



West Central Neighborhood Association

WCNA Newsletter

2005, Summer

From the President - VOTING RIGHTS

*"To be considered a voting member or designee, an individual member, business or organization shall have paid dues for the current fiscal year; or in the case of a January meeting, have paid dues for the prior fiscal year and have attended at least three (3) of the immediately preceding twelve (12) regular membership meetings **or neighborhood sponsored events. Any combination of meetings or events shall serve to qualify a member for voting status.**"*

This quote is from the recently revised by-laws of the West Central Neighborhood Association. My reason for revisiting this subject was prompted by a conversation with an ex-member who felt there should be no attendance requirement to vote for a paid up member. He stated further that he was aware of others, beside himself, who don't belong to the organization for this reason. Since there very well could be some level of resistance to join because of this issue, further background and explanation is in order.

I remember well the lengthy discussions that took place during a number of meetings with the by-laws committee on this one issue. Jill Downs, our

research specialist, researched other association by-laws to provide the committee with a number of models. The committee felt those with some degree of recent attendance at association meetings would be best able to render an educated decision on possibly complex or emotional issues.

As may be noted above in the bold print, the committee expanded opportunities for members to have association participation beyond "regular" meetings and "earn" voting rights. Examples of such may include, but are not necessarily limited to: serving on the home tour committee or any other committee, delivering the newsletter, volunteering for home tour activities, clean-up activities, planting trees etc. This provision recognizes the reality that some members may have other commitments when the association normally meets.

Finally, your voice can still be heard even without voting status. You are welcome to comment on issues of concern and even participate in a discussion on a motion before a vote is taken. After all, it is the impact of the better argument that more often decides the outcome rather than the act of voting itself.

Larry Coddling

Business Open House

Thursday May 20th we held our first Business Open House. In spite of threatening weather, it was a very enjoyable evening and a great introduction to our neighborhood business proprietress. Many thanks to those businesses who participated: Dennis Floyd and Terry Bartholomew at **Dreks'**, Cara Gerbers at **Urban Chic Designs**, Corene Painter at **Home Grown Bead & Candle Shoppe**, Diane Groenert at **Art Up**, Faith Harless at **BeadRageous**, Jim and Janelle Martin at **Sage Traders**, and Lora Goeglein and Ron at **Antiques on Broadway**. Thanks, also, to those of you who supported the event.

Trader Joe's Update

In the Spring issue of the WCNA newsletter, it was reported that the WCNA had started a letter-writing campaign to entice the Trader Joe's grocery store company to open a store in the former Firestone building on W. Jefferson Blvd. While it is not known how many letters were actually sent, response to this campaign was very positive. However, despite our efforts, Trader Joe's has informed us that Fort Wayne is not densely populated enough for them to come here. The WCNA is no longer spearheading this effort, but isn't necessarily discouraging people from writing letters to Trader Joe's. If you would like more information on this, contact Jill Downs at 385-WEST.

Tours of Fort Wayne

Gardens, Historic Houses, Parks and Downtown Featured

"Inside the Garden Gate" Garden Walk - Saturday, June 25, from 9 AM to 4 PM. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$7 the day of the tour. Call the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory at 427-6440 for more information.

Illsley Place / West Rudisill House and Garden Tour - Saturday, June 25, from noon to 5 PM. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of the tour. Call ARCH at 426-5117 for more information.

Historic park tours - ARCH, Inc. will be offering guided tours of three historic Fort Wayne parks: Memorial Park (July 7), Lakeside Park (July 14), and Foster Park (July 21). All tours begin at 9 AM and will last approximately 90 minutes. Free. Call ARCH at 426-5117 for more information.

Three Rivers Festival Trolley Tour - Part of Senior Day of the Three Rivers Festival. Tours are of the West Central neighborhood. July 13 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Call the Three Rivers Festival at 426-5556 for more information.

Downtown walking tours - Every Wednesday starting at 10 AM from now until September 28, 2005. Meet at the Barr Street Market between East Wayne and East Berry Streets. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$2 for kids ages 13-18, and free kids age 12 and under. Call ARCH at 426-5117 for more information.

West Central Neighborhood House and Garden Tour – Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11 from 11 AM to 5 PM. Call the WCNA at 385-WEST for more information.

Dear Councilmen:

Imagine my surprise upon hearing that you have dedicated \$125,000 toward the restoration of the pond at Swinney Park! As you are probably aware, Swinney Park is an important recreational and cultural area for the residents of the West Central neighborhood.

Following the release in 2002 of the Swinney Park Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), some members of the West Central Neighborhood Association (WCNA) created the WCNA Parks Committee to help realize the goals of the CLR. The committee and other WCNA members have since worked to rehabilitate overgrown areas of Jaenicke Gardens and participated in each Great Tree Canopy Comeback. Also, with the help of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the WCNA secured a feasibility study to construct a pedestrian bridge across the St. Mary's River connecting the east and west sides of the park.

The WCNA Board of Directors and I would like to thank you for the generous gift you have given our neighborhood and the Fort Wayne community.

Sincerely,

Laurence W. Coddling

President

West Central Neighborhood Association

From a letter to City Council Members March 25, 2005



Vincent



Master-Don-Pablo

West Central Artists Embellish Mastodons

In case you didn't notice, Fort Wayne was overrun with mastodons in early May! Not real mastodons, of course, but fiberglass replicas painted by dozens of area artists and interested organizations and people in celebration of Indiana University - Purdue University at Fort Wayne's (IPFW) 40th anniversary.

Two West Central artists and students from Washington Elementary School participated in the project. Jody Hemphill Smith of Castle Gallery painted a mastodon in memory of West Central resident Paul Provost. Provost came to IPFW in 1974 where he was an associate professor and the first full-time anthropologist in the Anthropology Department. He unexpectedly died in December of 2003. Smith included images of four cultures Provost was involved with in her mastodon design. The cultures are the Nahua (modern Aztecs) of Mexico, Shipibo of the Peruvian Amazon, Tibetans of the Himalaya region of northern India, and Australian Aborigines. The mastodon, called "Master-Don-Pablo," is located on the West Side of Headwaters Park on North Clinton Street. Artist Teri Marquart painted "Vincent Van Mastodon" for Brilljent, LLC. Brilljent, LLC owner Kathy Carrier had taken art classes from Marquart and remembered her when selecting the artist for her company's mastodon. "Vincent" is located in Freimann Square at Main and Clinton Streets. The Washington Elementary School students painted "Cave O Don," sponsored by the Rotary Club of Fort Wayne, which is located at the school.

Other mastodons known to be roaming the West Central neighborhood are:

- Masto-Downtown 1794-Present
- Histor-o-Don
- MidEastoDon
- Mastodonna Appleseed
- Masto-Tom
- Mastoduck
- Dollar Don
- Trojan Don
- Masto-O-Green Build Initiative
- Mastodonna Hawk
- Lizzadon
- Ursula

Apologies to any West Central artist or mastodon that was missed.



Shelby and her wonder dog Shadow try to solve the mystery of the missing mastodon at Washington School

Items of Interest

WCNA Garage Sale

The WCNA garage sale will be held on Saturday, July 9, from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Truck Ordinance

The latest version of the truck ordinance has West Washington and West Jefferson Boulevards designated for local deliveries only. See article at <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/news/11560628.htm>.

Flood Control

The last of the initial flood control meetings were held last week. Based upon the objections from several West Central residents to a proposed flood wall along Thieme Drive along with suggestions by the residents for alternative means of flood control, the City has said that they realize the wall is perhaps not the best solution and will seriously look into other options.

Slate Tiles

Need any slate tiles for your roof repair? Contact Miriam Larmore at 422-2203. Apparently she has a large quantity stored in her basement that she would like to get rid of.

Upcoming West Central GREEN TEAM Projects

Attention volunteers! This year we will be doing **GREEN TEAM** projects at different sites throughout the neighborhood. We are planning to meet on the first Saturday following a West Central Neighborhood Association meeting. All the dates begin at 9 AM. The dates will remain the same, but the site could change from month to month. We will notify you by email postcard or telephone in plenty of time regarding where to show up. You can look for **GREEN TEAM** project signs posted near the target sight.

So please mark your calendar to reserve the following important dates for these projects.

June 25, July 23, August 20, September 24, October 22

Don't forget to bring your yard work equipment; gloves, clippers, rakes, power trimmers, shovels, trash bags, etc. and your enthusiasm to make the **WC Green Team** projects the best they can be!



Emmanuel Lutheran Food Pantry

Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 917 West Jefferson has a food pantry open to the neighborhood on the third Thursday of each month from 4:00-5:00 PM. Our next date is June 16. If you have questions call Lana at 423-1369.

ESM Summer Basketball Camp

Emmanuel St Michael Lutheran School will be hosting a basketball camp July 18-22 from 8:00-12:00 for those children going into the 3rd-8th grade. Sign-up forms are available in the Emmanuel church office at 917 West Jefferson. The cost of the camp is \$50 and registrations need to be in by June 8th. If you have questions call Josh at 580-2528

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Street Tree Program

Here is a tidbit of info on the City's website:

www.cityoffortwayne.org/neighborhoods2/handbook/trees.htm

This link www.cityoffortwayne.org/planning/sttree02.pdf will bring up an application, although it says "2004" on it. I don't know if it makes a difference. Jill

Important Dates

WCNA Meetings: 6/20, 7/18, 8/15, 9/19 - 7pm at Wellspring, 1316 Broadway

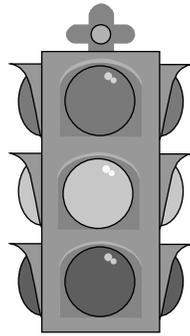
Recycling Dates: week of 6/5, 6/19, 7/3, 7/17, 7/31, 8/14, 8/28, 9/11, 9/25

Tour Committee: 6/21, 7/19, 8/16 7 PM at 1004 W. Washington Blvd. All are welcome to participate.

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

College Street and West Jefferson Boulevard Traffic signal

Between the hours of 10:00 PM and 5:30 AM, this traffic signal will flash red at College Street and yellow at West Jefferson Boulevard.



Endangered West Central Buildings

Two endangered West Central buildings are still for sale to someone who will rehabilitate them. The former Firestone / McMahon Tire building at 502 West Jefferson Boulevard was built c.1928. It is on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource of the West Central National Register Historic District. Tax credits and brownfield assistance may be available to help fund its rehabilitation. The Alamo Apartments building at 919 Webster Street was built c.1910 and is for sale for \$1. It needs to be moved from its current site in one year or it will be demolished to make way for the new plaza at the downtown library. Call Jill Downs at 385-WEST for more information on either of these buildings.

Important City Phone Numbers

Animal Control

427-1244

City Utilities

427-1234

Drug Tip Hotline

427-1262

Garbage/Recycling Collection

427-1270

Neighborhood Code Enforcement

427-1324

Neighborhood Specialist

Ken Nicolet 427-1122

Parking Control

427-5050

Police (non-emergency)

427-1222

Police Liaison Officer

427-1692 Liza Thomas

Preservation Planners

427-2160 Don Orban

427-2161 Creager Smith

Street Department

(leaves, potholes, snow)

427-1235

Streetlight Maintenance

427-1236

Weed Control

427-1329

Zoning

427-1324

City Councilmen

Tom Hayhurst (District 4)

432-8418 / tom.hayhurst@verizon.net

Tim Pape (District 5)

423-9411 / tmp@carsonboxberger.com

Sam Talarico, Jr. (At-Large)

485-2608 / sjt@barretlaw.com

John Shoaff (At-Large)

459-0221 / jshoaff@proparkwest.com

John Crawford (At-Large)

485-5480

(260) 422-9421



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Fort Wayne, IN 46802

The West Central Neighborhood Association (WCNA)

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Fort Wayne, Indiana 46867-3151
(260) 385-WEST
www.westcentralneighborhood.org

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membership@westcentralneighborhood.org

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Jill Downs 385-9378
jill.downs@westcentralneighborhood.org

Message Board

The main page of the WCNA website offers a Message Board feature to share your views and opinions with others. It's also a good way to ask for or offer help and suggestions. Whatever message you leave can be viewed and replied to by other visitors to the site.

General Membership Meetings

General membership meetings of the WCNA are held on the third Monday of every month at 7pm at Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, 1316 Broadway.

Advertisement Guidelines

The WCNA prints four newsletters per calendar year with a circulation of 1600 per issue. WCNA business members - receive 1 free, business card-sized ad in each newsletter of the calendar year after dues are paid. Other advertisers - business card-sized ads are \$25 per newsletter. The WCNA does not provide typesetting services. Please submit a current business card, JPEG or PDF file or camera-ready artwork. Call 385-9378 for more information.

Make checks payable to WCNA and mail to:
WCNA
PO Box 13151
Fort Wayne, IN 46867-3151



"For a long time the WCNA has been concerned with the tires, trash, questionable activities, and concealment by excess vegetation on the GE parking lots near Moody Park. In early February, WCNA representatives Jill Downs, Jack Stark, and Tom DeLong, a GE retiree, met with GE managers to present our concerns and appeal for GE actions to improve the lots.

GE responded positively and a plan was developed to undertake a joint GE / WCNA effort to make short and long-term improvements to the lots. On April 22 about 75 GE employees including top-level Fort Wayne managers and Senior Elfun GE retirees worked all day in a cold rain to trim trees, chip limbs, clean up trash, and spread mulch. On April 30 the WCNA Green Team supported by a GE Bobcat worked to do additional trimming along Leykauf Street and to spread mulch around the perimeter of the lots.

GE funded the major efforts undertaken to date and they are committed to continuing improvements and better maintenance of the lots. Over the long term the WCNA would like to see the lots turned into open green space, but more time and effort will be required to persuade GE of the need for and wisdom of this course of action. The WCNA especially appreciates the efforts of all of the volunteers as well as GE's sponsorship. We look forward to continuing cooperation with GE."

Tom DeLong

Sheridan Court Apartments



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A Weed Is a Plant Whose Virtues Have Not Yet Been Discovered

The technical definition of a weed is a plant that is growing where it is not wanted. Before you get spring fever and start violently destroying the weeds in your yard with reckless abandon, consider the messages the weeds are trying to give you. Weeds are Nature's way of teaching us.

The primary value of weeds is their ability to reveal information about the properties of our soils, specifically their nutritional status, pH, and presence of hardpan.

Weeds protect our topsoil from the eroding forces of rain, wind and sun. By providing cover vegetation, weeds enable beneficial soil animals to be active at the surface. The soil animals deposit their nutrient-rich feces and act as biological control agents against various pests.

The extensive root systems of weeds penetrate deep into the subsoil, breaking it up to enable less vigorous roots of other plants to penetrate further into the soil. By breaking up the subsoil, drainage and aeration are improved. The deep penetration by their roots allows the weeds to accumulate various minerals from the subsoil and transport them to the soil surface.

Besides being indicators of the presence and quality of ground water, weeds also are used as food and pharmaceuticals. Weeds are prized by herbalists as home-grown medicinals.

Weeds, which accumulate different elements, are used by prospectors to determine the location of rich mineral deposits. However, before rushing out to apply for a Special Use Variance to open a mine in your front yard, consider your options.

Weeds are our frontline troops which nature uses to repair damaged soil. One of nature's fundamental rules is stability through biodiversity. Increased biodiversity and good soil fertility maintenance solve almost all weed problems.

If you dispose of the weeds without amending the soil, the next problem you will have is pests. The weeds & pests arrive because of the signals the plants in your yard have emitted.

How can that be? These vexations to the spirit are invited guests!?! Absolutely. Weeds are the result of soil management decisions and the defying of nature's principles. Your plants invite the "enemy" weed or pest by sending out an attracting frequency, in essence crying out for help because the plants are either starved for nutrition or weakened by resulting disease.

Specific weed families reveal information about the acidity, drainage, texture, organic matter, and mineral deficiencies or surpluses. The presence of sorrels, docks & hawkweeds indicate an acid soil. Field mustard, morning glory and chamomiles indicate crust formation or hard pan in the soil.

Buttercup and dandelion follow human steps and cultivation. An increase in weeds in the summer and fall flowering class is often a symptom of decrease of fertility and loss of humus. Weeds with deep roots are trying to bring minerals to the surface.

The addition of humus (compost) will usually provide a complete cure. If you do not have compost, add specifically what your yard needs. Rather than purchase standard chemical fertilizers, consider having an energetic analysis of your soil to determine exactly what minerals you may be missing. And, if you haven't already begun, get busy composting. If you must be rid of the messengers, at least add them to your compost pile and be certain that compost properly heats up enough to destroy the weed seeds.

All of our problems are a key to the underlying matter in which they take root. Terrain analysis provides a picture worth thousands of words. By looking at our behaviors, we can sometimes get to the core issues of our lives.

Weeds and pests do not arise because of deficiencies of pesticides and herbicides in the environment any more than headaches result from the lack of aspirin in our bloodstreams. We get headaches because of the way we conduct our lives and we get weeds and pests in our gardens because of the way we manage them.

Article written by Judy Cole. Questions regarding this article and natural resources may be addressed to: toyourhealth23@aol.com

Wood Window Restoration Workshop

Don't let the replacement window salespeople trick you into thinking you need new windows. Original windows are a major character-defining feature of historic homes and should be preserved if possible. Ron Zmyslo, Director of Restoration Services at from Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, will be conducting a wood window restoration workshop on Saturday, June 18, from 8:30am to noon. It will be held at the McCulloch-Weatherhogg House at 334 E. Berry St. Cost is \$10, and you need to register by June 11 by calling ARCH at 426-5117.

**West Central Neighborhood Association
2005 Membership Application**

Individual Membership: \$10.00

Business Membership: \$50.00 (receive 1 free, business card-sized ad in each newsletter
of the calendar year after dues are paid)

Please Make Checks payable to:

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