



# WILDWOOD PARK

Newsletter April 2015

## Get Ready for the Neighborhood Garage Sale

This year Anne Duff, Megan Kraft and Karen Walter will help to put on the Wildwood Park Annual Garage Sale on Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30.

Want to be in on the fun and make some extra cash.... Just fill out the attached form and either email it to [anneduff@frontier.com](mailto:anneduff@frontier.com) or drop this off to Anne Duff at 3704 Mulberry Rd. (This will also allow us to keep track of how many homeowners are participating this year)

In the past neighbors have given a \$5.00 donation toward the cost of adding balloons to all of the signs posted at the entrances, each day of the event. This is now a *voluntary* donation. If you would like to contribute to continue that tradition, please drop off or mail your donation to Karen Walter at 3710 North Washington Rd.

Not enough items to sell? Consider joining with your neighbor and together to display the merchandise, so that there will be an abundance of items for sale.

Interested in participating or helping out? Contact Anne Duff at 459-0708; or Megan Kraft at [mkhofrichter@hotmail.com](mailto:mkhofrichter@hotmail.com) or Karen Walter at 3710 North Washington Road.



## Re-Landscaping the Park at the Point: Chat with the Landscape Architect

Responding to comments made at the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors will seek to sponsor one meeting (perhaps more) with a Landscape Architect, to be held at the Park at the Point (intersection of North Washington Road and South Washington Road) to discuss the potential for new landscaping for what is now the "wild area." As far as we can tell, the "wild area" is like Topsy: "I s'pect I just grewed. Don't think nobody never made me."\* The Board of Directors will find one or more available dates; we hope to have a fun event (with good weather), to let people see the potential for new landscaping. Of course there will be a cost to all of this, and that is why we want as many people as possible to show up to see that the cost will be worth it.

\*Harriet Beecher Stowe, "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

## Should We Stop Paying to Protect our Ash Trees?

For many years Wildwood Park Community Association has helped pay for treatment of various ash trees located on neighborhood association property, along street rights-of-way, and along Willowdale Creek. The Willowdale Creek area and the park strips are all City property; those are City trees that we are treating. Originally we relied on contributions to help fund the cost of treatment. And the hope was that Michigan State University would come up with a single application or inoculation that would give the ash tree life-time immunity. But that didn't work out. Instead, the recommended treatment is called "Tree-age". It is applied every other year, and protects the ash tree from the Emerald Ash Borer. But it is expensive. The bigger the tree, the more "Tree-age" has to be applied. So the really beautiful large ash trees cost the most to protect.

We did build into our 2015 budget an amount to be paid for inoculating the ash trees this year, but the Board was instructed to look into alternatives. It might be much cheaper to simply allow the ash trees to die, and to plant different species instead. The Board will be working with Mudrack Tree Service (they have been doing the "Tree-age" inoculations) to see if we can guess how long this expense is going to on. If all remaining (live) ash trees are protected by Tree-age then it may not be necessary to continue the treatment. There will be no Emerald Ash Borers anywhere nearby. But we want the advice from Mudrack's, before we consider our next move. If you have any comments or questions, please contact any officer or director (or send us an e-mail to [wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com)).

## Free Advice for your Gardening Challenges

The Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service (Allen County Extension Office) starts their annual Garden Hotline April 1. If you have specific gardening questions, call 481-6826 (option 2). The Master Gardeners who staff this Hotline will return your call with fact-based answers. (If you want answers based on woolly worms, you can always buy the Old Farmer's Almanac.)



There's more! If you have sick plants, you can bring a sample of the "sick" tree, shrub, vegetable or flower to the Allen County Extension Office 4001 Crescent Avenue, for a diagnosis of the problem. There is a \$3 fee. Alternatively photos of "problem plants" may be e-mailed to [kemeryr@purdue.edu](mailto:kemeryr@purdue.edu). And you can get a 1-hour visit by Ricky Kemery and his master garden team to diagnose problem plants, to solve landscape issues, and for more advice. There is a \$20 fee for this service.

The County Extension Office is located on the IPFW campus. Enter the IPFW campus from Crescent Avenue at the exit just about 3/4 of the way around the round-about. Turn left immediately after passing the cross walk. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (open through lunch), Monday through Friday.

## Let Us Brag About Your Kids! Tell Us What They've Been Up To.

The Wildwood Park Newsletter likes to brag about Wildwood Park's kids and alumni. Want to share accomplishments with your neighbors? We'd like to know about recent honors, awards, events, etc. (We'd also like to have pictures!). It is sort of like the Christmas letter you get from your distant cousin: "Little Susie is all grown up and has graduated from College. We are so proud!" And for our alumni: yes many former residents continue to receive the Newsletter. Don't make us rely on Linked In to find out about your new job. Not all of us are your friends on Facebook. So drop us a line and tell us what's up.

And if you send us a letter-to-the-editor saying WildwoodParkIsTheBestestNeighborhoodEver! We just might publish it. Because we're modest.

Letters to the Editor: send to [wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com).



## A Sign for Historic Wildwood Park

The Board of Directors has agreed to start working on the text of a sign to commemorate Wildwood Park's inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The first step is to develop the text to place on the sign. A barebones simple declaration that Wildwood Park is on the National Register would allow use of much larger type (hence, more visible); whereas an explanation as to why Wildwood Park was selected for this honor would require a number of lines of smaller type. The Board of Directors is considering a first draft; please let any officer or director have your comments. The Sign will likely be placed at the intersection of North Washington Road and South Washington Road, pretty much where the literature box for the Newsletter is presently located.

## Committees. Committees...

Wildwood Park Community Association establishes committees from time to time – some committees disappear and are never heard from again (for example the Watchdog Committee); whereas other committees remain active. Two committees that are certainly active this year are the Architectural Control Committee, and the Welcoming Committee (Welcome Committee). The Architectural Control Committee acts on behalf of the Board in reviewing proposals for fences, removal of trees, erection of hedges in the nature of a fence, and requests for exceptions from the requirements of the Restrictive Covenants of Wildwood Park. Typically the Committee consists of three neighbors at least one of whom is a member of the Board of Directors. If the homeowner is not happy with the result, the homeowner may appeal the decision to the full Board of Directors.

The Welcoming Committee reaches out to new neighbors; we have lots of literature to give to the new owners including a copy of our Restrictive Covenants (for some reason, the moment someone moves to Wildwood Park they want to fire up the chain-saw – but we have Restrictive Covenants that prohibit simply cutting down large trees on your lot). But also it is a chance to welcome people to the neighborhood, let them know what Wildwood Park is all about, how to contact the officers and directors if they have any problems, etc.

We also have ad hoc committees to help sponsor specific events; you may notice we have a committee already established to supervise this year's Neighborhood Garage Sale. We will be looking for people to volunteer to run the Annual Picnic (typically the weekend after Labor Day). It is important that the Picnic Committee get to work now, since if we are to have entertainment, animals, or special events requiring outside contractors, the reservations simply have to be made now – or else it will be too late for this year.

Interested in other events? Wildwood Park has its social side, and we look forward to sponsoring events to meet and mingle. Let us have your ideas.

If you are interested in joining any committee (or in forming a committee), just let any officer or director know. You can also send an e-mail to [wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com).



## Your Board of Directors

*The Officers and Directors of Wildwood Park Community Association:*

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Bill Deller 672-8127  
3524 South Washington Rd  
[jamesf1983@comcast.net](mailto:jamesf1983@comcast.net)

The directors have elected the following officers:

**President:** Grant Shipley  
**Vice-President:** Lloyd Porter  
**Secretary:** Mike Galbraith  
**Treasurer:** Julie Walda  
1625 Hawthorne Rd.  
432-6374  
[julie.walda68@gmail.com](mailto:julie.walda68@gmail.com)

Our Website is:  
[www.wildwoodpark.us](http://www.wildwoodpark.us)

Letters to the Editor to:  
[Wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com)

### *Trivia Corner*

*April starts on the same day of the week as July in all years.*