



West Central Neighborhood Association

WCNA Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1 - Spring 2005

From the President

Well, like it or not, I have at least put my toe in the water of using and checking e-mail. However, I am not about to exclaim, "WOW, how did I ever get along without it? My honest reply would more likely border on, "Very nicely, thank you!" However, I do have to admit, in my present role with the WCNA it appears almost indispensable.

Speaking of my present role, the dedication and talents of Jill Downs make it possible for a relative civilian, such as myself, in the esoteric knowledge on things historical, to have a fighting chance to fulfill my responsibilities. In addition to Jill, I certainly add board members Mike Walsh, Mary Modezjewski, Mary Radawski, and my wife Barbara as providing outstanding introspection and judgement to the decision making process.

We have already held two meetings on the House & Garden Tour for 2005. Efforts are underway to lessen the impact of responsibilities on Norma Hoepfner and Ann Herman.

They especially need assistance in securing

permission from homeowners who have never or not recently opened their home for the tour. Residents need to understand that the tour is our largest and most effective fundraiser. As such, it provides funding to employ Jill as a full time neighborhood specialist, as well as to improve the beautification and quality of life. Examples would be new streetlights, tree planting, truck and traffic issues, crime watch and maintaining integrity of historical characteristics. Remember, we otherwise do not have association dues as some suburban associations to invest in projects, which help maintain and hopefully improve property values.

Therefore, we hope those who are approached by tour committee members to make your home, apartment or garden available, will positively consider the request. The tour committee has very experienced members, volunteers and a proven plan to insure your personal requirements are kept to a minimum.

Larry Coddling

Local Historic District Expansion Update

As reported last fall, the WCNA has begun the process of expanding the West Central Local Historic District. The expansion area is south of West Jefferson Boulevard between Broadway and the Penn Central Railroad, Broadway from the Penn Central Railroad to almost Main Street, and West Wayne and Berry Streets Between Broadway and Webster Streets.

Informational meetings were held in September and October 2004, and information packets and

signature cards were mailed to many affected property owners. Other property owners have been and are being contacted on an individual basis. The process is slow, but is moving along. We need 51% of affected property owners to sign in favor of the expansion in order to proceed with the next step in the process.

If you would like to volunteer for this effort, please contact Jill Downs at 385-WEST.
jill.downs@westcentralneighborhood.org

Swinney Park Pedestrian Bridge over the St. Mary's River

In 2002, LANDSCAPES, Inc. completed a Cultural Landscape Report for Swinney Park that made recommendations for improvements in the park. Recognizing that there are both money and resource limitations to take into consideration in regard to the overall Master Plan for Fort Wayne's park system, the WCNA Parks Committee developed its own goals as a commitment toward making the suggested improvements happen. Some of our short term and on-going volunteer projects include participating in the annual The Great Tree Canopy Comeback, a project to reforest the park, and clearing undesirable vegetation in the Junk Ditch area.

The WCNA Parks Committee's intermediate goals category includes rehabilitation of the pond, picnic pavilion and the construction of a pedestrian

bridge across the St. Mary's River to connect East and West Swinney Park. Early in 2004, the WCNA applied for and received Community Development Block Grant funding to study the feasibility of the bridge. The study, completed in December 2004, evaluates crossing locations, structure options, connectivity with the Fort Wayne Greenway trail system, safety, aesthetics, maintenance issues and construction costs. In the near future, the WCNA will be meeting with various Swinney Park interest groups to review the results of the study and to choose an option to work toward funding.

For more detailed information on the final report of the bridge feasibility study, see our web site at www.westcentralneighborhood.org.



Learn the History of Your House

Are you curious to know who first lived in your house? Have you wondered what former residents did for a living? Jill Downs, Research Specialist for the WCNA, will trace the history of your house back to its first owner(s), or close to it, and will research biographical information on the owner(s) for a fee of \$150. Proceeds benefit the WCNA. For anyone placing their house on the annual WCNA House and Garden Tour, the house history service will be done free of charge.

Sheridan Court Apartments



- SPACIOUS 1 & 2 BEDROOMS AND EFFICIENCIES
- HEAT & WATER PAID
- 6 MONTH LEASE

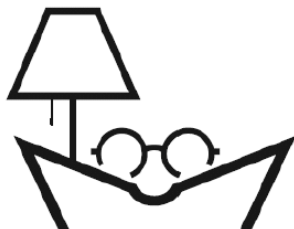
Other Locations Available In Historic West Central Area

719 Union Street • Fort Wayne
(260) 426-1556

Help Available for Claiming Earned Income Tax Credit

Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard has initiated the third annual "Money in Your Pocket" campaign designed to help low-income residents claim the Earned Income Tax Credit on their 2004 tax returns. Households with 2 or more children and a family income of less than \$35, 484 can get up to \$4,300 in refunds, and households with no children and income of less than \$12, 490 may get up to \$390. In the West Central neighborhood, tax preparation help is available at the Benito Juarez Center, 1210 Broadway, on Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm and Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. Help also is available at other sites around Fort Wayne. Call the Mayor's office at 427-1111 for more information.

Mitchell Books



*Please come visit us and receive 15% off your next purchase when you join our customer loyalty program and present this coupon
Mitchell Books is located in Covington Plaza
(260)432-BOOK(2665)*

Trader Joe's in Downtown Fort Wayne!

The West Central Neighborhood Association (WCNA) is working on getting **Trader Joe's** (www.traderjoes.com) to come to **Fort Wayne**, specifically to the former Firestone/McMahon Tire building at 502 W. Jefferson in downtown Fort Wayne. The WCNA has sent a letter of support (including stats and demographics about West Central and downtown), and the Alliance has sent them information on the building and Fort Wayne in general. They have also been sent a copy of the rendering of the building as a Trader Joe's.

If you like Trader Joe's and support this idea, please write a letter to Trader Joe's to tell them so. Make sure you reference the specific building and tell them all the many reasons why you'd love to have them in town. It will bring a grocery store to the West Central area, reuse an historic building, bring activity to downtown Fort Wayne, etc.

Your support is appreciated! Feel free to pass this on to other Trader Joe's fans.

Address your letters to:

Mr. Dan Bane
Chairman and CEO

Trader Joe's
117 Kendrick St., Suite 700
Needham, MA 02494

West Central Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 13151
Fort Wayne, IN 46867-3151
(260) 385-WEST



TRADER JOE'S: A UNIQUE GROCERY STORE

(from <http://www.traderjoes.com/about/index.asp>)

Historic Preservation Lecture Series

ARCH, Inc., Fort Wayne's historic preservation organization, is hosting a "Free & Easy Lecture Series" this spring. Two lectures remain on the schedule.

On March 10 at 7:00 pm at the Pontiac Library 2215 Hanna Street, David Duvall, Indiana State Architect with the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, will present "**Tax Incentives for Historic Preservation.**" This lecture will discuss the tax credits available toward the rehabilitation of both commercial and residential historic properties. Properties either on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, including those in historic districts, and/or the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures may qualify. Anyone planning to undertake a substantial rehabilitation project of a house or other structure is encouraged to attend this informative lecture.

On April 20, 7:00 pm at the Shawnee Library 5600 Noll Avenue, Don Orban, Preservation Planner with the City of Fort Wayne, will present "**Hues & Clues: Picking the Right Paint for the Right Architectural Style.**"

For more information on tax credits, click on:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/tax/>

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/incentives.html>

<http://www.westcentralneighborhood.org/FedCredits.htm>

<http://www.westcentralneighborhood.org/StateCredit.htm>

<http://www.westcentralneighborhood.org/ResCredit.htm>



GRINSFELDER ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, inc.

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Important Dates

WCNA meetings: 3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20
7:00 PM - Wellspring, 1316 Broadway

Recycling dates: week of 3/13, 3/27,
4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/19

Tour Committee:

3/24 7:00 PM - 1004 W. Washinton Bl.

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

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

Neighborhood Specialist

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

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President@westcentralneighborhood.org

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treasurer@westcentralneighborhood.org

Membership

Mary Radawski 424-2722
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.

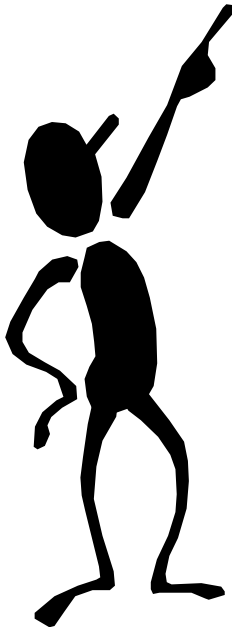
Make checks payable to WCNA and mail to:

WCNA
PO Box 13151
Fort Wayne, IN 46867-3151

WCNA House and Garden Tour plans beginning to take shape

Planning for the 2005 tour has already begun. If you are interested in having your West Central home, business, or garden on the tour September 10 and 11, contact any WCNA board member or Jill Downs at 385-WEST.

If You would like to be a part of the Tour Committee feel free to come to the next planning meeting 7:00 PM, March 24th at 1004 West Washington Boulevard.



WCNA Items for Sale

- "Historic West Central" t-shirts - \$10 (dark green, sizes L and XL)
Contact Mary Radawski at 424-2722
- *West Central Neighborhood House and Garden Tour 1983-2003: Selections from the Past* (book about the history of the West Central neighborhood and its annual house and garden tour) - \$6
Contact Mary Modezjewski at 426-0854



**West Central Neighborhood Association
2005 Membership Application**

Individual Membership: \$10.00

Business Membership: \$50.00 (receive 1 free, business card-sized ad in each newsletter
of the calendar year after dues are paid)

Please Make Checks payable to:

**WCNA
P.O. Box 13151
Fort Wayne IN 46867-3151**

Please check your preference:

Mail Newsletter
 Deliver Newsletter

Name:

Address:

Phone #:

Suggestion:



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