



West Central Neighborhood Association

WCNA Newsletter

2006, Fall

24th Annual West Central Neighborhood House & Garden Tour

Mark your calendars for September 9 and 10 for the annual West Central Neighborhood House and Garden Tour! Please join in celebrating the continued preservation and revitalization of our wonderful historic neighborhood. This year's tour includes seven private homes, one bed & breakfast, a church, a theater, the Swinney Homestead, and one individual garden.

Also featured during the tour is the West Central Arts Fest showcasing neighborhood visual and performing artists. Our visual artists, specializing in painting, house portraits, pottery, beaded jewelry, homemade candles, and painted furniture, will include: Stacey Reeves, Paige Kagin, Karen Moriarty, Matt Presswood, Teri Marquart, Corene Painter, Diane Groenert and Cindy Husar. Our performing artists this year are: guitarist Matt Sturm, jazz vocalist Lauren Nieman, Melissa Junkin, a veteran of both the Civic and Arena Dinner theaters, classical violinist Jesse Hawkins and bands Grateful Groove, The Brown Bottle Band, and The Distractions.

Sentimental Journey will be offering free horse-drawn carriage and wagon transportation.

St. Joseph Hospital sponsors the tour.

The Tour stops include:

1424 West Jefferson Boulevard - Swinney Homestead
1104 West Jefferson Boulevard — house
827 West Jefferson Boulevard — house
819 Wilt Street — house
805 West Wayne Street – Worthington Mansion B&B
501 W. Berry Street – Plymouth Congregational Church
719 Rockhill Street – Arena Dinner Theatre
1235 West Berry Street — garden only
1127 West Wayne Street — house
1209 West Wayne Street — house
1202 West Washington Boulevard – house & garden
1333 West Washington Boulevard – house & garden

Ticket prices: adults \$10 each until September 8, \$12 each on the days of tour. Children age 12 and under are free.

Advance ticket sales begin August 28. They will be available at the following Fort Wayne locations:

Antiques on Broadway 1115 Broadway
Neuhouser Nursery 8046 Stellhorn Road
Neuhouser Garden & Gifts 4605 West Jefferson Blvd.
Umber's Ace Hardware stores
Tower Bank locations

Tickets on tour days will be available at:

The Swinney Homestead 1424 West Jefferson Blvd.
St. Joseph Hospital plaza 700 Broadway

For more information, call (260) 385-WEST or log on to:
www.westcentralneighborhood.org

Message from the President

WCNA continues to try to maintain the integrity of our housing stock. As this newsletter goes to press, we have a firm offer on the 1134 Nelson house that we rescued from demolition as featured in our last newsletter. We are still working with Neighborhood Code Enforcement to save another worn but solid house from being demolished.

We are a fully certified Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), a HUD program administered by the city, which promises to allow us access to rehabilitation funds for qualifying neighborhood projects. The WCNA board and Jill are currently learning the ropes on this rehab tool. Our goal is to keep the residential parts of West Central intact and healthy.

Anyone who remembers the East Central Neighborhood of 30 – 40 years ago will recall that it's housing was very similar to that of West Central. Lack of commitment to maintaining housing pretty much gutted East Central. WCNA, along with many concerned individuals, have fought this trend for decades and our current efforts continue a long tradition.

West Central in the News

Apparently the media just can't get enough of the West Central neighborhood and all it has to offer! The July issue of *Fort Wayne Magazine* featured an article called "**Neighborhoods of Distinction.**" A photograph of a West Central home graced the cover while several other homes appeared alongside the article. The August issue of *Fort Wayne Living* featured a story on **Home Grown Bead & Candle Shoppe** and **BeadRageous**; both located in West Central. In the July 30th issue of the *Journal Gazette*, there were two stories involving the neighborhood. One story was about artists who paint house portraits, and West Central's **Diane Groenert** was interviewed. Another story talked about tea houses in the Fort Wayne area and mentioned the newly opened **Peony Tea House** located in West Central. What a rich and diverse neighborhood this is!

Home and Apartment Rentals and Sales Listings on the WCNA website

The WCNA has begun offering a new website service to those property owners within the West Central neighborhood who have residential places for rent or for sale that they would like to advertise. This is also a good place to go when looking for your own place to rent or buy! More information on this service may be found by logging onto

<http://www.westcentralneighborhood.org/PolicyandFees.html>.
For now, the WCNA is offering this trial service for *free*.

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Fort Wayne Locations

200 W. Superior St.	260-426-6600
Northcrest Shopping Center	260-484-3319
Georgetown Square	260-749-1251
Dupont Village (behind Kroger)	260-637-1165
5915-A Covington Rd. (at West Jefferson)	260-432-6520

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West Central Flood Control Committee

Volunteers are needed to be part of a committee to evaluate the City of Fort Wayne's recommendations for flood control measures along Thieme Drive. If you are interested, please contact Charlotte Weybright at 420-9425 (home) or 348-8273 (cell). You need not live in West Central or be affected by flooding to participate.



An organization of volunteers supporting Fort Wayne's

Historic Swinney Homestead

1424 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
260-424-7212

Historic Hand Art Programs - Oct. 12 & Nov. 9, 2006

Johnny Appleseed Festival - Sept. 16 & 17, 2006

Victorian Repast Dinners - Nov. 29 - Dec. 2, 2006

New members welcome

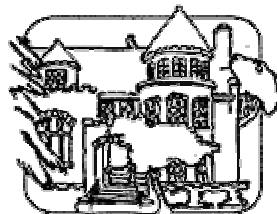
www.settlersinc.org

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National Night Out Celebrated at Old Engine House No. 5

On August 1, the Fort Wayne Professional Firefighters Local 124 hosted held a neighborhood cookout in celebration of National Night Out. This event was designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, garner participation by communities in anti-crime programs, and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are watching and are fighting back. The WCNA thanks the Local 124 for providing hot dogs, hamburgers, water, tours of Old Engine House No. 5 at 1405 Broadway, and for providing the opportunity for West Central neighbors to get together.

Welcome West Central residents!

Summer's a great time to visit THE HISTORY CENTER

302 E. Berry St. at Berry & Barr
in downtown Fort Wayne
(260) 426-2882
www.fwhistorycenter.com

Tuesday - Friday 9AM-5PM
Saturday & Sunday NOON-5PM



Buy One Get One Free

adult or child admission
expires 12/31/06
Not valid during
Festival of Gingerbread

Tox-Away Day 2006

The Allen County Solid Waste Management District will be holding its annual Tox-Away Day on Saturday, September 9 from 9 am to 2:30 PM. Tox-Away day provides Allen County residents with the opportunity to dispose of unwanted household hazardous waste such as oil-based paint, automotive fluids, pesticides, etc. The location will be announced two weeks prior to the event. Minimal fees apply. For more information, contact the District at 449-7878.

Items accepted:

Toxic Household Cleaners, Mercury Containing Items, Automotive Products, Oil-Based Paint and Supplies, Pool Chemicals, Paint Thinner, Pesticides, Herbicides, Rodenticides, Household Lead-Acid Batteries, Fertilizers, Fire Extinguishers, Small Propane Tanks

Items NOT accepted:

Latex Paint (air dry and place in regular trash), Explosives, Infectious Waste, Radioactive Materials, Steel Drums, Industrial Hazardous Waste, Electronic Equipment, Appliances, Tires

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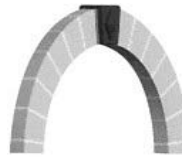
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Performance

The Nutcracker - December 2006

Cinderella - March 2007

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Brick Street Restoration Set to Occur for Wilt Street

According to City of Fort Wayne officials, the 700 block of Wilt Street and the intersection with Van Buren Street will be closed sometime in mid-to-late September for reconstruction of that portion of the brick street. It is unclear at this time how long the street will be closed, as this will be the first time the City has undertaken such a project. This is great news to the WCNA since it has been working for over 20 years to see this happen in the neighborhood.

The WCNA has taken much time and effort in recent years to learn about the history and construction of brick streets and to research the brick street restoration efforts of other communities in the United States. In May of 2004, the WCNA and ARCH, Inc. hosted a brick street workshop to further educate interested individuals, organizations, and nearby municipalities, including the City of Fort Wayne, on the proper method of brick street reconstruction. At about this same time, the WCNA also began advocating for the salvaging of brick pavers. To date a sizeable number of bricks have been accumulated; many of which have been cleaned and stacked by volunteers in preparation for the brick street project. When the Wilt Street project gets underway, volunteers may be needed to help salvage the existing bricks, and to clean and stack them for replacement in the street.

It was not clear at press time how this project will be funded, but the WCNA looks forward to future brick street restoration projects!

City Offers Program to Assist Potential New Homeowners

Goal is to attract nearly 200 new homeowners

The City of Fort Wayne has created a new program to assist potential new homeowners. The goal of the Homebuyer Education and Down Payment Assistance program is to attract nearly 200 new homeowners to the City over the next three years.

Community Connections, the housing division of Pathfinder Services, will assist the City to help potential homebuyers with homebuyer education, credit counseling and down payment assistance. Homebuyer education is available for first-time and low to moderate-income homebuyers. Down payment assistance is available to households with incomes at or below 80% of the median income level, which is \$49,050 for a family of four or \$34,350 for an individual.

The target area for the program is citywide with an emphasis on downtown and near downtown. Residents interested in participating in the program should call Community Connections at 260-427-6231.

The program is funded through the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(Information provided by Pathfinder Services, Inc.)

John Garzelloni reports that he has rented an apartment to someone who saw it on the WCNA rental listing section of our website. It is up and running folks, and apparently works; feel free to use it.



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Cindy Husar and Holly DeLong participate in the Great American Cleanup this spring at the Overlook on Thiem Drive

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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

Mayor's Advocate

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@propparkwest.com

John Crawford At-Large

485-5480

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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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

Model Blocks Program to Begin in West Central

In 2004, the WCNA completed and adopted the West Central Plan, a document used to guide improvements in the West Central neighborhood. Early this year, a committee was formed to insure the implementation of the Plan's objectives. Since then, the committee has been working with the City of Fort Wayne to participate in the Model Blocks Program. The program was designed to help revitalize central city neighborhoods by focusing funding for such things as housing improvements, parks, streets and other public improvements, economic development, community facilities and other designated neighborhood projects in a certain, identified area. The goal is to create a concentrated, positive visual impact by stemming deterioration and igniting private sector investment.

The Wilt Street area between Broadway and Nelson Streets was selected by the Plan Committee as an area best suited to benefit from the Model Block Program. Reasons for why this area was chosen include its connection to the Broadway business district, its brick street construction, its percentage of homeownership, and its proximity to the West Central Local Historic District and Moody Park.

Representatives of the Plan Committee will be in contact with homeowners in the targeted area to brief them on the Model Blocks Program, and the City of Fort Wayne and the WCNA will be hosting a kickoff "Block Party" to formally introduce the program and its associated guidelines and benefits. This is tentatively scheduled for September 27 at 6pm at Wellspring Social Services, 1316 Broadway.

WCNA 2006 Meeting Dates

The WCNA holds monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month at 7pm at Wellspring Interfaith Social Services located at 1316 Broadway. The 2006 meeting dates are:

January 16	April 17	July 17	October 16
February 20	May 15	August 21	November 20
March 20	June 19	September 18	December 18

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