



West Central Neighborhood Association

WCNA Newsletter

2006, Spring

From the President

Well here I am again, serving as president of West Central Neighborhood Association for the fourth time. It's been about a dozen years since my last stint but the job is still about the same: working with my neighbors to help preserve, protect, and enhance our neighborhood.

And as I consider those past twelve years, I'm reminded that I'm now in my 33rd year as a West Central resident. I grew up in the South East part of town, but after exposure to West Central through college friends who lived here, I decided that this is where I wanted to live. Overall I've been well pleased with that decision.

Most of the folks that I know in West Central are, like me, immigrants of a sort. Some came here for the historic architecture, some for our central location in the city, and many for our good rental or ownership possibilities. All of these folks are represented in the WCNA membership, as well as some genuine area natives.

But regardless of origins or length of residency, the members of WCNA come together in the here and now to solve problems and improve our area. We've had many successes over the years and we are well regarded by the city and other neighborhoods.

Now if you're a WCNA member, you already know this. But if you've not yet investigated the association, give it a try and come to some meetings. All are welcome: residents, owner residents, landlords, business owners, and anyone else with an interest in the neighborhood. Come and meet your neighbors and perhaps learn of things happening around you. It costs nothing to attend and only \$10.00 to join us. An invitation can't get more open than this. Hope to see you.

John

Starbucks to Occupy Former Firestone Building

After being abandoned in 1999, the former Firestone Service Station at Fairfield and West Jefferson Boulevard will soon be home to a Starbucks coffee house. It was announced in December of 2005 that a developer had purchased the site and would be rehabilitating it for use by Starbucks who will be leasing it. Original plans for the site called for the total demolition of the building, located within the boundaries of the West Central National Register of Historic Places District. Through the collaboration of neighborhood, governmental and private entities, architecturally distinctive portions of the Firestone building will not be demolished and will be incorporated into the new building design. While many would have preferred more of the building be preserved, this is a compromise that will certainly serve to strengthen the existing environment of downtown Fort Wayne and the West Central neighborhood.

The Firestone building, built by the Firestone Company in 1930 as DeWald Service Stores and operated by George

DeWald, is historically significant because it is associated with the evolution of automobile use in the United States. Who could deny that the automobile has had a substantial impact on American life? It is also representative of, what was at the time, a unique type of building construction. It provided visibility and accessibility from two streets, and by setting the building back from the sidewalk, allowed for easy in and out of the auto for refueling. It is accepted that the service station building type became a prototype for All-American roadside architecture including fast food restaurants, automatic car washes, motor hotels, and shopping centers among many others. The Firestone building is also significant for its association with the Firestone company. Harvey Firestone started The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company in 1900. By 1936 it was a multinational manufacturing and distribution company. Firestone, now in partnership with Bridgestone, continues to be a dominant name worldwide in the tire and rubber products market.

Worthington Home to Become Bed & Breakfast

Since last fall, Tony Bishop and Kenson Dhanie have been working feverishly to restore the house on the southwest corner of W. Wayne and Van Buren Streets to its former grand appearance. Projects have included removing the ivy that covered a significant portion of the exterior, restoring the brick front walk, the removal of earlier interior remodelings from when the house was used as an office, and the rehabilitation of the interior for a combination of both commercial and residential uses. Bishop and Kenson soon will be opening the Worthington Mansion Bed & Breakfast, which is named for the original house owner Worthington A. Croxton.

The brick, Queen Anne-style house was built c.1890 for Croxton, an Ohio native, and his wife Clara. At the time, Croxton, who went by the nickname "Worthy," was a partner in the Western Gas Construction Company. The company started in 1888 contracted in coal, water, fuel, gas works, and apparatus. Worthington left Western Gas in 1890 to pursue other interests. Western gas went on to become, as it was stated at the time, "the largest and most successful of the kind not only in the United States, but in the world (it) had added much to Fort Wayne's reputation as an important manufacturing point...its presence is a source of pride to the city...".

For more information on the Worthington Mansion Bed & Breakfast, call 424-6564 or go to <http://www.worthingtonmansion.com>.

2006 West Central Neighborhood House & Garden Tour

Houses and Gardens Needed

Planning for the 2006 West Central Neighborhood House & Garden Tour, to be held September 9th and 10th, got underway in January. If you are interested in having your West Central house and/or garden on the tour, please contact Jill Downs at 385-WEST.



Cindie Rosswurm

(260)485-2937

Watercolor, pen, pencil~ Also churches, buildings, people, pets

West Central Resident Featured in National Magazine Publication

Congratulations to long-time West Central resident Tom Cain for being featured in the Jan./Feb. issue of *Old-House Journal*. The story focuses on Tom's continued efforts to better his corner of the neighborhood through historic preservation projects. The West Central neighborhood itself also received some press.

Thank you, Tom, for choosing to live in West Central!



Upcoming Historic Preservation Conferences

Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference – April 5-8, 2006 at Navy Pier in Chicago. This is the only national trade show and conference for old house owners, architects, contractors, developers, building owners and craftsmen who work in historic restoration, renovation, and traditionally inspired new design and construction. For more information, go to www.traditionalbuildingshow.com.

APT Building Codes and Historic Rehabilitation Conference - April 5 and 6, 2006 at Navy Pier in Chicago. The conference will give you a new perspective and provide information about both administrative and technical solutions to working within current codes, as well as provide an opportunity to learn new skills and exchange experiences in this rapidly developing field. Register by March 10 to qualify for the early registration rate. Visit www.apti.org for the on-line brochure that includes the event co-sponsors, the conference agenda, speakers, hotel information and an on-line registration form. APT is proud to be partnering with the [Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference](http://www.traditionalbuildingshow.com). APT Codes Conference attendees may register at a reduced rate for the Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference scheduled for April 6-8 at Navy Pier.

Old house fair and conference – RestoreMichiana will be held on Saturday, May 20 in South Bend, IN. More info to become available at a later date.

2006 National Main Streets Conference – June 4-7 in New Orleans. The National Main Streets Conference is the premier conference for commercial district revitalization. Small and rural towns, suburban-ring communities, large and mid-sized cities, and urban neighborhood business districts can all benefit from the ideas, solutions, issues, and networking opportunities this conference offers. Go to <http://conference.mainstreet.org/> for more information.



Big News from Little River Wetlands Project




Exciting things are happening this spring at Little River Wetlands Project (LRWP), a land trust whose mission is to preserve and restore wetlands in the Little River valley just outside Fort Wayne!

Join your neighbors for a Barbecue on Saturday, June 3 to celebrate LRWP's acquisition of Eagle Marsh, a 676-acre property adjacent to Fox Island County Park on Engle Road. Learn how restoring Eagle Marsh to wetland will benefit wildlife as well as the people of Fort Wayne! Enjoy good food, tour the property, and meet the many volunteers determined to make this restoration a success! The celebration will begin at 10 a.m. at the barn on Engle Road across from and just west of the Golf Dome.

Eagle Marsh will be the largest wetland restoration in northeast Indiana and the third largest in the state. Together with Fox Island County Park and two other nearby wetland areas it will total over two square miles of open natural space. The property also abuts where the city plans to extend the Rivergreenway to Aboite New Trails, allowing easy pedestrian access. Restoring this land, once part of the vast wetland complex known as the Great Marsh, should help flood control, water quality, and wildlife as well as providing many recreational opportunities for nearby communities.

For information on Little River Wetlands Project, the June 3 Eagle Marsh celebration, or other LRWP activities, visit www.lrwp.org or call 260-478-2515. LRWP also offers nature hikes from 9-11 a.m. every Tuesday at Eagle Marsh and Breakfast on the Marsh, a monthly nature program for those 55 and over. Reservations are required for Breakfast on the Marsh. See you at a LRWP event soon!




The Rogers Company

518 W. Washington Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Phone: 260-423-4376
Fax: 260-423-9480
Email: jrogers260@comcast.net

John W. Rogers
Vice President

The Rogers Co.

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Garbage Reminders

As of January 1, 2006, the City of Fort Wayne initiated a new residential garbage contract whereby each resident is provided with a 96-gallon or 48-gallon container. Please follow the following regulations, paraphrased from Fort Wayne, Indiana, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 50: **Garbage and Refuse, related to the handling of garbage:**

Location of refuse, yard waste, and recycling containers:

Between days of regular collection for solid waste items, refuse (including bulky waste), recyclables, and/or yard waste (excluding leaves placed at the curb as part of the city's fall leaf collection) should be stored in a place that is sheltered from street view, if possible, and in a place that does not impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic along sidewalks, alleys, streets and/or other public rights-of-way. If refuse collection is in the alley, refuse storage containers may stay at the alley as long as they do not impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic along the alley and/or public right-of-way.

Set-out time for refuse, yard waste, and recycling containers:

All residential garbage, curbside recycling and yard waste collections will be made between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on the designated collection day. Refuse containers, refuse bags, garbage can liners, bulky waste, recycling containers, and/or yard waste containers (excluding leaves placed at the curb as part of the city's fall leaf collection) should be set out for collection on the designated collection day before 5:00 a.m. and no earlier than noon of the day preceding the regular collection day. The refuse, recycling, and/or yard waste containers should be removed from the collection site no later than noon on the day after the regular collection. The owner, tenant, lessee occupant, or agent of any property shall promptly clean up and remove any scattered solid waste, rejected items, recyclable material and/or yard waste (excluding leaves placed at the curb as part of the city's fall leaf collection) from the property before noon on the day after the scheduled date of regular collection. Missed collections that are a result of the contractors' negligence will be an exception to having solid waste materials removed from the refuse collection site no later than noon the day after the regular collection day.

For more information, please contact the City of Fort Wayne Solid Waste Department at 427-1345.

Historic Preservation Lectures and Workshop

ARCH, Inc., Allen County's local historic architecture preservation organization, is once again hosting a winter/spring lecture series of educational forums and workshops. The lectures and workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, contact ARCH at 426-5117.

March 15 - "Identifying Historic Structures: Allen County Buildings from Simple to Significant." Presented by Michael Galbraith, President, ARCH Board of Directors. Dupont branch of the Allen County Public Library (536 East Dupont Road) at 7pm.

March 18 - "Nominating Historic Neighborhoods." Specifically designed for local towns and neighborhoods interested in learning more about the National Register of Historic Places or the Fort Wayne Local Historic Preservation ordinance. 9a-12pm, at Cinema Center, 437 East Berry Street.

April 20 - "Blue Vinyl," a film and discussion about issues and alternatives to vinyl siding for older houses, presented by Bob Yapp of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. Cinema Center Tech (1600 E. Washington Blvd.) at 7pm.



CinemaCenter

You can see the world from here
437 E. Berry Street

Your neighborhood theater
Just east of West Central

Showtimes 426.FILM, cinemacenter.org

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@proparkwest.com

John Crawford At-Large

485-5480

The West Central Neighborhood Association (WCNA)

P.O. Box 13151
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46867-3151
(260) 385-WEST
www.westcentralneighborhood.org

Board of Directors

President

John Simmerman 424-0361
President@westcentralneighborhood.org

Vice President

Chris DeLong
VP@westcentralneighborhood.org

Secretary

Patrice Hunsbarger
Secretary@westcentralneighborhood.org

Treasurer

Mike Walsh 424-7532
treasurer@westcentralneighborhood.org

Membership

Casi Bromelmeier 424-7532
membership@westcentralneighborhood.org

Staff

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

Help Available for Claiming Earned Income Tax Credit

Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard has initiated the fourth annual "Money in Your Pocket" campaign designed to help low-income residents claim the Earned Income Tax Credit on their 2005 tax returns. Households with 2 or more children and a family income of less than \$35, 263 in 2005 can get a credit of up to \$4,400, and households with no children and an income of less than \$11,750 in 2005 can get up to \$399 in credit. Free tax preparation help will be available at several sites around Fort Wayne through April 13, 2006. Bilingual preparers and translators will be available at some sites. Call the Volunteer Center @ RSVP at 424-3505 for availability. Call First Call for Help at 211 or 744-0700 for information on sites and hours.

Prevention Clinic

The Fort Wayne African American Cancer Alliance, Inc. is sponsoring a Prevention Clinic on the third Wednesday of each month from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Offered at free or low cost are health screenings and education including: Blood pressure, Mental health, Colorectal cancer screenings, Dental, Cholesterol, Glucose, HIV/AIDS, Prostate cancer, and Weight.

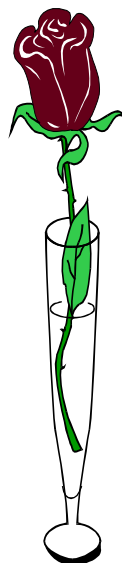
No appointment is necessary. Insurance cards may be necessary as some screenings are covered by insurance. Located at 2700 South Lafayette Street, Suite 100. Call 745-1600 ext. 223 for more information.

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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2006 Membership Application**

You need not be a resident of the West Central neighborhood to apply

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Business Membership: \$50.00

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the calendar year after dues are paid – must provide own ad

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