



West Central Neighborhood Association  
**WCNA Newsletter**

Winter 2009

**Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year**



*Thanks to Jack Stark for these pictures of homes in West Central.*

**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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anderson1170@msn.com

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**CCW**

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Larry Codding, 422-8110

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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 7:00 pm at Wellspring 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 information.

**Membership Information**

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

# Candlelight Caroling At Prairie Grove Chapel

The Prairie Grove Chapel on Old Trail Road in Waynedale just off Bluffton Road, was built sometime in the 1850s, according to the documents that have been found



concerning it. The chapel sits in the middle of a cemetery with graves from the Civil War and before. Among the people who worshipped there was Milton Wright, the father of Orville and Wilbur, either as a member or as a circuit preacher.

About 20 years ago, the chapel was abandoned, and the building fell into disuse. In 2008, vandals set fire to it.

A hole was burned in the back wall and fire damaged some of the windows, melting the Plexiglas that filled them.

Early this year, volunteers headed by West Central Neighborhood resident Glen Ellenberger, began repairing the damage from the fire, replacing clapboards, repairing the windows and painting the smoke-damaged interior. Progress has been slow.

“You can’t go to the lumber yard and buy what you need,” said Glen, according to Frank Gray in the *Journal-Gazette* on November 29, “you have to make all the pieces.”

A lot is still unfinished. But the place is usable, so the group that is restoring it will hold a series of candlelight Christmas services there from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 18, 19, 20 and 24. The non-denominational services will be open to the public, but tickets are required. The free tickets are available at Umber’s Do it Best on Lower Huntington Road and at Broadview Nursery on Winchester Road.

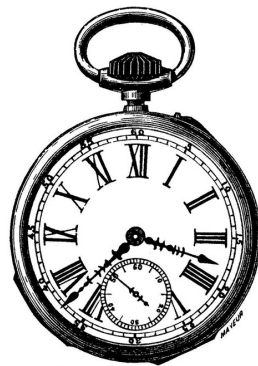
The candlelight services will be simple, starting with a brief explanation of the history of the church, a brief sermon, and then Christmas carols. Some refreshments such as cookies, hot cider and coffee may be available. Glen hopes to make the Christmas-carol services an annual event. “I hope it will become a tradition,” he said. “The church needs to be open.” He also hopes the historic building can be used for weddings and small gatherings after funerals in the cemetery.

# Census Bureau Needs Workers

In preparation for the 2010 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau will be hiring thousands of people in our area in the next few months. These are temporary, part-time jobs, close to home with good pay, flexible hours up to 40 hours per week, and mileage reimbursement for field jobs. Most of the jobs will be field jobs, but there will be several hundred office jobs in Fort Wayne.

To apply, you need to take a short test being offered at many nearby locations and times. You can even take a practice test; just go online at [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov). To begin the application process, call 1-866-861-2010, supply your zip code, and you will be told when and where the next test will be given. Most of the work will be in the spring and early summer, and much of it will be evenings and week-ends.

The Census forms will be mailed out in March 2010 and have only 10 questions. The most intimate question is your phone number, and that is just in case you need to be contacted to clarify an answer. Any personally identifiable information is sealed for 72 years and cannot be accessed by anyone (including government agencies) before then. For every 1% of the population that does not respond to the questionnaire, the government will spend three billion dollars sending agents out to knock on doors in the effort to get the forms completed.



## 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 corporation.*

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The following story was written by H.H. Munro (1870-1916), better known as Saki. The story is in the public domain and is presented for your holiday enjoyment.

## REGINALD ON CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

I wish it to be distinctly understood (said Reginald) that I don't want a "George, Prince of Wales" Prayer-book as a Christmas present. The fact cannot be too widely known.

There ought (he continued) to be technical education classes on the science of present-giving. No one seems to have the faintest notion of what anyone else wants, and the prevalent ideas on the subject are not creditable to a civilized community.



There is, for instance, the female relative in the country who "knows a tie is always useful," and sends you some spotted horror that you could only wear in secret or in Tottenham Court Road. It *might* have been useful had she kept it to tie up currant bushes with, when it would have served the double purpose of supporting the branches and frightening away the birds – for it is an admitted fact that the ordinary tomtit of commerce has a sounder aesthetic taste than the average female relative in the country.

Then there are aunts. They are always a difficult class to deal with in the matter of presents. The trouble is that one never catches them really young enough. By the time one has educated them to an appreciation of the fact that one does not wear red woolen mittens in the West End, they die, or quarrel with the family, or do something equally inconsiderate. That is why the supply of trained aunts is always so precarious.

There is my Aunt Agatha, *par exemple*, who sent me a pair of gloves last Christmas, and even got so far as to choose a kind that was being worn and had the correct number of buttons. But – *they were nines!* I sent them to a boy whom I hated intimately: he didn't wear them, of course, but he could have – that was where the bitterness of death came in. It was nearly as consoling as sending white flowers to his funeral. Of course, I wrote and told my aunt that they were the one thing that had been wanting to make existence blossom like a rose; I am afraid she thought me frivolous – she comes from the North, where they live in the fear of Heaven and the Earl of Durham. (Reginald affects an exhaustive knowledge of

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**Community Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday**

things political; which furnishes an excellent excuse for not discussing them.) Aunts with a dash of foreign extraction in them are the most satisfactory in the way of understanding these things; but if you can't choose your aunt, it is wisest in the long-run to choose the present and send her the bill.

Even friends of one's own set, who might be expected to know better, have curious delusions on the subject. I am *not* collecting copies of the cheaper editions of Omar Khayyam. I gave the last four that I received to the lift-boy, and I like to think of him reading them, with FitzGerald's notes, to his aged mother. Lift-boys always have aged mothers; shows such nice feeling on their part, I think.

Personally, I can't see where the difficulty in choosing suitable presents lies. No boy who had brought himself up properly could fail to appreciate one of those decorative bottles of liqueurs that are so reverently staged in Morel's window – and it wouldn't in the least matter if one did get duplicates. And there would always be the supreme moment of dreadful uncertainty whether it was *creme de menthe* or Chartreuse – like the expectant thrill on seeing your partner's hand turned up at bridge. People may say what they like about the decay of Christianity; the religious system that produced green Chartreuse can never really die.



And then, of course, there are liqueur glasses, and crystallized fruits, and tapestry curtains, and heaps of other necessities of life that make really sensible presents – not to speak of luxuries, such as having one's bills paid, or getting something quite sweet in the way of jewelry. Unlike the alleged Good Woman of the Bible, I'm not above rubies. When found, by the way, she must have been rather a problem at Christmas-time; nothing short of a blank cheque would have fitted the situation. Perhaps it's as well that she's died out.

The great charm about me (concluded Reginald) is that I am so easily pleased. But I draw the line at a "Prince of Wales" Prayer-book.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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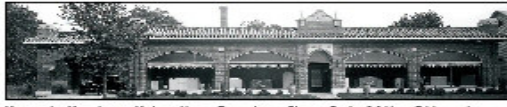
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**Through Dec. 13, 2009 - Festival of Gingerbread,** at The History Center, 302 E. Berry St., Fort Wayne. Mon-Thurs: 9 am to 5 pm; Fri: 9 am to 8 pm; Sat: 9 am to 5 pm; Sun: Noon to 5 pm. Admission: \$5-adults; \$3 - seniors and students; free to History Center members and children 5 and under. Free parking. Experience dozens of imaginative and aromatic gingerbread creations during this much beloved holiday tradition. Annual fundraiser to benefit the History Center. For more info, see [www.fwhistorycenter.com](http://www.fwhistorycenter.com).

**Dec. 2, 3, 4, 5, 2009 - Victorian Repast at the Swinney Homestead 2009.** Sponsored by the Settlers, Inc. Location: 1424 West Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne. Cost: \$23 noon, \$30 evening. Noon seatings offered Dec. 2, 3, 4, and 5, and evening seatings on Dec. 4 and 5. Step back in time to enjoy a Victorian Social with music, entertainment, stories, food and drink in the beautifully restored and decorated Historic Swinney House. Tour the house and visit the Victorian Gift Shoppe. Groups seated at tables of 4. Payment must accompany your reservation in advance. Reservations accepted beginning Oct. 1, 2009. Please see our flier at Settlers Inc.org for menu and program. Free parking at the Swinney Tennis Court parking lot. For more information, please contact D. Keane at 260-486-8903.



**Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Historic West Main Street Indoor Winter Farm Market.** Every Saturday through March from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Located inside Paula's Seafood, 1732 West Main Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46808. The FIRST and ONLY Indoor Winter Farm Market in Fort Wayne offers fresh fruit, produce, citrus, cider, baked goods, pies, breads, jams, candies, coffee, tea, soups, fresh fish, shellfish and fine artwork. The market is owned and operated by the Nebraska Neighborhood Association and profits help in the revitalization efforts of the Historic West Main Street Corridor and the Nebraska Neighborhood. Parking: street. For info, contact Chris Shatto at 260-515-9700.

**Dec. 17, 2009 - Cirque Dreams Illumination. Embassy Theatre.** Thursday, December 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$49.50, \$39.50, and \$29.50. On-sale date: Friday, Nov. 6 at 10 a.m. Best parking is 100 E Washington Blvd, \$2. For more info, call 260-424-6287. *The Embassy opened in 1928 as the Emboyd. Built for films and vaudeville shows, it continues serving the community with a variety of events. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also has local historic designation.*

## JANUARY

**Jan. 5, 2010 - CATS.** Embassy Theatre. Tuesday, January 5, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$52, \$40, and \$30. On-sale date: Friday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. Best parking is 100 E Washington Blvd, \$2. For more info, call 260-424-6287. *The Embassy opened in 1928 as the Emboyd. Built for films and vaudeville shows, it continues serving the community with a variety of events. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also has local historic designation.*

**Jan. 20-21, 2010 - Menopause the Musical.** Embassy Theatre. Wednesday

and Thursday, January 20-21, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$47.75 and \$41.75. Best parking is 100 E Washington Blvd, \$2. For more info, call 260-424-6287. *The Embassy opened in 1928 as the Emboyd. Built for films and vaudeville shows, it continues serving the community with a variety of events. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also has local historic designation.*

**FEBRUARY**

**Feb. 10, 2010 - Camelot.** Embassy Theatre. Wednesday, Feb.10, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$52, \$42 and \$32. On-sale date: Friday, Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. Best parking is 100 E Washington Blvd, \$2 after 5 p.m. For more info, call 260-424-6287. *The Embassy opened in 1928 as the Emboyd. Built for films and vaudeville shows, it continues serving the community with a variety of events. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also has local historic designation.*

**Feb. 20, 2010 - Down the Line 4.** Embassy Theatre. Saturday Feb.20, at 7:00p.m. Tickets are \$10 (\$12 week of the show). General Admission On-sale date: Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. Best parking is 100 E Washington Blvd, \$2 after 5 p.m. For more info, call 260-424-6287. *The Embassy opened in 1928 as the Emboyd. Built for films and vaudeville shows, it continues serving the community with a variety of events. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also has local historic designation.*



**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*

- 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 / pape@carsonboxberger.com
- Marty Bender* At-Large  
747-1955 / martin.bender@ci.ft-wayne.in.us
- John Shoaff* At-Large  
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## West Central Neighborhood Association 2010 Membership Application

Membership is on a calendar year basis; January 2010 through December 2010

*Please make checks payable to:*

**WCNA**  
**P.O. Box 13151**  
**Fort Wayne, Indiana 46867**

### Membership Type and Cost

- \$ 10.00 Senior (over 60)
- \$ 15.00 Individual
- \$ 50.00 Organization
- \$ 50.00 Business
- \$ 100.00 Patron
- \$ 500.00 Benefactor
- \$ 1000.00 Lifetime

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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.