MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION
NEWSLETTER
www.meridianstreetfoundation.net
SUMMER 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sheila P. Little, President

Envisioning the Future of Meridian Street

In February, 2011, your Meridian Street Foundation Board participated in an envisioning session facilitated by Kathy Shorter. The purpose of the event was to dream and record what we would like to see for the future of the Meridian Street Historic District. I would like to share some of our thoughts with you.

Crime Watch, Public Safety, Transit

We have agreed that crime watch is essential to our neighborhood and will continue to work with the North District IMPD. In addition, we would like to be able to bike on Meridian, slow down traffic, have more stoplights, eliminate semis (18 wheel trucks) on Meridian, as well as increase the number of sidewalks and have resurfacing of the street. HARMONI has worked with the city to enhance the aesthetic nature of the street as implemented in the Meridian Street Construction project.

Beautification and Parks

We would like to see the completion of Alice Carter Park, improve Tarkington Park and get more city funding for neighborhood parks. We want to have the funds to truly light up the street during the holiday season (something grand) and have a Halloween or end of the year holiday decoration contest or festival.

Heritage

We would like to see a focus on Meridian Street Foundation history and perhaps find a way to reprint the Mainstem. In addition, we would like to record the oral histories of many longtime home owners, host a series of historic preservation discussions for neighbors and conduct walking tours of Meridian Street much like they do in other historic neighborhoods around the country. Finally, we would like to create programs to educate ourselves and others about historic preservation.

> "The purpose of the event was to dream and record what we would like to see for the future of the Meridian Street Historic District."

Land Use

The MSF Board thought that we should improve the residential awareness of land use opportunities and restrictions. We should welcome new neighbors and real estate professionals with a packet that explains the nature of MSF and that it can be a positive experience.

Neighborhood Outreach (Events)

We wish to improve participation in social events, have an active designated 'welcoming committee' for new neighbors, organize block parties, and make parking on Meridian Street easier for events. Overall, we want to have a system to meet our neighbors.

Membership and Communications

We would like to see an increase in membership and get more neighbors to participate as committee members. In addition, we would like to have better public relations with other neighborhood associations.

In conclusion, throughout this envisoning session we tried to think critically about the future of Historic Meridian Street and the significant new challenges that we may face. Nevertheless, we will continue to monitor the Meridian Street Construction Project, plan for a fantastic Annual Meeting in October, 2011 and the best holiday decorations "ever" to conclude the year. If you have suggestions about the future of Meridian Street, please let me know. (onelastnerve@gmail.com)

Save a tree, do it with E!

Get up-to-date notices of MSF events and other neighborhood announcements. If you live in the MSF area and are interested in e-notices, please send an email to **msf.email@yahoo.com** with your e-mail address and name and street address. You may always opt out of this service. MSF values your privacy. Your information is not shared or sold to other parties.

IT TAKES THE STREET TO KEEP A STREET PART II

by Len Pilarski

While talking to many of the neighbors - whether they have lived along Meridian Street for many years, are a new residents or have always dreamed of living along Indianapolis' famed thoroughfare; you hear similar themes — a strong sense of community, great natural beauty, a neighborhood with a dynamic historic context, solid property values.

Meridian Street has become what we love through years of effort from tireless volunteers and neighbors to preserve and protect it from commercial encroachment. Further, it is through a high-level of vigilance and concern for what is going on next door and down the street, as well as having a public forum in which to express support or concerns, that this historic neighborhood has remained strong.

As most of you know the Meridian Street Preservation Commission (MSPC), the nine -member group appointed by the Mayor and Governor, is responsible for reviewing requests for 'Certificates of Appropriateness' with relation to renovations in the historic district. That Commission, by law , includes an architect and an individual with demonstrated knowledge of historic preservation whose job it is to ensure that exterior improvements (that modern life often requires) are consistent with the historical integrity of our beloved neighborhood.

The Land Use Committee (LUC) of the Meridian Street Foundation has the mission of guiding fellow neighbors though the process of preparing a request (for the Certificate of Appropriateness) to the Commission including application preparation, review of the MSF design guidelines and the state law.

What you may not be as familiar with is the direct link to MSPC information located on the MSF website. In addition to the hearing schedule and deadlines, the application packet , the MSF design guidelines and the state law, over the last two years the information located here as grown to include:

- Copies of each monthly application submitted for review by the Commission
- A listing of MSPC case filings from 2000 until the end of 2010
- Step-by-step directions for submitting your application
- Frequently asked questions and answers
- Contact information for the MSPC chair and MSF LUC chair
- Contact information for reporting possible violations
- Contact information for community issues

It is now easier than ever before to know 24/7 what is happening along Meridian Street. So check it out, save it as a favorite and use it to continue to reach out and let your voice be heard for the continued overall betterment of our beloved Meridian Street.

MEMBERSHIP

by Jim Hardee

Since the Meridian Street Foundation's formation over fifty years ago, the success of the organization is due to a simple recipe.

Neighbors, coming together, to share their concerns, ideas, time; offering up their skills, talents and funds, have helped lead to the successes all around us.

Some of the many names are familiar to all, some know but a few. But every member has been a key contributor to these victories.

If you are new, now is an excellent time to join in writing a new chapter of improvement in the life of this neighborhood. If you have not been a member for awhile, now is a great time to rejoin.

Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your tax-deductible membership today. A gentle reminder for those considering joining as sustaining members, that level begins with gifts of $225 or above.

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THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF MERIDIAN STREET

by Neil Handley

Many changes are happening this summer along our historic Meridian Street; new sidewalks, driveway aprons, and pavement to name only a few, but to one family the most exciting change is the construction of their new home near 49th and Meridian.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Weller, along with their builder, John Eaton Homes, Inc., are responsible for the first new home construction on Meridian Street in over 15 years (The last single family home constructed was located at 41st and Meridian in early 1996).

Rob and Anne have loved the Meridian Kessler area for years and now that their three children have all 'left the nest' they thought it was the perfect time move back to the city. Anne quickly recounted the day she first saw the "Lot for Sale" sign at 4821 N. Meridian. And with an immediate text and picture, Rob was alerted of a possible "new adventure".

The original home on the Weller's lot was purchased by a neighbor and torn down (with the permission of the MSPC) with the intention of creating a park. Ultimately, the 'home' was donated to a church and all the materials from the home were used to help build two new homes.

As the years went by, it was clear something was missing. Meridian Street needed a new home. After one text and much planning; the Wellars broke ground on their beautiful new home and expect to "officially" join the Meridian Street neighborhood in early 2012.

Architectural rendering of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Weller's home.

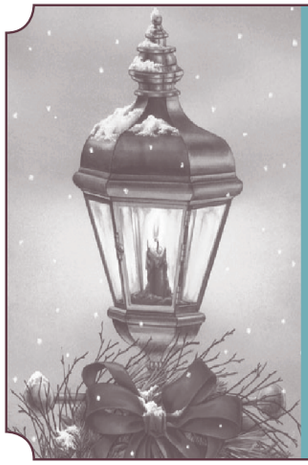
View of the front of the home during construction.

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

by G.B. Landrigan, Realtor

Statistics from 1/1/11 to 7/25/11.

	Meridian	Pennsylvania	Illinois	Cross-Streets
Num. of Homes For Sale	8	4	6	7
Pending Sales	1	1	1	0
Closed Sales	6	9	3	7
Median Sales Price	949,489	554,913	218,500	309,300



SPONSOR A LAMP POST

It's going to be that time of year before you know it! Hot Chocolate, snow covered sidewalks, twinkling lights in the trees. Each year MSF decorates the lamp posts and church doors along Meridian St. This year we hope to really make it something special!

You can help us make our neighborhood look grand this holiday season by sponsoring an historic lamp post. The approximate cost per post is $30-$40.

Please mail donations in the enclosed remittance envelope and make separately as "Holiday Lamp Post Donation". Donations can also be mailed separately to "MSF Beautification at 4343 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208

REBUILD INDY: THE MERIDIAN STREET PROJECT

by Sarah Holsapple, Public Information Officer/Department of Public Works

The Meridian Street project from 38th to 54th is a resurfacing job that will remove 3.5" of old asphalt and replace it with 3.5" of new asphalt. It is expected that this will extend the life of Meridian Street at least 15 years.

Spot sidewalk improvements of the most hazardous sidewalk along the corridor are included in the project. Inlets are being raised to help with drainage and spot curb repairs will also be included, although the typical low curb heights will generally remain the same.

Driveways are only being replaced if the sidewalks that go through the driveway are too steep for current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Since we flatten the sidewalk due to ADA, the driveway between the curb and sidewalk must be made steeper to compensate which is why it gets replaced. Driveways are only being replaced incidentally - the real reason for the project is to provide accessible sidewalks. You can see the very noticeable "kink" between the flatter sidewalk and the steeper drives in places where we've had to replace driveways. The project will be completed with a final layer of asphalt and pavement markings by mid-August.

Since the project began early this summer, many neighbors have called the MSF offices to voice their opinions and ask questions. The following points below were provided by Sarah Holsapple in response to various neighbors' comments forwarded to the office of Mark Warner, Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison, mark.warner@indy.gov.

What is the planned timeline of this project?

Meridian Street: 38th to 54th will be complete by mid-August.
Illinois Street will be complete by mid-August.

Will Illinois St. get another layer of asphalt too?

Yes, once the curb and sidewalk work is complete on Illinois Street a final layer of asphalt will be laid. When this happens, the surface will be smooth and sewer caps will be flush with the road.

What can homeowners do to prepare for work being done?

Homeowners should expect lane restrictions and delays. We ask for patience and caution when driving through construction zones.

What is the name of the contractor that the city hired?

There are multiple contractors and subcontractors working on multiple sections of road. The prime contractors are as follows:
Meridian: 38th to 54th is Milestone Contractors
Meridian: 54th to 57th is Rieth Riley Construction
Meridian: 57th to Westfield is yet to be determined
Meridian: Kessler to 86th is Calumet Civil Contractors
Illinois: 38th to 49th is Milestone Contractors

Can individual homeowners get their driveway aprons replaced at their own expense if the city did not replace?

If you wish to repair your driveway apron and you reside in the primary preservation area (i.e., N. Meridian St. Historic District) and the repairs are done with materials, patterns, and dimensions that match the original design, no Certificate of Approval from the Meridian Street Preservation Commission is required. However, if you are planning to replace or alter your driveway apron and materials, patterns, and/or dimensions to be used are dissimilar to the original design, you must obtain approval from the Meridian Street Preservation Commission (see website: www.meridianstreetfoundation.net/mspchome or call MSPC Chair, Kathleen Blackham at 327.5165 if questions) along with any necessary permits prior to beginning any work.

What should a homeowner do if their existing driveway or sidewalk, which was not replaced, became damaged during this process?

File a tort claim with the City Legal: http://www.indy.gov/egov/city/occ/litigation/pages/tort.aspx. Please have photos or other evidence of damage available and DPW will investigate and fix if indeed damage was done by the project.

Additionally, If sprinkler systems, trees or shrubs were located in the right of way (35 feet from the center of the road), DPW is not responsible for damage to those items. The property owner is responsible for removing private assets from the public right of way prior to construction. RebuildIndy representatives went door to door, notifying residents of impending work and residents were given a RebuildIndy postcard which included contact information if residents had further questions throughout the duration of the project. If residents were not home, postcards were left at their doors. If there are items which were damaged that were not in the right of way, please report them to the MAC so they can be logged and addressed.

Is there a "hotline" homeowners can call to ask questions and raise issues?

Yes, for more information about RebuildIndy visit, www.indy.gov/RebuildIndy, email RebuildIndy@indy.gov or call (317) 327.2656. You may also follow construction updates on Twitter @RebuildIndy.

Why is the curb height different on some streets than on others?

Short curb heights are the result of past resurfacing jobs that didn't remove any of the old road surface. In the past, road surfaces were not removed due to the high cost of removal. Currently, prices for pavement removal have plummeted due to technology advances and it's now DPW policy to remove the same amount of pavement that they plan to replace. We cannot remove more than we are putting back because your drives and other public roads have been adjusted over time to tie into the current road elevation. If we removed more road than we replaced, there would be a substantial bump at all drives and public roads that would need to be fixed – to fix all of the elevations problems would be cost prohibitive.

Can individual homeowners "stain" their new sidewalk to look like the old?

No. However, after a few winters, the sidewalk will fade back to gray.

What, if anything is being done, with respect to this project, to fix the drainage issues along Meridian?

Inlet faces are being raised to a proper 6" height and slight adjustments to road grades are being made, where possible, to help water make it to the existing storm sewers.

HARMONI

HISTORIC MIDTOWN INITIATIVE

Several HARMONI projects began in July. Here is a brief update:

Sidewalks and street resurfacing on Meridian from 54th-57th street

This is a separate project through Rebuild Indy that begins in late July and will be completed by October 31, 2011. This project will add brand new sidewalks and a grassy buffer area adjacent to the street on west side. On the east side, the sidewalks will be moved in approximately 4-5 ft. to allow for a grassy buffer area adjacent to the street.

New Sidewalk on the south side of 56th street from Washington Blvd. to Illinois St.

This is a brand new sidewalk.

Federal Transportation Enhancement Project on Meridian from 57th street to the canal

This project is will include a landscape median along Alice Carter Place Park, a protected pedestrian crossing with a flasher at 57th & Meridian and overall crosswalk improvements and resurfacing for the intersection at Westfield and Meridian.

All of the above sidewalk projects will improve pedestrian connectivity and safety significantly.

Finally, the fundraising for Alice Carter Place Park is well underway. Everyone should have received a hand delivered yellow envelope that included the schematic for the park and an engraved brick/bench order form. We need to raise $50,000 before we can break ground. We have received approximately $12,000 in donations for the engraved bricks and benches. If you haven't sent your brick/bench order in please do so ASAP as we would very much like to break ground in the park this fall but must have the final funds in order to proceed. You can also get the brick/bench order form at www.indyharmoni.org.

If you have any questions regarding the above projects please contact Cindy Zweber-Free at 317-727-7125 or czwebfree@aol.com.

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SUPPORT ALICE CARTER PLACE – BUY A BRICK PAVER OR BENCH

HARMONI

Dear Midtown Resident,

We need your help to fund the first phase of Alice Carter Place. We have received a $50,000 grant from the Central Indiana Community Foundation, but still need to raise $50,000 to complete the sidewalks, some initial tree maintenance, and the Point Gateway Sculpture Plaza.

Alice Carter Place will become an inspiring place for passive recreation, quiet reflection and community gathering while providing walking and bicycling connectivity to and from the surrounding neighborhoods.

We will begin work shortly but wanted to give one last chance to create a lasting memorial of your family name, a loved one, or a community group with an engraved brick to be placed in the Sculpture Plaza or a bench along the meandering path. Following are the options:

4" x 8" brick $150 each 8" x 8" brick $350 each Park Bench $2,000 each

Please send the completed enclosed form and your gift to HARMONI at:

c/o Central Indiana Community Foundation, 615 N. Alabama, Suite 119, Indianapolis, IN 46204
www.indyharmoni.org

Thanks for your generosity!
Sincerely yours,

Cindy Zweber-Free
317-727-7215 (cell)

Yes, I want to support the Alice Carter Place project with a Donation

Please send the completed form with your contribution to the HARMONI office, c/o the Central Indiana Community Foundation, 615 N. Alabama Street, Suite 119, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Name _____
(please print in all caps for clarity)

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Brick Size or Bench with Donor Plaque (Check One):

___ 4"x 8"- $150	3 lines max.20 characters max. per line	$_____
___ 8"x 8"- $350	6 lines max.20 characters max. per line (including spaces and punctuation).	$_____
___ Park Bench - $2,000	3 lines max.20 characters max. per line (including spaces and punctuation).	$_____
___ Additional Donation towards project		$_____
Total Amount Enclosed *(Payable to HARMONI, Inc.)*		**$**_____

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Line 4 _____

Line 5 _____

Line 6 _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

IHM NEIGHBORHOOD FALL KICK-OFF FEST

Saturday, August 27th, 4-11PM

5692 N. Central Ave., Parish Parking Lot

IHM Neighborhood Fall Kick-Off Fest is a fun and festive evening for the entire family. Come celebrate the IHM neighborhood and Mid-town community. Enjoy Hot dogs, Brats, Hamburgers, Pulled Pork, the Beer Garden, Kids' games, Great music and more. Doors open at 4 p.m. Admission: Adults $1 (Under 21 – FREE). Featuring music from Greta Speaks, Chad Mills, and the Dugan Brothers. For more information, visit our website www.ihmindy.org/fallfest.html.

HUNI CITY-WIDE FORUM FEAT MELINA KENNEDY

Thursday, September 15th, 6:30-8PM

Indiana Landmarks Center's Grand Ballroom
1201 Central Avenue

Mark your calendars for Sept 15 Forum featuring Mayoral Challenger Melina Kennedy discussing her visions for Community Development. The Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis (HUNI) of which our neighborhood is a member will host a city-wide Forum for Indianapolis residents to gain a better perspective on Mayoral Candidate Melina Kennedy's vision for Indianapolis – including her plans regarding neighborhood economic development, education and public safety. At the Forum, which is free and open to the public, Kennedy will present her "Vision 2021 Plan: A Plan to Make Indianapolis a Quality of Life Capital. More details along with an event flyer may be found on the HUNI website: www.HUNIindy.org.

MSF ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 11th, 7PM

5500 N. Meridian Street, Meridian Street United Methodist Church

Please join neighbors for the 2011 MSF annual meeting in the parlor at Meridian Street United Methodist Church at 7pm. There will be a short business meeting followed by a short program.

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION SEEKS RECORDS AND MEMORABILIA IN EFFORT TO CREATE HISTORY FROM ITS ESTABLISHMENT TO THE PRESENT

by A. Bernard Frechtman

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Meridian Street Foundation ("MSF") is seeking documents such as memorabilia, photographs, letters, flyers, audio/video tapes or other types of primary sources reflecting the past of MSF for the creation of a history of its activities since its founding. This will include oral histories from prior members and officers who participated in, or observed its creation and development.

MSF has agreed to donate all of these documents to the Indiana Historical Society, which in turn, has agreed to hold them for future generations of scholars. MSF intends to provide annual updates as well so that there will be a continuum of record keeping.

MSF is asking anyone having any material that can contribute to the creation of this project or any residents, former members, directors or officers who are willing to give an oral history to contact president Sheila Little at (317) 283 -1811 or at onelastnerve@gmail.com.

MSF was established in 1961 by homeowners residing in the Meridian Street area from 40th Street to Westfield Boulevard, bounded by Illinois Street on the west, and Pennsylvania Street on the east. It was responsible for the creation of the Meridian Street Preservation Commission created by the State Legislature in 1971 to preserve the historical character of the houses within this area that has largely contributed to the uniqueness of this community.

Meridian Street is the most traveled route from downtown to the suburbs and its distinctiveness has been a hallmark of the City of Indianapolis.

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION
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MSF Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 7pm

Meridian Street United Methodist Church
5500 N. Meridian Street

Please join neighbors for the 2011 MSF annual meeting in the parlor at Meridian Street United Methodist Church at 7pm. There will be a short business meeting followed by a short program.

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.