297-1155 Home
mgray@indygov.org

City-County Councillor, District 2 - Ryan Vaughn
(MSF area north of 56th Street)
317-437-7701
rvaughn@btlaw.com

State Government Contacts
State Representative, District 86 – Ed Delaney
(MSF area south of 52nd Street)
317-232-9600
H86@in.gov

State Representative, District 87 - Cindy Noe
(MSF area north of 52nd Street)
317-232-9607
h87@IN.gov

State Senator, District 33 - Glenn Howard
(MSF area south of 43rd Street)
317-232-9491

State Senator, District 30 – Teresa Lubbers
(MSF area north of 43rd Street)
317-232-9400

Indiana Governor - Mitch Daniels
317-232-4567

Federal Government Contacts
U.S. Representative, 7th District - Andre Carson
317-283-6516 (Indianapolis, IN)
202-225-4011 (Washington, D.C.)

U.S. Senator - Evan Bayh
317-554-0750 (Indianapolis, IN)
202-224-5623 (Washington, D.C.)

U.S. Senator - Richard Lugar
317-226-5555 (Indianapolis, IN)
202-224-4814 (Washington, D.C.)

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION
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The Meridian Street Foundation is a charitable 501(c)(3) 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.