

Happy
Valentine's
Day

WILDWOOD PARK

Newsletter February 2015

Come to the Annual Meeting/Annual Dinner on Sunday, February 15, 2015

The Football season is over. No more Bowl games. Now it's time to get out and enjoy meeting your neighbors at the Annual Wildwood Park Dinner, Sunday, February 15, 2015, at the Tokyo Seoul Restaurant in Westland Mall, 6193 W. Jefferson Blvd. This is a social event that starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Restaurant – an hour of mingling, a cash bar, and a chance to meet your neighbors. There is no agenda, no format. Dress is casual (business casual preferred, tie optional unless you're presiding at the meeting).

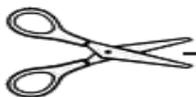
At 6:00, the Dinner starts. This will be a buffet-style dinner. Please send in your R.S.V.P. A copy of the R.S.V.P. is reprinted at the bottom of this page. Simply cut it out and send it to our Treasurer, Steve Souers. Also send in a check for the Dinner – \$18.00 per person. Make your check payable to Wildwood Park Community Association.

Once the Dinner starts (6:00 p.m.), we will go around the room and asking everyone to stand up and identify themselves, where they live and how long they have lived in the Park. There will also be the introduction of Officers and Directors for the 2014-2015 business year. We will also identify our official Guests (our guests may, but need not, speak to the Association members.)

The Dinner will last approximately an hour, and will be followed by the Annual Meeting (the official meeting of Wildwood Park Community Association, Inc., an Indiana non-profit corporation).

Don't forget to send in your R.S.V.P. with your check (\$18 per person). We need to let Tokyo Seoul Restaurant know how many people will be coming, so that they can plan for the buffet.

(There is no charge for coming to the Annual Meeting that immediately follows the Dinner. If you want to just come to the Annual Meeting, please show up around 7:00 p.m.)



Wildwood Park Community Association, Inc. Dinner Reservation – Annual Dinner

I (We) will be coming to the Wildwood Park Annual Dinner, Sunday, February 15, 2015, at the Tokyo Seoul Restaurant, 6193 W. Jefferson Blvd. (Westland Mall), starting at 6:00 p.m.

Names for the name tags:

The charge is \$18.00 per person. Send your check payable to Wildwood Park Community Association, Inc. to Steve Souers, 3505 North Washington Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Your cancelled check is your receipt. (This is a buffet dinner with appetizers and entrees.)

Please Come to the Wildwood Park Annual Meeting

Sunday February 15 at the Tokyo Seoul Restaurant

(7:00 p.m.)

Wildwood Park Community Association, Inc. is an Indiana non-profit corporation. The Annual Meeting is the official gathering of members (those who get to vote on important things – like shareholders in a for-profit corporation). Here's the agenda:

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Solicitation and collection of ballots for the election of Directors
- Recognition of Directors, Officers and guests
- Approval of the Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting
- Approval of the Treasurer's Report for 2014
- Approval of Dues for 2015
- Discussion and vote on whether to levy and collect special assessments to fund landscape improvements at the Park at the Point.
- Discussion and vote on whether to levy and collect special assessments to fund the erection of an Historic Marker to commemorate Wildwood Park's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Discussion and vote on Community Gardening – Should we use any part of Barberry Park for Community Gardening?
- President's Report – the year in review (This may include activity reports by the chairs of the various neighborhood activities throughout the year)
- Unfinished business: None
- New business: In the absence of a one-third quorum, new business will be for discussion purposes only
- Report of the Treasurer on the outcome of the election for Directors
- Adjournment



At 7:00 the Meeting will be called to order, and at approximately 7:05 p.m. we will collect whatever remaining ballots people want to cast, for the election of two members of the Board of Directors. This will be the last meeting for our long-standing Treasurer, Steve Souers. He gets to count all of those ballots and will announce the results at the very end of the meeting. Our Assistant Treasurer is Julie Walda. The first thing after the Annual Meeting, there will be a short meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors (the two directors elected at the meeting, together with the five directors whose terms are carried forward). The purpose of the quick meeting after the Annual Meeting is to choose the officers for 2015-2016.

We have lots to talk about at this Annual Meeting so we will try to get things going at 7:00 p.m. sharp. (A quorum is 16 homes/lots as represented by those in attendance; if 53 homes/lots are in attendance, then we can take up new business not specified on the agenda.)

So please come – in person or by proxy. This is your chance to vote. (Our by-laws are posted on our website, www.wildwoodpark.us. So our procedures for governing our Association should be generally known by now – we hope.)

The Park at the Point: its History and its Potential

The “Point” is the intersection between North Washington Road and South Washington Road (the names of these streets have changed from time to time; on the earliest plats they were Washington Road North and Washington Road South). The original Plat of Wildwood Park simply called this undeveloped land a “Park.” Ultimately the City determined that this was a private park (one of two private parks within the City limits – the other was in the Harrison Hill neighborhood). Since it was a “Park” it was never taxed, even though the City did not own it.

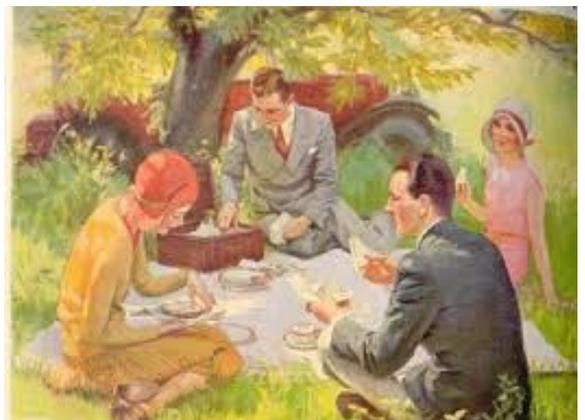
The developer left this part of the Hoffman Farm in its natural state. The Hoffman farm house (on South Washington Road) was not separated from the land to the north; what is now North Washington Road (at that time called Washington Road) had been laid out on behalf of the Fort Wayne County Club, and was the connection from Illinois Road to the front door of the Club. The developer of Wildwood Park accepted the layout of this road and built around it. Between North Washington Road and the farm house, along what is now South Washington Road/Saginaw/North Washington Road was an apple orchard; the apple trees were still there in the 1920's and 1930's.

But the bare ground where the Park is located was a meadow, apparently used for grazing. It had become a favorite picnicking spot in the summer. People came out Main Street past Lindenwood Cemetery, turned right on Illinios Road (West Jefferson had not yet been built past the Swinney homestead) and parked in the undeveloped area along Old Illinois Road. You walked over land to what is now Willowdale, crossed the creek (which was much more shallow back then), and came up the hill using a path that had long existed (everyone knew it as Hillside Path). The south part of the path (the part that intersected with North Washington Road) is today the driveway for the house at 3340 North Washington Road; it originally extended down the hill all the way to the creek. Once you got to the top of Hillside Path, you went across to the meadow – today's Park at the Point.

The developer kept the Park at the Point undeveloped, for people to enjoy for picnicking and other events. Sidewalks were to be constructed on North Washington Road, Saginaw, and South Washington Road, but not at the Park at the Point, rather a sidewalk within the Park would connect directly from North Washington Road to South Washington Road, parallel to the lot line. That sidewalk was never built, although the original sidewalks on North Washington Road and South Washington Road included a “T” for the beginning of the sidewalk. That sidewalk was set back from the property line by perhaps twenty feet, and is that area between the planned sidewalk and the property line which has grown up over the years with trees, bushes, and flowers.

After the Second World War, the Association planted evergreen bushes at the Park along North Washington Road; the City planted Siberian Elm trees around the perimeter of the Park, to take place of American Elm trees planted originally by the developer. The City thought it was planting Chinese Elm trees but they turned out to be Siberian Elm trees (which turned out to be a rather undesirable species). In the 1980's, your Association planted Red Oak saplings in between the Siberian Elms, so that when the Siberian Elms died or were cut down there would be substantial Oak trees to take there place.

Over the years, the Park has remained essentially grass land, except for the trees, shrubs, bushes and flowers



that pretty much grew on their own on the west side of the Park.

Since the Association assumed control of the park lands in 1942 (at that time the Developer relinquished its authority over the common areas), little improvement has been done; trees grew; but no landscaping plan was ever adopted. By the year 2000, many of the older trees had reached the end of their lives, and were dying or falling over. While that may have been a good thing for providing fuel for our annual campfire, it has left the “wild area” with not much reason to visit there.

So your Board of Directors has suggested obtaining professional landscaping, to create a wooded area on the west side of the Park at the Point – potentially including much more land than the original strip between the never-built sidewalk and the property line. The landscaper, aided by an arborist, would select native species of trees and bushes, with an eye towards very low maintenance cost in the future, with trails and walking paths, perhaps some park benches to sit on, a selection of perennial flowers to enjoy, and other amenities (perhaps moving our official picnic table into that area). When the weather is nice, this is a place you would want to go, with your family. It would be fun to picnic there.

But all of this costs money, and this will be one of the topics for discussion and decision at the Annual Meeting.

Back in the 1980's, the Board of Directors saw that the less-than-desirable Siberian Elm trees would finally die one day, and we should have desirable native species to replace them. Certain volunteers (you know who you are!) turned out to dig the holes and plant the trees. Now those little saplings are of respectable size. If we get working now on the entire west end of the Park, then this will be a legacy we leave to Wildwood Park residents of the future. Please bring your ideas, comments and questions to the Annual Meeting.

Vandalism? Tell the Police right away!



A few weeks ago someone drove up over the curb and across lawns on Hawthorne and Saginaw. Tire trails were left in the lawns; property was damaged or destroyed. Yet the police received only one report. Maybe someone driving over a lawn on one lot was simply a mistake. But at least 6 lots were involved, and it was clear from the path that the trespass and resulting damage was intentional. Please call the police at **427-1222** if anything like this happens to you. (Save the phone number; put in a safe place you will remember.) One reason that crime is down in Wildwood Park is that people will call the police. Experienced criminals know this. We need to convince the brand new criminals of this, too.

Headlines from 1952

Our archive of Minutes of Wildwood Park Community Association from 1952 reports that the Association was finally able to get door-to-door mail delivery in 1952. Originally mail was delivered to rural route mailboxes clustered at the triangle (North Washington Road/Saginaw/Hawthorne). As the number of homes increased so did the number of street-side mailboxes. But 1952 finally brought door-to-door delivery, through the efforts of the Association. Wildwood Park was at the very west end of the City limits; from at least 1916 when Wildwood Park was annexed into the City, we remained the western-most neighborhood within the City limits until the mid-1970's. Even after the USPS changed the rules (now calling for curbside mail delivery) Wildwood Park has continued to benefit from the Association's successful lobbying in 1952.

Recycling Pick Up

Wildwood Park's Recycling is picked up on the "A" weeks. Please put your carts out the night before.



CITY OF FORT WAYNE
recycling

Recycling is collected every other week. Please use the calendar below to help keep track of your "A" or "B" week. Questions? "One call to City Hall"... Dial 311 or visit www.recyclefortwayne.org



CITY OF FORT WAYNE

2015 RECYCLING CALENDAR																							
<i>January</i>				<i>February</i>				<i>March</i>															
B	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	A	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	A	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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B	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	A	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	A	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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<i>April</i>				<i>May</i>				<i>June</i>															
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= Service will run a day behind when the following holidays are observed on a weekday: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.



Wildwood Park got moved from 46804 to 46802. How did this change our demographics?

Retailers, politicians, and others tend to lump everybody together in a single ZIP Code as having certain qualities, traits, and characteristics. Wildwood Park was in 46804 for a long time; then they changed Wildwood Park to be included in 46802 (the boundary line is Ardmore). So how does Wildwood Park look, as being part of 46802? Go to

www.esri.com/data/esri_data/ziptapestry/ and look up 46802. According to them 46802 is forty percent single family/ married couples who are “struggling” with “limited education”, “buying sale items in bulk” and with “no extra money to save or invest.” Twenty three percent live in multi-unit rentals, on low fixed-income, living on Social Security, SSI, and public assistance. The “low incomes limit our shopping.” Thirteen percent are young Millennials, still renting, well educated.

So how does this compare with 46804? Twenty three percent are in neighborhoods where there is a mix of older and younger residents, where the residents are comfortable with technology, while the older residents may still be taking adult education classes. Twenty one percent are married, in affluent, family-orientated neighborhoods; seventeen percent are typical suburban families who are empty-nesters and transitioning to retirement. The median household income in 46804 is about \$65,000 per year; the median family income in 46802 is only \$28,000 per year.

Let’s face it: Wildwood Park is more like 46804 than 46802. But we still get to-your-door mail delivery, and 46804 doesn’t.

Going...Going...Gone?

We have not heard any response to our inquiry whether Wildwood Park Community Association, Inc. should acquire the 1-acre tract of land south of the houses on South Washington Road and adjacent to Ardmore (this is a tract of land accessible only from the Ardmore frontage road, the little road that serves a couple of homes behind the Ardmore sound barrier, north of Portage and south of South Washington Road.)

So the City is advertising this property for sale. The last day you can make an offer is Wednesday, February 4. Interested in acquiring this property? Contact Dan Brenner, the City’s property manager, 427-5402 for instructions how to make an offer. Our understanding is that the property is zoned residential, but we do not know if all utilities are available.



Your Board of Directors

The Officers and Directors of Wildwood Park Community Association:

Debra Devine, 459-1530
3502 Portage
devinegoddess@comcast.net

Michael Galbraith, 432-1475
1518 Hawthorne Road
macgalb@aol.com

Brad Huff, 432-6935
3442 S. Washington Rd.

Lloyd Porter, 432-1260
3727 N. Washington Rd.
lloydjersha@gmail.com

Grant Shipley, 432-7645
3322 North Washington Rd.
grant.shipley@gmail.com

Robert P. Sandoz
3521 Saginaw
tifosi3@hotmail.com

Bill Deller 672-8127
3524 South Washington Rd
jamesf1983@comcast.net

The directors have elected the following officers:

President: Grant Shipley
Vice-President: Lloyd Porter
Secretary: Mike Galbraith
Treasurer: Steve Souers
3505 North Washington Rd.
432-8717

ssouers@hallercolvin.com
Asst. Treasurer: Julie Walda
1625 Hawthorne Rd.
432-6374
cjwalda@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President:
Lenny Duff
3704 Mulberry Road
459-0708
Lennyduff@frontier.com

Our Website is:
www.wildwoodpark.us

Letters to the Editor to:
Wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com