MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION
NEWSLETTER
SPRING/SUMMER 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Stacey McCarthy, President

Greetings! As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, M.S.F. serves as advocates as well as resources for you. Our New Land Use co-chairs Gaylon Melton & Len Pilarski (gaylon_melton@verizon.net or 703-628-3853) have jumped in with both feet this year. So, if you want to make changes to the exterior of your home, please call them so you are prepared for the MSPC They will help make this process easy for you. In this issue of our newsletter, you will see highlights from several Spring events as well as upcoming events. Our longtime newsletter editor, Peggy Sabens, has decided to pass the torch. We have brought her out of retirement once, so for now the challenge is finding someone to fill her position. We have learned first hand for this issue that it requires teamwork, but can be manageable. No one person can do all that Peggy has done on her own for years. However, it is critical to have a point person to coordinate & delegate duties. If interested please contact Stacey@themccarthy.com. We also welcome any feedback you have for this issue. Community support makes neighborhoods desirable places to live. The Historic District of North Meridian & other Midtown neighborhoods are finally being recognized as 'prime areas' needing improvements in infrastructure, beautification, public safety, etc. MSF is thrilled to recognize the tireless efforts HARMONI, co-chairmen Kathy Shorter and Cindy Zweber-Free. They have pulled for connectivity in our adjoining neighborhoods & traffic calming. We look forward to the 'literal' connection which will finally allow neighbors to easily and safely intermingle; hence, a better quality of life no matter what the economy looks like. Preserving the integrity of this Historic District as well as improving its surrounding infrastructure is essential to the viability of our neighborhoods and our city.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT – A SUNNY SUCCESS

by Elise Heslin, Vice President & Social Co-chair

On April 11th, the Meridian Street Foundation was proud to herald spring in fine neighborhood style with our 9th Annual Easter Egg Hunt! An event originating in the 1950's, the Easter Egg Hunt was traditionally held on the lawn of 4343 North Meridian Street, the residence of at least seven Governors. After the residence was moved to 46th/Meridian, the event fell to the wayside. For a few years a neighbor across the street from 4343 held the event, but the 'history' of an event at the Governor's residence had been lost. Nine years ago the Meridian Street Foundation resurrected the Historic Neighborhood Event at the Old Governor's residence which has been the family home of Dr. and Mrs. John Klein since the 1970's. This event is truly a "neighborhood tradition" which many neighbors look forward to each year. While this years' hunt was no exception, attendance was at an all-time high-- over 130 participants--- For the first time in nine years, Channel 13 news documented the event. The news feature showcased gracious homeowner and hostess, Master gardener Elaine Klein, as well as parents & grandparents who reminisced about their own childhood experiences hunting for eggs on the exact same lawn. As part of our commitment to Historic preservation, MSF believes this tradition that is a unique in our neighborhood and city.

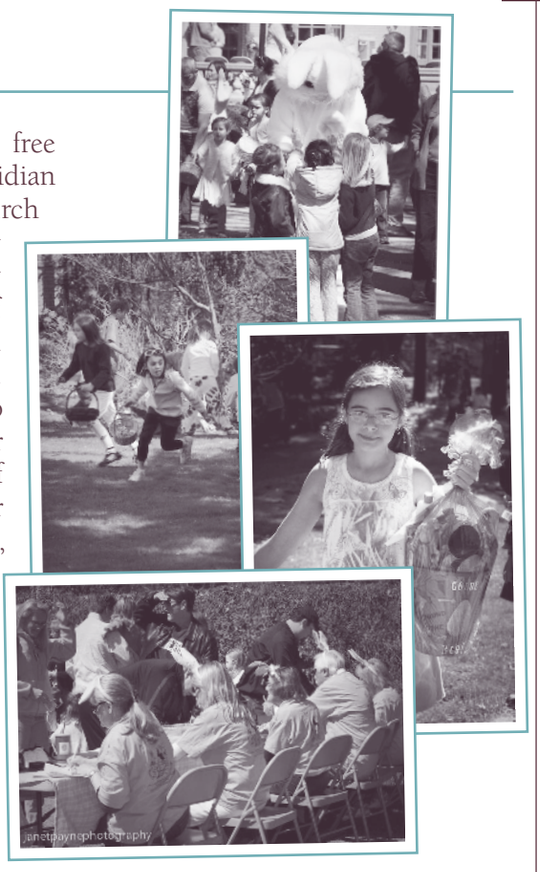
The egg hunt itself was the main event, with special congratulations going to this year's Golden Egg finders and winners of the grand prize baskets.

Other activities included craft booths, a bubble fun area, a toddler ball pit, and yummy refreshments of cookies and punch. A new addition this year was the petting zoo, courtesy of Anna and Gabby Smiley's pet rabbit and the Touloukian family's baby lambs and border

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT (CONT)

collie. The border collie even got a chance to demonstrate his herding abilities when a lamb escaped and headed toward the gate.

Although we can't forget the role the perfect spring weather played in the event's success, many committed neighbors and hard-working volunteers came together to make this year's hunt particularly memorable. Special thanks are in order for the dozens of MSF board members and volunteers from the neighborhood who staffed the hunt (you may have noticed them in bright blue t-shirts and bunny ears). Also, thanks to all who assisted in preparation at the Adult Night with over 1000 eggs working to stuff eggs and gift bags for each participant; photographer Janet Payne, who donated her superb photography services & even provided a free picture for parents; the Meridian Street United Methodist Church for use of their Easter Bunny costume, the entire Frost family and the Easter Bunny himself (courtesy of 'Frosty'); our Scout Troop 475 helpers; and Dr. and Mrs. John and Elaine Klein, who gamely donate the use of their lawn each year for hundreds of little feet. As much volunteer help as we receive for this event, we are also gratefully aware of how crucial neighborhood participation is for its success. Mark your calendar for next year¬-The event falls on the Saturday afternoon before Easter Sunday.



MSF WELCOMES NEW NORTH DISTRICT COMMANDER HOLT

By: Sheila P. Little, Public Safety Chair

Captain Robert Holt has been appointed as our new Commander of IMPD's North District. He is a 25 year veteran of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. His most recent position, prior to coming to the North District, was Commander of the IMPD's Training Academy for three years.

Holt has been promoted through the ranks as patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant and captain. He has served in a number of positions which include; patrol, canine, finance, narcotics, field training program director, and field supervisor during his career at IMPD. In addition, he has worked as a Hostage Negotiator attached to SWAT for ten years. As Training Branch Commander, Holt has trained over 248 recruit officers and managed the in-service training for all members of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

Holt has a bachelor's degree in sociology from IUPUI and is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy. He has spent much of his career working in the North District. Holt is married to Dr. Mary Schwendener-Holt and has two children.

At a Mid-North Public Safety Committee Meeting on May 1, 2009, Holt stated that community policing is expected of officers in the North District. When I asked about our Meridian Street traffic, he said that the North District will participate in handling this matter. Holt wants increased training for community policing at the IMPD academy, has requested more detectives for the North District and feels that addressing burglaries is a priority. As an interesting note, he has requested funding for application of crime statistics to help digest data as seen on television shows like NUMB3RS. The Meridian Street Foundation looks forward to working with Commander Holt in the future.

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TRAFFIC CALMING ON MERIDIAN – $600K COMMITMENT FROM CITY!

by Kathryn R. Shorter and Cynthia Zweber-Free

HARMONI Phase 1A

It was announced by the City of Indianapolis in May that $390K in Transportation Enhancement grant dollars would be assigned to the initial connectivity project at Westfield and Meridian. This project, which is HARMONI's Phase IA, is intended to improve the pedestrian and bicycle access to Alice Carter Park and calm traffic as northside commuters enter the Historic District. It will provide a significant piece of the pedestrian and bicycle connectivity that is critical to the Midtown initiative, as the Canal Path crossing on Meridian is currently very dangerous as well. It is our goal to make this a safe crossing for children as well as adults.

In order to secure City commitment, HARMONI has invested $60K to this point in engineering designs and expenses required to define the project. Central Indiana Community Foundation has invested $15K and Storrow Kinsella Associates has donated over $100K of in-kind services.

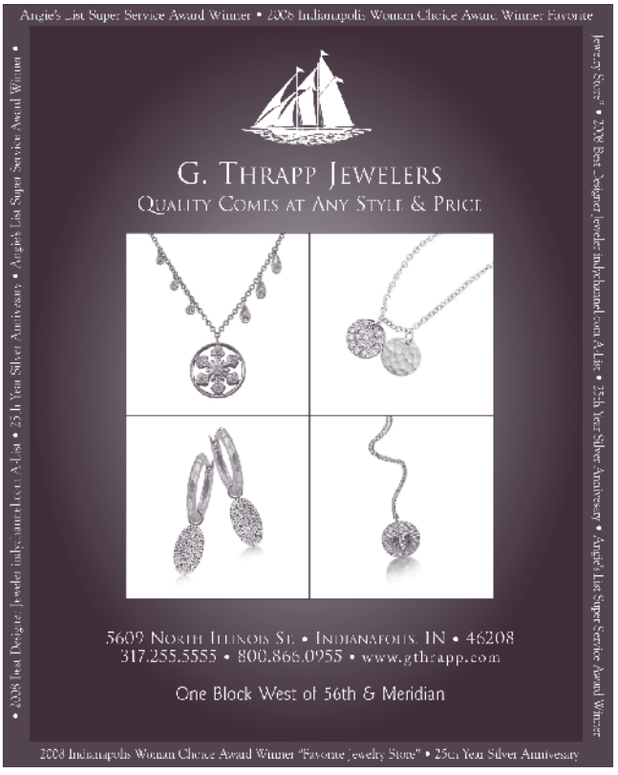
(It is important to note that all of the data collected by MSF organized volunteers last summer has been extremely useful to defining this project. Many thanks to all of you!)

Additional transportation planning dollars of $120K have also been assigned to this project, making the City's commitment (including some sidewalk dollars) close to $600K. DPW, traffic engineers, and Storrow Kinsella Associates(SKA) will be evaluating a number of tactics that will reduce speeds to either 30mph or 35mph. The City has contracted with SKA on behalf of HARMONI. HTNB engineering firm will be a key partner in the planning as well.

Urgent need: Both of the federal grants will require that HARMONI provide a 20% match. Cindy Zweber-Free is heading up an effort to host informational/fundraising block parties this summer. We need to raise $110K in cash and pledges by September. There will be a need for additional fundraising as well. If you would be willing to host any events, please contact Cindy at 727-5125 or at czwebfree@aol.com

After many years of frustration on the topic of traffic calming, we are getting exceptional cooperation with City officials and traffic engineers. It seems that a tide has turned, and that it is now understood what a critical quality of life issue we have here. There are many pieces to the "traffic calming" puzzle and all are on the table. We collectively need to act now to be sure we get results.

A big thank you to all of you who have been early financial supporters of HARMONI. In advance, we appreciate support of the neighborhood to come through with the matches that will be needed!



Additional HARMONI Updates:

501(c)(3) Designation Awarded in April

Effective in April, HARMONI, Inc. was granted 501(c)(3) designation. With this designation, it was recommended (as was always intended) that HARMONI's operations become entirely separate from the Meridian Street Foundation, to be governed by the HARMONI board. The MSF board voted in May to transfer the HARMONI funds directly to HARMONI, Inc. The HARMONI board gives a special note of thanks to Lisa Haynes, who continues to serve as treasurer for both organizations.

Note: For those of you who have pledged funds to the HARMONI account of MSF, future payments will need to be made directly to HARMONI, Inc.

Although the Phase I projects (and some of the other HARMONI projects) will be within the MSF area, many of the future Midtown projects will not be within the MSF jurisdiction.

The HARMONI board will always be grateful for MSF's leadership---under the guidance of then-president John Peoni--- in helping to get the initiative underway. It is our intent to ensure the successful completion of the entire project at Westfield and Meridian, including the Alice Carter Park transformation, working in close partnership with MSF.

Wendy Ponader and Lisa Haynes were responsible for the research required and successful completion of the application for 501(c)(3) status. Many thanks go to both of them.

HARMONI (CONT)

Economic Development

With the objective of addressing economic development issues as effectively as possible, there are a number of other undertakings with the Midtown initiative. Here is a brief summary:

Master Planning/Focus on Commercial Corridors and Business Nodes

HARMONI has been a partner in two major "visioning" efforts, Envision Broad Ripple and Maple Road Visioning (covering areas immediately north and south of 38th between the IMA and the Fairgrounds). Both efforts have been underway for many months and have engaged over 250 residents, design firm professionals, city planners, and business owners in an intensive process. (For example, the Broad Ripple team has met for twelve 2 ½ hour sessions over the past year.) The process is co-led by neighborhood leadership and by DMD, and it has included a number of outside speakers/resources as ell. It is expected that a third Visioning initiative will begin shortly, focused on the College Avenue Corridor.

Results of these processes will help define to potential investors what the residents and stakeholders would like to see in future development. Design guidelines (similar to those in some downtown neighborhoods) based on visual preference surveys and sub area zoning will be established or reestablished and will be recommended for adoption as has taken place in Indy's downtown. The neighborhoods are making it clear that they want to see buildings that are architecturally appropriate to the area, not for example fast food-drive thru restaurants.

All of the data from the visioning processes will be incorporated into a master plan for Midtown. It is HARMONI's intent to contract for a Commercial Master/Implementation Plan to be completed by year end.

If you would like to be notified by email regarding upcoming Visioning sessions, please email kathyshorter@gmail.com

NEIGHBOR REMEMBERED

by Helen O'Guinn, Contributor

Just two weeks before he died, Bill McLane celebrated his 90th birthday and ninety years of a life well-lived. Born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1919 and raised in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, Bill landed in Indianapolis when his parents moved here--just before World War II and after he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business.

Shortly after his arrival, on the eve of World War II, he met the vivacious, young Jody Welch on the tennis courts of Highland Country Club. It was the beginning of a long and lovely romance. Not long after that meeting, Bill, who had a pilot's li cense, joined the Army Air Force and was dispatched to the European front. He was stationed in Fogia, Italy, where he flew the B-17 Flying Fortress; for his service he received a Distinguished Flying Cross, and a U.S. Air Medal with three oak-leaf clusters.

After the war, Bill returned to Indianapolis and married Jody. The two had five children, four of whom survived Bill. The couple moved into their Meridian Street home in 1960 and were only the fourth owners. The McLanes have occupied the home longer than any other resident.

Bill founded McLane Insurance Company in 1949 and was an active and respected member of his profession. He was also active in many other organizations and clubs, including Woodstock Club, where he enthusiastically golfed; the American Business Club, which paid tribute to him at a recent meeting; the Lambs Club, Traders Point Hunt Club, and the Int ernational Wine Society.

An avid 500 fan, Bill served on the 500 Festival Committee and attended the race regularly, as his children do today. A fervent believer in the value of a good education, Bill helped launch Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School and his son Bill was in the first class. When Bill later went to Wabash College, Bill Sr. and Jody served on the Parent Board.

Although Bill slowed down as he grew older, he remained active in many ways. He read four newspapers daily (doing crossword puzzles in each one), as well as many magazines, including Newsweek and Fortune. He particularly looked forward to the arrival of Indianapolis Business Journal on Saturday. "He was always interested in what was going on in the world," said Jody, remembering her husband.

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LILLY DAY OF SERVICE NINETEEN PROJECTS COMPLETED IN MIDTOWN!

by Kathy Shorter/Elaine Klein

On May 20, 9,500 Eli Lilly employees wearing red "Lilly Day of Service" T-shirts began work at 7am on 50 large community service projects as part of the Lilly Day of Service---planting, painting, mulching etc. many public spaces.

Lilly established a partnership with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. to launch the event in 2008. Lilly provided all the planting material and supplies for this huge undertaking.

Last July, Lilly and KIB approached HARMONI to help identify potential projects in Midtown — including Meridian-Kessler, Butler-Tarkington, North Meridian Street Historic District and Broad Ripple. They had determined that Midtown would be an emphasis area this year if HARMONI could help organize and engage the preparation and maintenance resources required

On May 20, Midtown received the efforts of 900 Lilly volunteers who completed19 projects, including:

- planting street trees along College and Meridian from 38th Street to Westfield Blvd. (a total of 500 trees in Midtown)
- expanding outdoor areas for youth and senior use at the MLK Community Center, including exterior mural, interior mural, and beautifully landscaped grounds (with plans donated by Joe Mayes, Midtown resident, and employee of Rundell Ernstberger Associates, LLC design firm
- painting murals designed by Broad Ripple High School students along Westfield Boulevard and the Monon Trail.
- plantings, spreading playground mulch and sprucing up structures in public parks: Tarkington, Elwood & Mary Black, Andrew Ramsey, Broad Ripple, Canterbury, 61st & Broadway.
- enhancing the Governor's Residence Hoosier Heritage Garden & Grounds
- landscaping area schools, including the Center for Inquiry/School #84, St. Joan of Arc, School #70 and Oaks Academy.
- plantings along the Monon Trail and the Canal Towpath in Broad Ripple

While Lilly employees provided the bulk of the workforce,

volunteers from MSF, MKNA, BTNA, and BRVA helped with logistics prior to the event. Since last July, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. and the Lilly coordinators worked with HARMONI and this "all across Midtown" team to coordinate volunteers to help unload materials, prep areas for painting and planting, assist with ongoing maintenance of plantings (watering, weeding, etc.) and other tasks.

Many thanks to ALL the volunteers who came out to work! Thank you to Mark Adler the KIB team. A special thank you to Elaine Klein (and family) for pulling together an emergency watering team. An unexpected heat wave just following the plantings called for a team of neighbors from MSF (Raul Burciaga, Elaine and John Klein, plus two of the Shorter boys) to come to the rescue. They loaded pick-up trucks with trash cans full of water. Then used milk jugs cut in half were used to dip and soak the plantings. As the saying goes, 'where there is a will, there is a way.' Thanks for the 'Will' and Clever solution to not having a water source available at the time!!!

Beth Deane served double duty, coordinating resources from MKNA and from Meridian Street Foundation areas. Larry Fitzgerald coordinated the BTNA resources required. Stacey McCarthy continued her legendary career as "Meridian's favorite tree-hugger" by ensuring that Meridian Street placed 79 more trees. Tom Healy of BRVA coordinated many of the volunteers in Broad Ripple Village and supervised large unloading efforts in preparation for the big day.

To all Lilly employees in our area---thanks to you… and please share our thanks with your company. What a wonderful gift to Midtown and to the entire city! It was amazing to watch the plans come to fruition.

Important to note:

The following area firms donated their professional services to help in this amazing effort:

Rundell Ernstberger-landscape designs for School 84, Sidener Academy, and the MLK Center

Broad Ripple Tree Service-Stump removal

Gardens of Growth

Green Brush Painters

Many others donated their time and their employees' time as well.

BEAUTIFICATION

by Stacey McCarthy, Co-chair

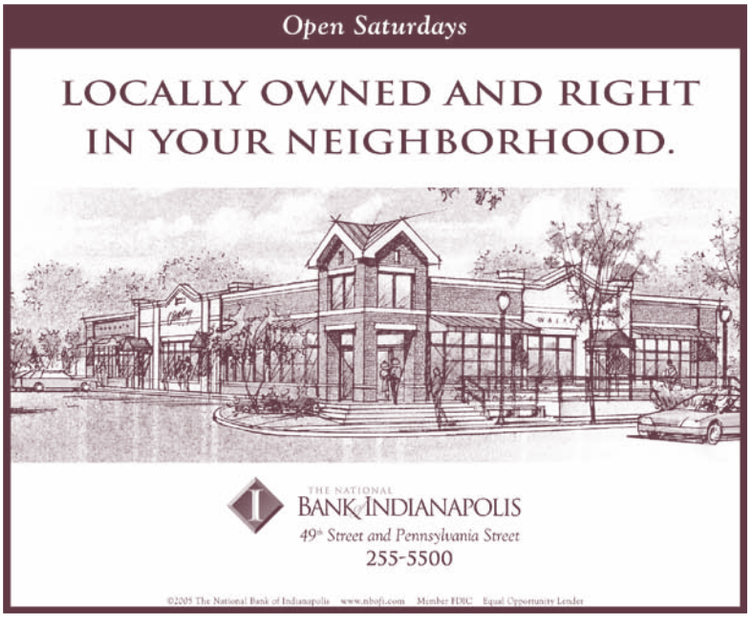
'Glories of the Snow' once again were a refreshing welcome to spring.
If you are interested in ordering more bulbs, please email: Stacey@themccarthy.com - Lawn of the Season:

4014 N. Pennsylvania-The home of Bruce and Kathy Westphal is always dressed for success. Manicured, yet relaxed and full of color. A draping planter box of annual vining plants in deep purple, fuschia, & lime green tones centers the front of the house. A mature, Japanese Maple to the left and a luscious green fern in a center urn adds attractive balance and texture to the landscape. The benches on the front stoop are inviting. Multiple pots full of annual color anchor every walkway and are strategically pepper the property. Mature trees, neatly trimmed hedges, and perfectly edged beds create a wonderful palate. After 21 years in this home (31 total in the neighborhood), we say they've definitely mastered curb appeal. While most of the work is done by The Westphals themselves, fertilizing and weeding is taken care of by a lawn service.

4226 N. Meridian-Simply put, this homeowners' lawn mimics the elegant, clean lines of its home. Since living in the home for only three years, homeowner Tim Flynn has certainly put some time into sprucing up the property. A low hedge of boxwoods borders the east side of the property and is repeated at the front patio; softening the low seating wall. Oversized, hand painted urns overflow with climbing red geraniums. Each urn rests on a brick pier at either end of the patio; two more create a nice backdrop. The green urns beautifully compliment the home's green tile roof. All of which draws the eye to this classic Mediterranean, brightly painted brick home. At the portico, smaller urns of red geraniums repeat the theme. This homeowner has created an elegant, sophisticated lawn with only a few colors; all planting materials were purchased from Jay at Sullivan's hardware. A lawn service takes care of the mowing and edging. Now that's 'keeping it simple'

"The immediate challenge, however, is not to convince people to support community but to confirm what they already know in their hearts: community flourishes best in traditional neighborhoods."

– Suburban nation, 183



MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 1, 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 your name was inadvertently omitted, please forgive and contact me, Nancy Whitaker, MSF Membership Chair (whitakerng@yahoo.com or 259.0978) and you will be acknowledged in the next Newsletter, which will list all current members at all membership levels.

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)

Sustaining Level ($225-$325)*

James Spain and Derek Theriac
Chris and Ann Stack
Lance and Meredith Mitchell**
Timothy Needler
Elliott and Estelle Nelson
Gretchen Wolfram

Benefactor Level ($100-$200)

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Adele Tyson and Evelyn Phillips
Chris and Barbara Velonis**
John Walsh
Timothy and Susan Weber
Gary and Nancy Whitaker
Jeff Whorley and Lisa Haynes Whorley**

*dollar levels on envelope are incorrect; correct levels are $225, $275, $325

**donated more than $100 in membership dues

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE BLOCK? MKNA HOME AND GARDEN TOUR

July 19-21 Twilight Tour Celebration 6pm - Midnight • June 20-21 Daytime Home and Garden Tour Noon-5 pm

Tickets & moreinformation @ mkhometour.com or Twilight Tour Information call: Stacey Kult 809-5427

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.)

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PLEASE RSVP by Thurs, July 16 www.meridianstreetfoundation.net or Leave voicemail 921-8827

*Pitch-in by last names. A-J Salads; K-S Sides; T-Z Desserts

TREE PLANTING

by Elaine Klein

Thanks to the our MSF/KIB planting day in October 2007 and the most recent Lilly / KIB/H.A.R.M.O.N.I. day of service, over 120 trees have now been planted in the right of way along Meridian Street. Thank you for your support and participation!

These trees provide many benefits for our neighborhood:

-Increase property values up to 20 %
-Properly placed shade trees can save an average of $250 / year in utilities
-Trees absorb pollution, cleaning our air and water
-Trees block wind and buffer noise from traffic
-Trees slow traffic by providing visual friction for drivers.

Don't forget ! Each tree needs 15 gallons of water every 5-7 days and keep mulch at least 6 in. away from trunk

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.