

West Central Neighborhood Association

WCNA Newsletter

Fall 2008

It's mid-August as I write this letter, and our house tour is just around the corner. The arsonist that attacked the south side of the neighborhood is safely behind bars, and our nice quiet pocket of the city is getting back to normal.

We live in a great neighborhood. For the most part, we don't have major problems; we have little problems that could be better. Most of the emails and calls I receive are about the little things that we can fix if we all just work together.

There have been a number of comments about dog owners who don't clean up after their pet while walking around the neighborhood. I've seen it a couple of times myself in the past few weeks. West Central is a great neighborhood to walk around. Please help keep it that way for everyone. If you walk your dog, please be responsible and bring a plastic bag with you. It is against the law to leave your dog's waste behind. If you see someone committing this crime, you can call Animal Control at 427-1244. Our neighbors who live on the corners get the most dog "bombs" and basic trash. It's not fair to just leave trash where it may fall and expect others to clean it up. When you are out walking, help us all. Please be respectful of others. It's really disgusting to see a dog "bomb" right in the middle of the sidewalk.

Weed Enforcement season runs until mid-October. If you see an area in the Neighborhood that needs some attention, please call 311.

If you live on a corner with a sewer grate, please go out and clear it of debris. With the heavy rainstorms we've had this season; areas of West Central are under water for hours all because of a clogged sewer drain. It takes 2-3 minutes at most; please take a look at your corner.

Last weekend we had a good old fashion West Central Tire Roundup. We pulled 188 abandoned tires, depriving mosquitoes of breeding ground all over the neighborhood. While pulling tires on the east side of Broadway, we noticed an alley that was heavily hit with graffiti. This goes back to the "broken window" syndrome. If you have an area where the smallest thing happens and no one cares to fix it, the area will quickly fall apart and be over run with problems. If you see any graffiti in West Central, please call the Graffiti Hotline at 423-6185. They bring out a crew and cover it over.

These problems might seem minor, but they are basic "good neighbor" issues. If these are our biggest issues, we are doing great! We need to continue to look out for one another. There is no better urban neighborhood in the city, but we can still do better.

Remember that the General Membership Meeting is the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at Wellspring on Broadway. In September, it's the 15th. I'll see you there.

Mike Anderson

**The West Central
Neighborhood Association**
P.O. Box 13151
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46867-3151
(260) 385-9378 (WEST)
www.westcentralneighborhood.org

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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 Well-spring Interfaith Social Services, 1316 Broadway.

Advertisement Guidelines

The WCNA prints four newsletters per calendar year with a circulation of 1400 per issue. WCNA business and organization members receive 1 free ad approximately 1-3/4" x 3" in each newsletter of the calendar year after dues are paid.

Advertising space is available for \$ 25.00 for an ad approximately 1-3/4" x 3" for a single issue. Please submit a current business card, JPEG, PDF file or camera-ready artwork. Call 385-9378 for more information.

Membership Information

A membership application is available on the last page of this newsletter

Animal Control Info on Dogs

Several complaints from neighborhood residents have prompted the printing of the following information regarding the tethering, removal of excrement and other information pertaining to dogs in the city. The information is from the Department of Animal Care and Control. They are located at 3020 Hillegas Road and are open weekdays from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm with the exception of Wednesdays, when they are open until 7:00 pm. Animal Control officers are available from 6:00 am until 1:00 am daily and for emergency call out between 1:00 am and 6:00 by calling 427-1244. When



shelter dispatchers are off-duty, citizens are directed to call the Police Desk at 427-1222.

Dogs may not be tethered (tied up outside) between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am. A dog that has not been spayed or neutered or a dog under six months of age may not be

tethered for any period of time. No more than three altered dogs are permitted to be tethered simultaneously at the same residence. Tethered dogs may not be within three feet of another person's property, public thoroughfare and/or right of way. Contact between tethered dogs is unlawful. No dog shall be confined or tethered at a vacant property or structure unless an adult is present at the time of the tethering or confinement.

City law requires both dogs and cats be kept on a leash when not on the owner's property. If a stray animal can be lured to a confined area, fenced yard or garage, it is helpful but not required. If the owner is known, an Animal Control officer will discuss the situation with the owner at the time of dispatch.

An Animal Control officer will be dispatched immediately to pick up a sick or injured animal. If it can rest safely for three business days, it will be held at the shelter and provided with basic first aid awaiting owner reclamation. Animals injured while stray with proper identification tags will be taken by the city directly to the owner's veterinarian. A stray sick or injured animal should be reported to the department immediately. A dead animal must be reported to the Street Department, which can provide pick up.

Barking dogs, sanitation complaints, dogs or cats repeatedly at-large, and dogs illegally tethered outside between 11:00 pm and 6:00 am are a frustration to citizens and Animal Control officers alike. The Department of Animal Care and Control will send a letter upon receiving the first complaint. If the problem persists and additional complaints are received, an officer will be dispatched for each complaint. Unfortunately, it is a common occurrence for an officer to run higher priority, safety-related calls first, and, ultimately, not find an active violation upon arrival to a nuisance complaint. If after three trips to an address, a nuisance violation cannot be verified, the complainant may request an affidavit. The affidavit requires three signatures from surrounding properties and may then be returned to the department to be filed with a summons for legal action.

City code text for removal of animal excrement is as follows:

CITY CODE 91.018 REMOVAL OF EXCREMENT

Persons responsible for an animal shall immediately remove the animal's excrement from public lands or from the property of another, excepting a blind person working with a guide dog.

Parking Permitted on Washington



Although only a few brave souls are taking advantage of it, on-street parking is now legal on the north side of West Washington Boulevard from Van Buren Street to Swinney Park.

West Central Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Mission Statement

The mission of the West Central Neighborhood Association is to enhance the environment of the West Central neighborhood by improving the quality of urban life for its residents, business owners, and visitors. It is committed to the preservation of diverse neighborhood assets as well as economic and partnership development.

Vision Statement

The vision of the West Central Neighborhood Association is to create a friendly environment that is rich in beauty, culture, diversity, and community and that is valued by its residents, business owners, and visitors.

West Central Neighborhood Association is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit

Important City Phone Numbers

Animal Control
427-1244

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

Preservation Planners

427-2160 Don Orban

427-2161 Creager Smith

Street Department
(pot holes, snow removal)

427-1235

Streetlight Maintenance

427-1236

Weed Control

427-1329

Zoning

427-1324

City Council

Tim Pape District 5

423-9411 / tmp@carsonboxberger.com

Marty Bender At-Large

747-1955 / martin.bender@ci.ft-wayne.in.us

John Shoaff At-Large

459-0221 / jshoaff@proparkwest.com

Liz Brown At-Large

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My Dream for Thieme

By Charlotte Weybright

As I stroll onto my front porch each morning to tend to my hanging baskets and other flower containers, I look across Thieme Drive – named for Theodore F. Thieme - and to the St. Marys River. The river bank is so overgrown that my view of the river is limited to peeks through the weed trees and underbrush. But on sunny days, the glint of the sun is visible as it bounces off the river flowing slowly by my home.

As I groom my flowers, I listen to the comforting noises of squirrels chattering and the trills of the many birds flitting through the trees. The magnificent sycamores that line the south side of Thieme Drive drop their mottled bark, and, if I listen closely, I hear the soft “crack” of the bark splitting and falling to the ground.

I have a dream – a vision if you will – for Thieme Drive and the St. Marys River as it flows lazily past my home. But before I lay out my vision, I would like to share the history of Thieme Drive so its importance to our Fort Wayne history is not lost. That history was gleaned from researching on the internet and from a visit to the Hyde Brothers Book Store on Wells Street.

Last year, as I was browsing through the books, I came across a book titled “Theodore F. Thieme: A Man and His Times” by Ross F. Lockridge. I picked it up and started skimming through it. It had wonderful old pictures of Fort Wayne and the Wayne Knitting Mills – the successful endeavor undertaken by Mr. Thieme in August 1891. But, even more than the old pictures and the text full of the story of Mr. Thieme, the book contained one more surprise – a surprise that I knew made the book worth the \$45 price tag.

Inside the front cover, in the ever so gracious script handwriting of the old days was the autograph of Theodore F. Thieme with the date of December 1942. I debated purchasing the book for about two seconds, but I knew that this biography with its graceful autograph was coming home with me to become a part of my library.

Continued on page 5

First Annual Firefighters/Wellspring Chili Wing-Ding October 10

Join your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of smoking’ good firehouse chili and chicken wing tasting at the first annual Firefighters/Wellspring Chili Wing-Ding on October 10, from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm at the Wellspring Center, 1326 Broadway. Featured will be chili recipes and local brand chicken wings, fire prevention and equipment displays with an appearance by Sadar the Fire Dog as well as live music and local celebrity judging and appearances. All for only \$5.00, which includes five tasting tickets for either chili or wings.

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My Dream for Thieme, continued from page 4

The Wayne Knitting Mills was a dream born of Theodore Thieme's travels to Germany, where he visited hosiery mills and determined that this was the trade he wanted to bring back to America. Although Mr. Thieme originally chose Philadelphia as the ideal city for his future business, a group of Fort Wayne businessmen convinced him that he should return to Fort Wayne to begin his new business. His finances arranged, Theodore F. Thieme was ready to begin his adventure in the hosiery-making industry in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The products of the Wayne Knitting Mills became world renowned with its hosiery sought around the world for 70 years – from 1892 to 1960. The factory was located at West Main Street and Growth Avenue and employed hundreds of workers, mostly women. With the era of nylon hosiery sounding the death knell for knit hosiery, the business slowly faded into history, closing its doors in 1960. The buildings still stand on Growth Avenue – a testament to one of Fort Wayne's great entrepreneurs.

But Theodore Thieme was not just an entrepreneur; he was also an early proponent of beautification of our Fort Wayne rivers. He turned an old dumping ground near the corner of Rockhill and West Main into a small park with an overlook for citizens to rest and relax and enjoy a view of the St. Marys River as it flows under the Main Street bridge. A plaque dedicated to the efforts of Mr. Thieme still adorns the balustrade railing curving outward at the park.

So to my dream for Thieme. I have identified five steps which I believe will lead to a beautification of Thieme Drive that it so justly deserves.

Thieme Drive should be made a one-way running northeast from West Washington Boulevard to Main Street. Although not formally finished, Thieme Drive is a part of the River Greenway system. Joggers and bicyclists use the path extensively, especially in warmer weather. Motorists tend to use the drive as a cut-through heading out to West Jefferson Boulevard. The speed that is attained is a danger to non-motorists. Thus, the one-way direction would provide a safer environment for joggers and bicyclists.


The riverbank needs to be cleaned and groomed. Thieme Drive suffers from benign neglect. Although it is one of only a couple of river drives left where one can actually see the river, the city rarely cuts the weed trees or brush.

Construct a formal greenway path for joggers and bicyclists. The River Greenway should be formally extended along Thieme Drive to the entrance of the existing East Swinney Park path.

Concurrent with the extension of the River Greenway and the cleaning of the river bank, landscaping of the banks should be undertaken using flood-tolerant plants

Thieme Drive has one area that is similar in nature to the overlook at Main and Rockhill. It is slightly to the southwest of my home and could be converted to a smaller version of the overlook. It would be an excellent location to put in a bench and perhaps an additional balustrade. Although it would be subject to flooding, the area could be arranged to accommodate the flooding.

I truly wish the city could appreciate the value of this remaining river drive in the heart of Fort Wayne. Theodore F. Thieme contributed greatly to the history of Fort Wayne, and, in his honor, Thieme Drive bears his name. For too long, Thieme Drive has been allowed to languish in overgrowth. It is now time to take a long, hard look at Thieme Drive and use our efforts to make it a true reflection of the "City Beautiful" Theodore F. Thieme sought to create in Fort Wayne.



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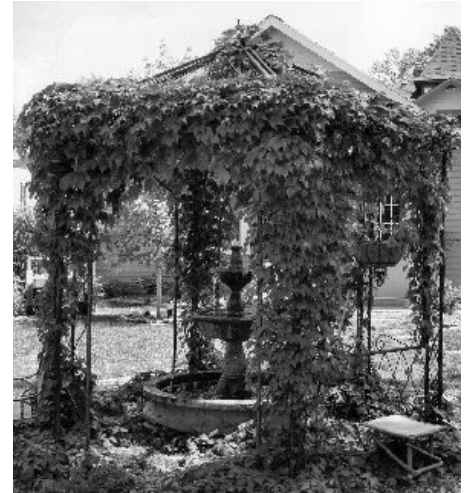
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26th Annual WCNA House and Garden Tour September 6 and 7

The West Central Neighborhood Association (WCNA) will be hosting its 26th Annual House and Garden tour on Friday and Saturday, September 6 and 7 from 11 am to 5 pm.

This year's tour features several homes and other buildings designed by well-known local and regional architects. At nearly 9,000 square feet in size, the first home on the tour is the Craftsman-style Robert Millard/Bishop Noll house designed in 1908 by architect Harry Wachter. Among the many outstanding features of the home is a recently renovated master bath with heated floors and the master bedroom with a marble fireplace. The home also has a chapel designed by architect Alvin M. Strauss, who also designed the Embassy Theater, complete with marble work, stained glass, cherry-wood pews and hand-painted murals.



This garden is on the Home Tour

Also on the tour is a Mission-style duplex, a design rarity for Fort Wayne, with characteristic smooth stucco exterior, curve-shaped parapets, wide overhanging eaves and porches supported by square columns.

Six other homes and gardens as well as Trinity Episcopal Church, the restored Fire House No. 5, and Klaehn Fahl & Melton Funeral Home complete the showcase.

Tickets are \$9.00 in advance and \$12.00 the days of the tour. (Children 12 and under are free.) Purchase your advance tickets at:

- Antiques on Broadway, 1115 Broadway
- Homegrown Bead & Candle Shoppe, 125 West Wayne Street
- Neuhaus Nursery, 8046 Stellhorn Road
- Neuhaus Garden and Gifts, 4605 West Jefferson Boulevard
- Umbers Ace Hardware, 2413 Lower Huntington Road
- Umbers Ace Hardware, 2814 Maplecrest Road

On September 6 and 7, tickets may be purchased at Swinney Park near the Swinney Homestead, 1424 West Jefferson Boulevard, and the St. Joseph Hospital parking lot on Broadway between West Wayne Street and West Jefferson Boulevard. The event also features free horse-drawn carriage rides.

This event is sponsored in part by St. Joseph Hospital. For more information, call 385-9378 (WEST).

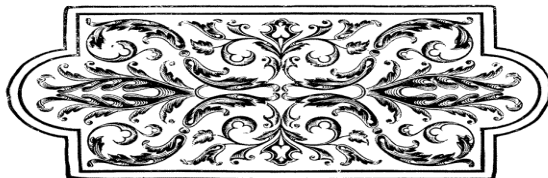
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WCNA, Emmanuel Lutheran Partner For Redevelopment of Area 3

The WCNA Board of Directors signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) August 12 with Emmanuel Lutheran Church to begin the process of applying for public funding for a comprehensive redevelopment plan for an area in the neighborhood designated as Area 3. This area is roughly defined as Broadway to the east, the GE railroad tracks on the south, Swinney Park on the west and Jefferson Boulevard on the north. By partnering with the neighborhood association, Emmanuel has the opportunity to apply for public funds through our CHDO designation. The neighborhood association will bear no liability for the funds, which may be forgiven when redevelopment begins. Look for more information about this exciting redevelopment effort soon.



HOUSE PORTRAITS
by
DIANE ALLEN GROENER
420-4717
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FRIDAYS 12-2 OF APPOINTMENT

Dates, Events, Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER

- 1—Labor Day
- 2 — Ramadan begins
- 6,7 — WCNA House & Garden Tour, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
- 9 — WCNA Board of Directors, Wellspring, 6:00 pm
- 13 — AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day, Franke Park, 11:00 am
- 15 — WCNA General Meeting, Wellspring, 7:00 pm
- 23 — SWAP Meeting, Taylor University, 7:00 pm
- 24 — WCNA Planning Committee, Intrascap, 6:30 pm
- 25 — Museum of Art Trolley Tour 2008, 5:30-10:30 pm, 422-6467
- 29 — Rosh Hashanah begins

OCTOBER

- 9 — Yom Kippur
- 10 — Firefighters/Wellspring Chili Wing-Ding, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- 13 — Columbus Day
- 14 — Sukkoth, WCNA Board of Directors, Wellspring, 6:00 pm
- 20 — WCNA General Meeting, Wellspring, 7:00 pm
- 21 — M. Owen set typing speed record, 170 wpm
- 22 — SWAP Meeting, Taylor University, 7:00 pm
- 27 — WCNA Planning Committee, Intrascap, 6:30 pm
- 31 — Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 1 — All Saints' Day
- 2 — Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2:00 am
- 3 — All Souls' Day
- 4 — Election Day
- 11 — WCNA Board of Directors, Wellspring, 6:00 pm
- 17 — WCNA General Meeting/Election of Officers, 7:00 pm
- 19 — SWAP Meeting, Taylor University, 7:00 pm
- 24 — WCNA Planning Meeting, Intrascap, 6:30 pm
- 27 — Thanksgiving



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West Central Neighborhood Association 2008 Membership Application

Membership is on a calendar year basis; January 2008 through December 2008

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Membership Type and Cost

- \$ 10.00 Individual
- \$ 50.00 * Organization
- \$ 50.00 * Business
- \$ 100.00 Patron
- \$ 500.00 Benefactor
- \$ 1,000.00 Lifetime

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____ - _____ - _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

E-mail: _____

Suggestion: _____

* For organization and business members we will print your business card-sized logo in each newsletter of the calendar year *after* dues are paid. You must provide the logo. Contributions to the WCNA are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS Code regulations. The WCNA is a tax-exempt, non-profit, educational and charitable organization under state and federal laws.

You need not be a resident of the West Central Neighborhood to be a member of the association.



West Central Neighborhood Association
PO Box 13151
Fort Wayne, IN 46867-3151