



# West Central Neighborhood Association WCNA Newsletter

Spring 2010

## West Central Receives Major Accolades

The West Central Neighborhood Association (WCNA) is proud to be the recipient of two major awards this spring: The Downtown Improvement



DID's "Best Event of the Year" for 2009 trophy

District (DID) at their annual meeting, January 20, 2010. In presenting the award to WCNA, Rich Davis, president of DID, said the award was presented to "West Central Neighborhood Association's ArtsFest for bridging the arts community, downtown residents, and downtown businesses through an expanded two-day block party."

The ArtsFest runs in conjunction with WCNA's annual Home & Garden Tour, which this year will be on September 11 and 12. Last year was the first year that the ArtsFest was expanded to a block party with 13 live bands playing and 28 artists and craftspeople selling their creations on Union Street between Wayne and Berry. DID was the major sponsor of the event.

In addition, West Central was granted national

recognition by *This Old House* magazine, a printed companion to the long-time PBS television show. West Central was named "The Best Old House Neighborhood" in Indiana for 2010. Links to information about the designation is available on our website, [www.westcentralneighborhood.org](http://www.westcentralneighborhood.org). For the full text of the website article, see page 6.

About a year ago, WCNA Treasurer Chris Ruckman found out about the contest and sent information about West Central to the magazine. We narrowly lost the contest in 2009, but *This Old House* re-nominated West Central in 2010, and this year we won.

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"We're just honored and thrilled," said Ruckman, who has lived in three different homes in West Central. "It recognizes that West Central is not only a great place to live, but historic homes are surprisingly affordable." The magazine ranked West Central high in categories including Bargains, Cottages and Bungalows, Victorians, and Walkability.

"How cool is that?" said Mike Anderson, former president of the association. "This is a feather in our cap. It is good for downtown Fort Wayne too."

This Old House also mentions West Central's annual Home & Garden Tour & ArtsFest, which attracts thousands, and its designation as a national historic district. The website also refers to WCNA as a "tough-as-nails neighborhood association."

"We've probably got one of the strongest neighborhood associations in the city," Simerman said. "It takes special people to live in an older neighborhood like this."

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

**OFFICERS**

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davidlongis@comcast.net

**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**

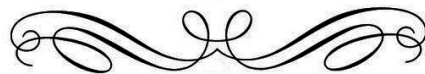
A membership application is available on the last page of this newsletter .

## Home & Garden Tour & ArtsFest Looking for Homes, Volunteers

The WCNA committee in charge of planning the annual Home & Garden Tour & ArtsFest for 2010 is already at work. The committee is looking for residents who would like to show off their homes or apartments on the tour, artists or craftspeople who would like to sell their creations during the ArtsFest, and volunteers who would like to help welcome visitors at the tour stops. The tour will take place this year on September 11 and 12.

The ArtsFest subcommittee is hoping to top last year's success by adding two more hours of music on Saturday night. Plans are to book a national touring act, Lucky Tubb and the Modern Day Troubadours, to appear between 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Lucky Tubb is the great-nephew of honky-tonk great Ernest Tubb. Space at the ArtsFest for artists and craftspeople will be free to members of the neighborhood association; others will pay \$25.

If you would like to have your home or apartment on the tour, would like to sell your artistic creations at the ArtsFest, or would like to volunteer at a tour stop, please contact David Long at 385-9378 or send an email message to davidlongis@comcast.net.



## Emmanuel Lutheran Church To Help Neighborhood Residents

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 917 West Jefferson Blvd., is inaugurating a special program this summer to provide West Central neighborhood residents in need of help around their homes with free volunteers to work on such projects each Saturday from June 19 through August 7. The program is called "Summer of Service." The program will begin by identifying and qualifying West Central neighbors who have work that needs to be done. Projects should be such that they can be completed in a day by a group of volunteers working from about 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

If you are in need of help or know of someone who is, contact Mike Anderson at 918-7368. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact the church at 423-1511.

## City Announces Funding Assistance for Down Payment

The City of Fort Wayne has announced a program to assist prospective home buyers with funding for down payments. The funding will come from a pool of \$300,000.

Prospective homeowners must make under 80% of the Area Median Income (for a household of two, the annual income cannot exceed \$40,500). A table showing Area Median Income by Household Size is available on the City of Fort Wayne website, [www.cityoffortwayne.org](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org).

“While the market continues to struggle,” said Mayor Tom Henry, “Fort Wayne still has an abundance of quality housing available at affordable prices for many of our residents. With the small added boost of down payment assistance, we are investing in our community and bringing more responsible homeowners into our neighborhoods.”

The amount of down payment assistance is determined by the requirements of the homebuyer’s lender and the location of the home. For most areas in the city, the upper limit is \$5,000 in assistance. For the NSP area, roughly the core of the city (including West Central neighborhood), the upper limit is \$10,000.

Prospective buyers must have a purchase agreement in place to be considered for the down payment assistance program. For information, call 427-1127 and ask to speak with a loan specialist. Loan specialists will work with interested home buyers to help determine eligibility and details of the terms.



### 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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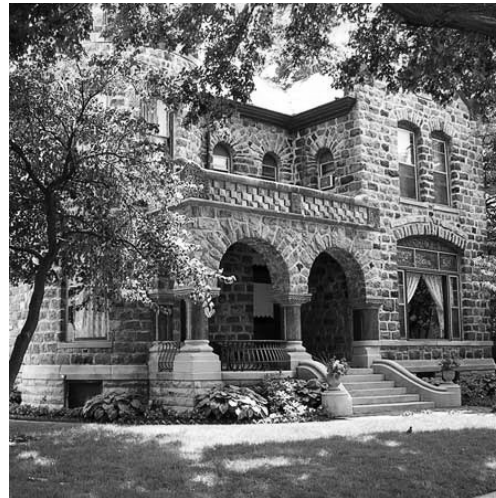
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Office: (260) 424-6574  
Email: info@fwdc.org  
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## Full Text of the Article on West Central from *This Old House*

### West Central Neighborhood, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Whether it was the owner of an electric plant, a hardware wholesaler, or the proprietor of a railroad-car works, most of Fort Wayne's early businessmen called West Central



715 West Wayne Street

home. From 1830 to the 1950s, they built grand houses in myriad styles, from Federal to Prairie, along the neighborhood's brick-paved streets. While the area fell into decline in the 1960s and '70s, its easy walking distance to a re-energized downtown Fort Wayne is attracting a new generation of residents.

The majority of the statelier homes have been restored, but there are plenty of fixer-uppers still available—mostly sturdy little factory workers' cottages packed with as many details and fine craftsmanship as their larger neighbors.

### The Houses

Here you'll find best-of-the-best examples of brick Federals, sprawling Prairies, ample American Foursquares, and Greek Revival cottages, as well as breathtaking examples of Richardsonian Romanesque houses designed by the Indiana-based architectural firm Wing and Mahurin. Homes range from a very affordable \$50,000 to about \$250,000.

### Why Buy Now?

The tough-as-nails neighborhood association is vigilant about maintaining West Central's beauty, garnering it a place on the National Register. The association also sponsors an annual home-and-garden tour that attracts thousands. Expansive parks and newly designated bike lanes are getting residents here on a health kick. And downtown Fort Wayne—home to a new minor-league baseball stadium and the beloved Mad Anthony Brewing Company—is just steps away.

Among the best for: [Bargains](#), [Cottages and Bungalows](#), [Fixer-Uppers](#), [Gardening](#), [Midwest](#), [Victorians](#), [Walkability](#)

## Thirteen Step House Plans 42nd Anniversary Fundraiser

The Thirteen Step House, 1317 West Washington Blvd., a social service organization providing a safe and secure environment for the alcoholic and addicts, is planning a fund-raising dinner/raffle for May 2, 2010. There also will be a speaker at the event. Raffle tickets are on sale for \$10 for a 46-inch Panasonic 1080p, full HD plasma TV.

The event will begin with a speaker at 12:00 noon, followed by the raffle drawing at 1:15 pm. Dinner will begin at 1:30 pm. Please bring a covered dish to share with everyone at the dinner. You can purchase tickets or find out more information by calling 424-2341 or 414-7335.

## Candidate Forum Scheduled

The four area partnerships have scheduled a candidate forum at North Side High School, 475 East State Blvd., (entrance off Parnell, Door #1), on April 8 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Personally meet candidates for U.S. senator, U.S. representative, state senator, state representative, prosecuting attorney, county sheriff, county commissioners, county council, county auditor, county recorder, county assessor, and township assessor.

## Free CPR Training Offered

The Three Rivers CPR Task Force is offering free compression-only CPR classes at the Public Safety Academy, 7602 Patriot Crossing, on Saturday, May 8. The training is free and teaches participants how to perform hands-only, non-certified CPR. Hand-only CPR is performed without mouth-to-mouth breaths and is recommended only for adults you actually see collapse. Participants can choose from five one-hour sessions beginning at 9:00 am, 9:30 am, 10:00 am, 10:30 am and 11:00 am. To register, visit [www.3rcpr.org](http://www.3rcpr.org) or call 427-1164. Training is open to participants ages 12 and up.

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## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## APRIL

**April 1, CELTIC WOMEN:** Embassy Theatre, 7:30 pm, \$62.75 and \$38.75. Credit card fees will apply. Best parking is at 100 E Washington Blvd, \$2 after 5:00 pm. For information, call 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.*

**April 3, "FOOLHARDY HISTORY" DAY:** The History Center, 302 E Berry St. 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. It's time to challenge yourself at our "Foolhardy History" program. Every year our staff goes through the collection to find the most unusual or mystifying artifacts. Then, in observance of April Fools Day, we create a hands-on trivia game challenging the public to identify the objects. Prizes are given to the adult and the student with the most correct answers. This is an event that calls for some knowledge of the past, but often depends more on vivid imagination aided by an occasional lucky guess. Adults, \$5; \$3, senior and student; children under 5, free. Free parking. For information, visit [www.fwhistorycenter.com](http://www.fwhistorycenter.com)

**April 4, ECONOMIC HISTORY OF FORT WAYNE:** The History Center, 302 E Berry St., 2:00 pm. Free. This is one of the George R Mather Lecture Series, sponsored by the Dunshire Family Foundation. Maclyn Parker, an attorney with Baker & Daniels, will discuss the location of Fort Wayne as a key transportation link, including the importance of the rivers and the canal in the settlement of the Northwest Territory; the contributions of the railroads, an interurban and the interstate; what brought Harvester and the east-end industries to Fort Wayne; the importance of Fort Wayne's output in World War II; how the coming of General Motors turned around the 1982 recession in Fort Wayne; and the search for alternatives to manufacturing in the last 25 years. Free. Free parking. For information, visit [www.fwhistorycenter.com](http://www.fwhistorycenter.com)

**April 5, 6, DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** Embassy Theatre, 7:30 pm., \$60, \$50, and \$29. On-sale now. Best parking is at 100 E Washington Blvd, \$2 after 5:00 pm. For information, call 424-6287.

**April 8, SETTLER SERIES 'CELEBRATING MR. LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR ERA':** Sponsored by Settlers, Inc. 9:00 am to 11:30 am at Swinney House, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd. Free parking. \$15 for non-member of Settlers, Inc. This 4th session in the series is all about 'Cooking and Baking for the Boys.' Learn about foods preserved and sent to Civil War soldiers; find out what soldiers ate; and attend an 1860's fund-raising pie auction. The Hearthstone Ensemble will entertain with music from the Civil War era. For information, contact D. Keane at 486-8903 or visit [www.settlersinc.org](http://www.settlersinc.org).

**April 14, EMBATINI. EMBASSY THEATRE:** Embassy Theatre, 5:30 pm, \$85. This is a dinner to raise funds for the Embassy. Best parking is 100 E Washington Blvd, \$2 after 5:00 pm. For information, call 424-6287.

**April 28, CRAIG FERGUSON:** Embassy Theatre, 7:30 pm, \$44.75 and \$34.75. Credit Card fees will apply. Best parking is at 100 E Washington Blvd, \$2 after 5 p.m. For information, call 424-6287.

## MAY

**May 2, THE THIRTEEN STEP HOUSE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER:** 1317 West Washington Blvd., Speaker at 12:00 noon, raffle drawing at 1:15 pm, dinner at 1:30 pm. Please bring a covered dish. Free. Raffle tickets for a Panasonic 46" 1080p, full HD plasma TV are \$10 each. For tickets or information, call 424-2341 or 414-7335.

**May 2, FORT WAYNE'S WOMEN MEDICAL PIONEERS:** The History Center, 302 E Berry St., 2:00 pm. Free. This is one of the George R Mather Lecture Series, sponsored by the Dunshire Family Foundation.



Presented by Peggy Seigel. Free parking. For information, visit: [www.fwhistorycenter.com](http://www.fwhistorycenter.com)  
**May 3 AVENUE Q:** Embassy Theatre, 7:30 pm, \$52, \$42, and \$27. Best parking is 100 E Washington Blvd, \$2 after 5:00 pm. For information, call 424-6287.

**May 7, 8, SETTLER'S ANNUAL HERB & PERENNIAL SALE:**  
 Swinney House, 1424 West Jefferson Blvd. Friday, May 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, May 8, 8 a.m. to noon.. Free parking. At this sale you will find a wonderful selection of herbs, perennials and bulb plants, including 'diggings' from the garden at the Swinney House. Take time to visit the Log House, listen to the Hearthstone Ensemble, browse the Gift Shoppe, select a homemade treat from the Bake Sale, and learn more about Settlers, Inc. membership and programs. All are welcome! For information, contact Norene Brown at 637-8622 or visit [www.settlersinc.org](http://www.settlersinc.org).

**May 9, GRANDE PAGE ORGAN CONCERT WITH MARK HERMANN:** Embassy Theatre, 2:00 pm, \$14 for adults and \$7 for students with valid I.D. For information, call 424-6287.

**May 13, SETTLER SERIES 'CELEBRATING MR. LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR ERA':** Sponsored by Settlers, Inc., 9:00 am to 11:30 am, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd. Free parking. \$15 for non-member of Settlers, Inc. This last session in our series is 'Underpinnings, Lotions, Potions, and Medicine'. It's the end of the Civil War and the soldiers are coming home. Wounds need mending. Rough work for women may lessen. Weddings will be planned. Soft hands, sweet smells and beauty will once again be on the forefront of the ladies' interests. And finally, we will partake of Mrs. Lincoln's favorite - a strawberry social. For information, contact D. Keane at 486-8903 or visit [www.settlersinc.org](http://www.settlersinc.org).

**JUNE**

**June 6, HISTORY OF THE FORT WAYNE FIRE DEPARTMENT:**  
 The History Center, 302 E Berry St., 2:00 pm. Free. This is one of the George R Mather Lecture Series, sponsored by the Dunshire Family Foundation . Presented by Dennis Giere. Cost: Free parking. For information, visit [www.fwhistorycenter.com](http://www.fwhistorycenter.com)



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*Parking Control / 427-5050*  
*Police (non-emergency) / 427-1222*

*Preservation Planners / 427-2160 (Don Orban), 427-2161 (Creager Smith)*  
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*Streetlight Maintenance / 427-1236*  
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West Central Neighborhood Association  
 PO Box 13151  
 Fort Wayne, IN 46867-3151

## West Central Neighborhood Association 2010 Membership Application

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

*Please make checks payable to:*

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

### Membership Type and Cost

- \$ 10.00 Senior (over 60)
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- \$ 50.00 Organization
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\* 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.