MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION
NEWSLETTER
www.meridianstreetfoundation.net
FALL 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sheila P. Little, President

As we come to the close of summer, I have a few thoughts to share about a celebration and our continued diligence for our neighborhood.

Alice Carter Place Park – a celebration

On Father's Day, June 17th, the Meridian Street Foundation and Midtown Indianapolis Inc. co-sponsored a picnic at Alice Carter Place Park. The event was catered by the Meridian Restaurant to include traditional favorites like hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ chicken, etc. Over 140 residents attended. The development of Alice Carter Place Park has been a goal of MSF and Midtown Indianapolis Inc. To read more about Alice Carter Place Park, please see: http://www.cicf.org/cicf-news/2012/may/a-park-is-born. Cindy Zwerber-Free, a MSF board member and Vice-President of Midtown was the key organizer and was presented with a commemorative "brick" in her name for her focus and dedication to the development of the park. Construction for this effort is already well underway.

Tarkington Park Master Plan

Residents of the neighborhood were invited to participate in a stakeholder meeting to share ideas and opinions on Tarkington Park. The meetings were held at North United Methodist Church. The Master Planning process was to update the 1985 Indy Parks Master Plan for Tarkington Park and to provide guidance to the City of Indianapolis and Indy Parks for future improvements to the park. Most recently, Midtown Indianapolis Inc. led a series of visioning sessions in 2010 and developed some conceptual ideas for the park. Indy parks and the Master Plan Team have been in close coordination with Midtown and are aware of all input and ideas generated through the visioning sessions. The master planning process is to continue the momentum started by Midtown and gather further input toward the development of a formal master plan.

The design workshop included a day of community input, followed by two days of work by the Master Plan Team and a public presentation of results held on day four (July 10-13). The plan presented two concepts for the future park (See: www.reasite.com/tarkingtonpark.) and we were asked to comment by August 6, 2012. The plan described Tarkington Park as a destination park. It is interesting to note that they did not include a plan as a neighborhood park. Nevertheless, I am excited that some planning will be conducted for the Tarkington Park. (see: http://www.wthr.com/story/19133826/tarkington-park-considered-for-destination-park-location) The next public meeting will be held on September 27th, 2012 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall of North United Methodist Church.

Flood Damage Reduction and Waterways

The US Army Corps of Engineers has announced the details for the upcoming public hearing for the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. It is of concern to us because of the proximity to Rocky Ripple and Broad Ripple. In addition, MSF has participated in the Reconnecting of Our Waterways effort by the city (http://reconnectingtoourwaterways.org/neighborhood/mid-north/). Please pay attention to this effort.

Guess What

My term as president of the Meridian Street Foundation will end in October-November, 2012. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the MSF efforts during my term and wish you all a great future but stay diligent!

Sincerely,
Sheila P. Little

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YOUR HOME ON NORTH MERIDIAN STREET MAY EARN YOU STATE TAX CREDITS

by David Duvall, historical architect and tax credit administrator; edited and adapted by Nancy Whitaker

Indiana Residential Historic Rehabilitation Credit (IRHRC) is available to state income taxpayer's who rehabilitate historic buildings on the Register of Indiana Historic Sites and Historic Structures. (Note: all the contributing buildings in the North Meridian Street Historic District were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986; buildings listed in the National Register were automatically listed in the State Register.)

The state incentive allows a taxpayer to take a state income tax credit for 20% of the total qualified rehabilitation or preservation cost of a project. Only owner-occupied private residences are eligible for the IRHRC. To be eligible for the IRHRC, your property must also be at least 50 years old and a structure that is *contributing* to the historic significance of the North Meridian Street Historic District. Go to http://www.meridianstreetfoundation.net/pdfs/stateregisterhomes.pdf to determine if your property was listed as a *contributing* structure in the State and National Registers.

The rehabilitation or preservation work for which the credit is claimed must conform to a Rehabilitation Plan or a Preservation Plan. To assure that all work meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, it is highly recommended that the proposed work program be submitted for approval prior to the execution of the work. Project plans and specifications will be reviewed to assure that all anticipated facets of the project meet these standards. Plans along with an application are submitted to and approved by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

The *qualified expenditures* for preservation or rehabilitation of the historic property must exceed ten thousand dollars ($10,000). Qualified expenditures include the cost of work for preservation or rehabilitation that enables the structure to be principally used and occupied by the taxpayer as the taxpayer's residence.

- Qualified expenditures do NOT include cost of acquiring the property or realtor's fees associated with the property, taxes due on the property, costs of additions or enlargement of the existing structure, paving and landscaping, and sales and marketing costs.
- The preservation work must be completed during a measuring period not to exceed two (2) years for a single phase project, or not to exceed five (5) years if the approved plan authorized that the rehabilitation be completed in phases. The expenditures also must occur within the twenty-four (24) month measurement period [sixty (60) months for multi-phased application]. Any unused portion of a certified credit that results from limited annual tax liability may be carried forward and applied to succeeding taxable years for up to fifteen (15) years following the initial credit year.
- The tax credit may be recaptured from the taxpayer(s) if the property is transferred within five (5) years after completion of the certified rehabilitation or preservation work, or if additional modifications to the property that do not meet the standards of the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology are undertaken less than five (5) years after the completion of the certified rehabilitation.

The total amount of Residential Historic Rehabilitation Credits that are allowed for each state fiscal year cannot exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($250,000). Depending on the demand for these credits which becomes manifest, claims beyond this funding allocation may be assigned to future tax years.

Therefore, in summary, the following conditions must be met:

- The property must be located in the State of Indiana.
- The building must be at least fifty (50) years old.
- The property must be listed on the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures.
- The property must be owned by the taxpayer(s), used and occupied by the taxpayer(s) as his/her/their principal residence.
- The rehabilitation or preservation work for which the credit is claimed must conform to a Rehabilitation Plan or a Preservation Plan submitted to and approved by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.
- The qualified expenditures for preservation or rehabilitation of the historic property must exceed ten (10) thousand dollars ($10,000).
- Qualified expenditures include the cost of work for preservation or rehabilitation that enables the structure to be principally used and occupied by the taxpayer as the taxpayer's residence. Qualified expenditures do not include cost of acquiring the property or realtor's fees associated with the property, taxes due on the property, costs of additions or enlargement of the existing structure, paving and landscaping, and sales and marketing costs.
- The rehabilitation or preservation work must be completed during a measuring period not to exceed to two (2) years for a single phase project, or not to exceed five (5) years if the approved plan authorized that the rehabilitation be completed in phases. The measuring period begins when physical work of construction or destruction begins in preparation for construction.

There is no fee for obtaining tax credit certification from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Information regarding the eligibility of any property for this credit may be obtained from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (contact David Duvall at 317.232.1635 or dduval@dnr.in.gov). For application forms, please contact Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 402 West Washington St., Room W274, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739; applications are also available on-line at http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3679.htm.

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RESEARCHING YOUR HOME'S HISTORY

Regardless, of what originally attracts one into purchasing an older home, i.e.: location, architectural styling, or a sense that it is just right; one quickly finds oneself wondering "if these walls could talk". In many ways they do, revealing ever-changing design tastes through paint layers and wallpaper. What an "old house person" is really asking is what living life within these walls was really like. Homeowners want to know, not only, who previously owned their home, but who may have passed through it, what events shaped the life of these former residents and how did their home figure in the social and historic nature of the neighborhood or city where it is located. For those wanting to research their Indianapolis home for answers to these questions there are options. A great starting point is reading a copy of the "The Main Stem – the History & Architecture of North Meridian Street" from the local library or at the MSF website: www.meridianstreetfoundation.net .

For those who prefer a "DIY" approach, The Historic Landmarks Foundation offers a Historic House Research Handbook at www.historiclandmarks.org/help/PDFs/HHRH.pdf or by contacting the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana at 800-450-4534 or 317-639-4534.

Another approach is to seek out the services of an avid local history enthusiast. This route comes highly recommended to those unfamiliar with the local resources available or for those with little personal time. For more information please contact Tiffany Benedict Berkson at www.homehistoryhunter.vpweb.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.

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The best portion of a good man's life - his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness.

– William Wordsworth

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THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF MERIDIAN STREET

Many changes are continuing to happen along our historic Meridian Street. Last summer brought the addition of new sidewalks, driveway aprons, and pavement as well as the construction of the first new home, in the primary MSF historic district, in over 15 years.

This past spring brought the completion of the cross walks, medians and traffic changes to the intersection of Westfield & N. Meridian Street. In addition spring brought the completion of the home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Weller and their official move to 4821 N Meridian Street.

As well as changes to: 5354 N. Meridian Street with the construction of a limestone art piece as tribute to the late Jim Sabens; 4150 N. Meridian Street with a complete interior and exterior restoration of the former Blasingham property built in 1918 ; 4061 N Meridian Street with a complete interior and exterior restoration (who really knew a house was located behind all the vegetation; 4536 N. Meridian Street yet another complete interior & exterior restoration; 4531 N. Meridian Street the completion of a rear addition; and 5110 N. Meridian Street with and extensive new landscaping plan.

Several for sale signs dot the landscape with several homes under contract or with recent sales completed. A warm welcome to our newest neighbors and deep thanks for helping to keep Meridian Street one of the best streets in Indianapolis.

LIGHT UP MERIDIAN STREET A SUCCESS

The Meridian Street Foundation's efforts during the 2011 holiday season to revive tradition of "lighting up Meridian Street" with luminaries the Friday of the Thanksgiving weekend met with great success. A special thanks to the many volunteers that helped to either assemble luminary kits, bag sand, distribute and set up luminaries all the way from 40th Street to Westfield Boulevard. (Including block captains: Nancy Logan; Sheila Little; Andy & Jan Wechter; Cindy Zweber-Free; Gwen Harvey; Nancy Whitaker; Len Pilarski; Kathy Williams; Linda Gilman; Dan Daum; Kathy Shorter; Marilyn Strawbridge; Rob Sloane; John Peoni)

Many shared how they found it a great way to not only share their pride in our beautiful, historic neighborhood, but also a great way to add a little fun and outdoor time with both local and out of town friends and family members.

The Foundation is looking to do it again this holiday season and any help you, your family and your friends could provide, in making the 2012 "Light Up Meridian Street" an even bigger success, would be greatly appreciated. This year the event will take place on Friday, November 23 (inclement weather date Saturday November 24, or a later dated posted to the MSF website)

The Kick-Off: A luminary kit assembly party will take place on Thursday, October 25th, from 6:30 to 9:00p at 4122 N Meridian Street.

The Distribution: Block Captain Assignments & Kit Distribution by Friday, November 9th.

Light it Up!: Friday, November 23rd (by dusk)

If you are ready, willing able to help, please contact Len Pilarski at 317-352-2949 or Len_Pilarski@verizon.net . Be sure to also check our online calendar for additional information.

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The greatest mistake a man can make it to be afraid of making one.

– Elbert Hubbard

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CONSIDERING A PROJECT ON YOUR MERIDIAN STREET HOME?

Whether you are a new resident to this historic area or a long time resident there a few things to consider before making any changes to the exterior of your house or property.

North Meridian Street Preservation Area Design Guidelines are posted to the MSF website, www.meridianstreetfoundation.net under the MSPC link. This is the first place you want to go when considering a project for your house or property. The guidelines are also available by contacting the Meridian Street Foundation (MSF) Committee chairperson.

A Certificate of Appropriateness must be applied for and obtained from the Meridian Street Preservation Commission (MSPC) prior to starting work. When granted, the Certificate of Appropriateness is valid for commencement of work within 18 months of issuance for the reviewed project. Application packages and additional information are posted on the MSF website.

The MSPC meets in a public forum on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm at the Meridian Street United Methodist Church to hear and vote on homeowner petitions regarding changes they wish to make to their properties. Applications before the MSPC are posted to the Meridian Street Foundation's website for public review. Interested residents living in the North Meridian Street Preservation Area are encouraged to attend the hearings and voice their support or concerns for a pending Certificate of Appropriateness application.

The MSF Land Use committee is available to answer questions and provide guidance to homeowners going through the application and approval process. The flow chart included in this newsletter is a great reference tool to keep handy and offers step-by-step guidance when considering a project on your North Meridian Street home.

Meridian Street Foundation Land Use Committee looking for new members

The MSF is looking for interested parties to join the Land Use Committee. This committee is set up to provide direction to homeowners considering a project on their home as well act as a voice for the Meridian Street Foundation for pending applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness before the MSPC. This is a great opportunity to not only meet your neighbors but an easy way to give back to your community. If you are interested in becoming and active member of the MSF LUC please contact chair Len Pilarski at 317-352-2949.

REMINDER

As election day comes closer candidate signs will become more and more prevalent along our streets. If you choose to display signs (of any kind) please remember to place them in your yard and not in the boulevard (area between sidewalk and street). Placing signs in boulevards is a traffic hazard and is a violation of municipal Indianapolis code. Be aware that city Code Enforcement may remove these signs and may discard them without warning. Thank you for your cooperation.

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REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

by G.B. Landrigan, Realtor

	Meridian	Pennsylvania	Illinois	Cross-Streets
Num. of Homes For Sale	9	3	3	1
Pending Sales	3	2	1	0
Closed Sales	9	11	7*	9
Median Sales Price	618,486	565,932	313,643	318,822

**Does not include one irregular pending*

Data provided by the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors. This information does not include sales conducted by private parties. All information is thought to be correct but is not guaranteed.

DATE SET FOR THIRD ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Save the date of Saturday, November 10 and Sunday, November 11, 2012 for the third annual Midtown Holiday Home Tour.

Midtown has revealed that the tour will showcase two homes in the Watson/McCord neighborhood, one on Meridian Street and two in Butler/Tarkington. The Riviera Club will once again host the Midtown Holiday Market. The Market features local merchants offering one-of-a-kind items and handicrafts perfect for gift-giving. The market will also include live music and fresh food, providing a great gathering spot to relax between visits to the tour's festively decorated homes.

The Midtown Holiday Home Tour brings out the best in our richly diverse area. Homeowners open their unique homes, florists donate their time, talent and floral décor, and neighbors volunteer on the committee as hosts in each of these homes making it possible for the entire community to enjoy this special event.

Get out that pencil and mark your calendar for November 10 and 11. (There's no conflict with the Colts, who play an away game the evening of November 11.)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MSF BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 11, 7:30-8:30PM

Meridian Street United Methodist Church
Library, lower level
5500 N. Meridian St.

NORTHSIDE NIGHTS RESTAURANT WEEK

September 11-23

Various restaurants throughout Indy

Participating restaurants will offer a pre-fixed dinner menu of either $30 per person or $30 per couple. Visit www.northsidenightsindy.com for a list of participating restaurants.

TARKINGTON PARK MASTER PLAN MEETING

September 27, 6:30PM

Fellowship Hall, North United Methodist Church

LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 8, 6:30-8:30PM

4122 N. Meridian Street

MSF ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 9, 6:30-9:00PM

The Woodstock Club
1301 West 38th Street

Join us for the Meridian Street Foundation's Annual Meeting at historic Woodstock Club. Indiana landmark's Suzanne Stanis will share tips regarding "Connecting with your home: Discovering your house's history". This is a gret opportunity to connect with your friends, your home and your neighborhood. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6:30-7:30 folowed by a brief business meeting from 7:30-8:00 and ending with the guest speaker from 8:00 to 9:00 (including Q & A).

Please RSVP via the www.meridianstreetfoundation.net by September 30th or by calling 608-3357.

MIDTOWN HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

November 10-11

The Midtown Holiday Home Tour brings out the best in our richly diverse area. Homeowners open their unique homes, florists donate their time, talent and floral décor, and neighbors volunteer on the committee as hosts in each of these homes making it possible for the entire community to enjoy this special event.

For more information visit: 2012midtownholidayhometour.eventbrite.com

Tickets are $12 in advance, $15 at the door

Student ticket price is $5 in advance, $8 at the door.

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MSF Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 9, 6:30-9:00PM

Join us for the Meridian Street Foundation's Annual Meeting at historic Woodstock Club. Indiana landmark's Suzanne Stanis will share tips regarding "Connecting with your home: Discovering your house's history". This is a gret opportunity to connect with your friends, your home and your neighborhood. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6:30-7:30 folowed by a brief business meeting from 7:30-8:00 and ending with the guest speaker from 8:00 to 9:00 (including Q & A).

Please RSVP via the www.meridianstreetfoundation.net by September 30th or by calling 608-3357.

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.

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