

# WILDWOOD PARK

Newsletter June 2015

## Wildwood Park Cleans up its Act

Saturday, May 16 arrived wet and dreary, with rains and sprinkles. But as 9:00 approached (the start for this year's Great American Clean-Up), the rains stopped, the donuts appeared at the Park at the Point, and volunteers got going addressing two projects. A traditional Clean-Up task is to pick up trash in public areas, and this year the public area was West Jefferson Blvd. between Ardmore and Willowdale, outside the noise barrier. There was a lot of trash to be picked up, since apparently the City has only been mowing that area, not keeping it clean. It took three hours, and eight bags of road trash were picked up by the relentless trash-grabbers (Grant Shipley, Lou Henry, and Geoff Padock). Thanks to Brad Huff for loaning his extendo-grabbers. (My back says thank-you, too.)

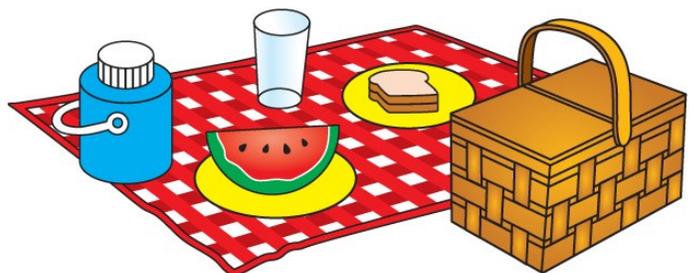
Meanwhile at Barberry Park, Brad Huff, Lyle Hestermann and Todd Kearney felled and cut up a large dead tree. It would have cost the Association thousands of dollars to have paid an independent contractor to come and do this work. Lyle Hestermann helped haul off the branches to the landfill, while Todd Kearney showed us what a chain saw with a long bar can do. Todd is definitely one of Wildwood Park's official lumberjacks.

The fun ended shortly after noon; we got an official T-shirt, and work gloves donated by the City. And Donuts!

Thanks to all who took part in this year's Clean-Up.

## Wildwood Park Picnic Scheduled for September 12

This year's Wildwood Park Picnic will be held Saturday, September 12. Why this early announcement? We found out last year that the Picnic Team need to arrange things very early; if you wait until the month before the Picnic a lot of options (entertainment, events) are no longer available. Interested in helping out? Contact Bill Deller, 3524 South Washington Road, 672-8127, [jamesf1983@comcast.net](mailto:jamesf1983@comcast.net). We're not sure if Bill will be the chair of this year's committee, but he is helping organize the event. (What should we have for food this year? Wildwood Park's grilled chicken breast with secret marinade? Ribs? Hotdogs? Hamburgers?) Come volunteer and help out and make these crucial decisions.



## Please: No Open Burning

The City has ordinances prohibiting open burning of leaves, wood, etc.; so if you have old leaves (last year's oak leaves are still blowing around), limbs, boughs, or brush, do not burn them: instead, you can put them in you trash can or two-wheeled trash cart supplied by the City. Make sure limbs are no longer than three feet. If your two-wheeled trash cart is full, you can fill trash cans up and set them along side the trash cart.

If someone is burning up leaves, wood, etc. anyone can call the Fire Department, and they will come out and douse the fire. They are also authorized to charge you with a fine.

This prohibition does not apply to firepits, wood-fired grills or smokers. But you are tempting fate (and a fine) if you decide to just burn up the old leaves and brush.



**NO Open Burning**

## Neighborhood Garage Sales were Fun and Profitable

On Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30, 2015, garage sales blossomed in Wildwood Park, as part of our annual spring Neighborhood Garage Sale. This year there were fewer homes participating, but more interested purchasers. Anne Duff, Megan Hofrichter and Karen Walter worked to coordinate the sale, placed an ad, put up signs and balloons; and Anne also placed a note on Facebook.

The advertising and promotion brought in interested purchasers; this year there were Amish families from Shipshewana (showing how effective the advertising was).

This year's lessons will be shared with our neighbors who volunteer to organize next year's Neighborhood Garage Sale. Do you have any comments or questions? Tell any officer or director or send an e-mail to [wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com). We really need to have more homes participating.



### Officer Bob says ...

You've read it here before, but it is worth saying again: Please lock your car if you park it in your driveway or on the street. Please make sure nothing is visible (purses, belongings, electronic devices) which a passing thief could see – that would tempt him/her to break in even if the car were locked.

These thieves are creatures of opportunity: They don't just target Wildwood Park. They go into any neighborhood and quickly "work" the streets and driveways, looking for unlocked vehicles. Yes, it has happened recently in Wildwood Park. If you have to park your car in the driveway or on the street, please make sure to bring all your valuables inside, and then lock the car behind you.

## Last Call for the Lost Coat

At our Annual Dinner at Tokyo Seoul Restaurant, someone walked off with Geoff Paddock's coat (and left their own). Now that winter coats are going into storage could you please double check to see if you have Geoff Paddock's coat. It's a size 44 Joseph A Bank charcoal coat. Let Geoff know – or send a message to [wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com).

## How we Enforce Restrictive Covenants, and what you can do to help

Those of you who live in the “Restrictive Covenant” area of Wildwood Park are bound by certain covenants initially adopted in 1916, and updated from time to time thereafter. These covenants are available on our website [www.wildwoodpark.us](http://www.wildwoodpark.us). Any neighbor can enforce those covenants; so can your Association. Restrictive Covenants (also called Protective Covenants) are private contracts which limit your use of your land – for the benefit of your other neighbors. Likewise your other neighbors are bound by those same covenants for your benefit.

Your neighborhood association does not enforce city ordinances. The City does not enforce our Restrictive Covenants. Yet both restrictive covenants and city ordinances apply to your land, and your use of it. For example, our Restrictive Covenants require that you obtain permission from the Association if you intend to erect a fence. City ordinances require that you get permission from the City to erect a fence. These are not substitutes for each other. You must both get permission from the Association and get permission from the City (get a fence permit). (It's best to get approval from the Association first, since the City charges for permits.)

You have probably heard of Home Owners Associations that have ridiculous nit-picking rules, and they enforce these rules with a vengeance. In Wildwood Park, we strive to seek voluntary compliance with our covenants, principally because the covenants are wise. One covenant dating back to 1916 that we always remind people about is not to cut down a live tree having a base of four inches or more in diameter. So what do you do if you have such a tree, but it is leaning dangerously over the garage? Or if it is hollow? Or if it is too close to the house? You apply to the Architectural Control Committee for permission to take it down – there is a form on our website. Submit the form to any officer or director, and we will move quickly on reviewing the situation. The same is true about erecting fences (or planting a hedge in the nature of a fence). This requires approval by the Association.

There are times that we simply cannot agree that a certain tree should be taken down. We will try to get a professional arborist to review the tree to see whether there is any reason to cut it down. There will be no expense charged to the home owner for this service. All too often, the home owner contacts a tree service that makes a profit cutting down trees; of course they are likely to recommend cutting down the particular tree on the home owner's lot (they make a profit from doing so). We strive to get opinions from people that have no financial interest in the outcome of the decision.

Finally, we do not impose “fines” on people. If there is a violation, we may negotiate a settlement; if we have to, we will go to court and let the judge decide what to do. But a “fine” is a criminal sanction. We do not treat our neighbors as being criminals.

## Brad Huff and Steve Souers Assume New Positions with the Board

Board member Brad Huff has been selected to be Secretary of Wildwood Park Community Association, Inc., and Steve Souers has been appointed interim Assistant Treasurer to help out our Treasurer (Julie Walda) if she is unavailable. Brad has also been appointed chair of the Welcome Committee, and Bill Deller is continuing as the lead member of the Architectural Control Committee. The Board also appointed Rob Sandoz and Lloyd Porter to the Architectural Control Committee. Mike Galbraith stays on as Archivist of the Association.

Steve Souers, our former Treasurer will be serving as temporary backup to Julie Walda, our new Treasurer, while she recovers from surgery. We appreciate Steve's willingness to step up and help – he retired as Treasurer after having served for many years, so it is very kind of him to come back and offer to perform the job he just retired from.

## City Announces Repaving Plans for Freeman and Mulberry

The City announced at the South West Area Partnership meeting on May 20 that two repaving projects will be undertaken in Wildwood Park this summer. One project is to repave Freeman Street from West Jefferson Blvd. to Portage Blvd. The other is to repave Mulberry Street end-to-end. The kind of repaving is called surface milling followed by repaving with asphalt. We'll try to get more specific dates, since traffic flow will be impaired during repaving.



## Your Board of Directors

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

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The directors have elected  
the following officers:

**President:** Grant Shipley  
**Vice-President:** Lloyd Porter  
**Secretary:** Brad Huff  
**Treasurer:** Julie Walda  
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**Asst. Treasurer:** Steve Souers  
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Our Website is:  
[www.wildwoodpark.us](http://www.wildwoodpark.us)

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

### *June's Trivia Corner*

*The first cartoon featuring Donald  
Duck was released on June 9, 1934  
("The Wise Little Hen").*