

WILDWOOD PARK

Newsletter September 2014

Wildwood Park Picnic!

The 2014 edition of the Wildwood Park Picnic opens at a park near you (the Park at the Point, intersection of North Washington Road and South Washington Road) on Saturday, September 13, 2014. This year we are featuring events for kids, and then a potluck dinner.

Parents: please contact Bill Deller, 672-8127 or Grant Shipley 432-7645, and let us know how you can help. Some of the kids' events are ad hoc: parents may know of age-appropriate games and events that can pop up during the afternoon. What we have scheduled is: face painting, horse shoes, corn hole, lawn darts (not pointy); a stroller, wagon, tricycle & bicycle parade, kick ball, water balloon toss, musical chairs, maybe limbo (how low can you go?), maybe a craft table.

Volunteers! We need volunteers. We also need parents to supervise activities (kids do the darnedest things).

There will be a flyer distributed throughout the neighborhood, with specified times for events. Right now we are thinking about starting with a kids' parade (trikes, bikes, etc.) and 2:00 p.m. so any bike decorating would take place right before then. The bike parade is typically along North Washington Road from the Park at the Point to Hawthorne/Saginaw; we have arranged for the street to be closed for the block party, so there will be barricades keeping out through traffic.

Residents of Wildwood Park are permitted to park their cars along the street within the barricaded area. We ask that no cars be parked on the south side of North Washington Road where the bushes end, since we need to have access to the Park at that point.

Of course there will be a Porta-Jon. We are encouraging folks from all corners of the neighborhood to attend, even if it means driving and parking.

And then the potluck dinner! For now we will target 6:00 p.m. to start serving food. The Association will provide pulled pork with various sauce options; Wildwood Park's own special grilled chicken breast (with secret marinade); and hotdogs. We'll try to get a beer permit so that adults can have a bubbly beverage; we will have pop for everybody else.

But it's a potluck dinner: you bring covered dishes, veggies, salads, fruit salads, side dishes of all sorts. Please bring a serving piece as well. We'll have the serving tables beforehand so there is plenty of time to bring your covered dish or side dish and arrange it on the serving tables. Desserts? Sure, why not?

Events for adults? This year we hope that adults not supervising the kids will come and mingle, share stories, find out what is going on in the neighborhood, etc. It's a social event with no agenda (until dinner starts!). Yes, many of the members of the Board of Directors will be there to answer any questions you may have. So mark your calendars now: Saturday, September 13, kids' events start at 2:00 p.m., bring your side dish or covered dish (or dessert!) starting at 5:00 p.m., dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. and extends until ???



Tips to Prevent Investment Fraud

The Better Business Bureau, working with SaveAndInvest.org, reports:

We've all heard the timeless admonition, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is" – great advice, but the trick is figuring out when "good" becomes "too good." There's no bright line. Investment fraudsters make their living by making sure the deals they tout appear both good and true.

They're masters of persuasion, tailoring their pitches to match the psychological profiles of their targets. They look for your Achilles' heel by asking seemingly benign questions – about your health, family, political views, hobbies or prior employers. Once they know which buttons to push, they'll bombard you with a flurry of influence tactics, which can leave even the savviest person in a haze.

Common tactics include:

- **The "Phantom Riches" Tactic** – dangling the prospect of wealth, enticing you with something you want but can't have. "These gas wells are guaranteed to produce \$6,800 a month in income."
- **The "Source Credibility" Tactic** – trying to build credibility by claiming to be with a reputable firm, or to have a special credential or experience, "Believe me, as a senior vice president of XYZ Firm, I would never sell an investment that doesn't produce."
- **The "Social Consensus" Tactic** – leading you to believe that other savvy investors have already invested. "This is how ___ got his start. I know it's a lot of money, but I'm in – and so is my mom and half of her church – and it's worth every dime."
- **The "Reciprocity" Tactic** – offering to do a small favor for you in return for a big favor. "I'll give you a break on my commission if you buy now – half off."
- **The "Scarcity" Tactic** – creating a false sense of urgency by claiming limited supply. "There are only two units left, so I'd sign today if I were you."

Protect Yourself

If these tactics look familiar, it's because legitimate marketers use them, too. But one key difference is that real deals will still be there tomorrow. So always take the time to stop and think before making a decision.

Here are three key strategies you – or anyone you know who fits the profile of a potential fraud target – can use to help distinguish good offers from bad ones;

1. **End the conversation** – Practice saying "No." Simply tell the person, "I am sorry, I am not interested. Thank you." Or tell anyone who pressures you, "I never make investing decisions without first consulting my _____. I will contact you if I am still interested." Fill in the blank with whomever you choose – your spouse, child, investment professional, attorney or accountant. Knowing your exit strategy in advance makes it easier to leave the conversation, even if the pressure starts rising,
2. **Turn the tables and ask questions** – A legitimate investment professional must be properly licensed, and his or her firm must be registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or a state securities regulator – depending on the type of business the firm conducts. In addition, with very few exceptions, businesses must register their securities with the SEC before they can sell shares to the public. So, before you give out information about yourself:

Ask:

- Are you and your firm registered with FINRA?
- Are you registered with the SEC?
- Are you registered with a state securities regulator? Which one(s)?
- Is this investment registered with the SEC or my state securities regulator?

Check:

Verify the answers by checking the seller's background. Visit SaveAndInvest.org or call (888) 295-7422.

In addition, check out the firm's **Better Business Bureau** review at www.bbb.org/search. Note the firm's overall grade, complaint history, and whether BBB knows of any pending legal government action. If the firm is not listed with the BBB, ask if they use any other business names. Not all unlisted businesses are fraudsters, but it could be a red flag.

3. Talk to someone first — Be extremely skeptical if the person promoting the deal says, "Don't tell anyone else about this special deal!" A legitimate investment professional won't ask you to keep secrets.

Even if the seller and the investment are registered, it's always a good idea to discuss these sorts of decisions with family or a trusted financial professional.

Things are Looking Up at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control



The days of the dog catcher are gone. Fort Wayne's Animal Care & Control deals with dogs, cats, and all sorts of animals. They're up on Hillegas Road. They have just begun a new program called Community Cats. This is a special program to deal with Fort Wayne's feral cat population. Apparently they had been taking in and euthanizing lots of stray cats, only to find out that other stray cats from neighboring areas move in to take advantage of the food and shelter resources. Yes, there are people who feed wild cats.

So Fort Wayne has adopted the Community Cats program. Feral cats are trapped and brought in, spayed/neutered, marked (ear-tip), vaccinated, and then returned to a location close to where they were trapped. They continue to survive on the resources available in that neighborhood, but they do not create any kittens. Trial runs of the "Community Cats" programs in other cities have shown it to be effective in reducing the number of feral cats.

In 2013, 13,709 animals passed through the Animal Care & Control Shelter. That is an 8% drop from 2012. 2013 had the lowest number of dogs in 17 years; it had the lowest number of cats since 2007.

For dogs, euthanization was required for approximately 50% (illness, injury, aggression, etc.). No dog was euthanized in 2013 simply because there was no room left at the shelter.

Animal Care & Control, working with private nonprofit groups, is very interested in seeking caring families and individuals to adopt pets. If you are thinking of adopting, please contact them as soon as possible. There are always adoption possibilities.

November 4 is Election Day – We Get to Vote in a Referendum!

When was the last time you voted in a referendum? The General Assembly has authorized a special referendum in Allen County to vote on whether to change the fundamental structure of Allen County Government. Here's what it's all about:



Since 1824 the counties in Indiana have been governed by two separate boards: the County Commissioners and the County Council. The County Council has seven members, three of whom are elected at-large (by all county residents), and four of whom are assigned districts more or less equal in population. Wildwood Park is in the Fourth Council District. So in county elections, we get to vote for the three at-large council representatives and one district council representative.

The County Council has limited authority. It is the fiscal body of the County. It prepares and approves the budget. It authorizes expenditures. It reviews the propriety of county expenditures (and can authorize supplemental expenditures). It has no legislative authority (it cannot enact county ordinances), it has no executive authority (it cannot manage any County activities), and it has no judicial authority.

The three County Commissioners exercise the legislative and executive authority of the County. (The judicial authority is exercised by the Circuit and Superior Court Judges.) There are three separate districts, with a Commissioner for each district. Wildwood Park votes in the second district (the second district is principally the northwest district, but there is an extension down to the southwest that grabs Wildwood Park). So at election time you get to vote for one Commissioner.

So what do they want to do to change this?

The first thing they want to do is to eliminate the County Commissioners in their current form, and instead create a new single Commissioner (to be elected county-wide). This single Commissioner would have the executive authority by no legislative or judicial authority.

Then they want to change the County Council into a legislative body, merging the financial management of the County with the legislative. The new County Council would have nine members, with no at-large districts. Rather the County would be divided in to nine population-equal districts.

Under this scenario Wildwood Park would get to vote for the one County Commissioner, and Wildwood Park would get to vote for one County Council member representing this district (based on current population estimates, the district would have about 39,000 people in it).

Comments: Ask someone if they live in the City or the County, and Wildwood Park residents will say they live in the City. Of course, the correct answer is that they live in both. There is very little insight as to how County government affects city dwellers. To give you an example: the Commissioners and Council approved funding for an initiative to attract business to Allen County, but only if the business located outside the city limits. The overwhelming majority of county residents live within the city limits. Is this the type of ordinance you want to see enacted?

There are issues, of course. There will be fewer elected officials under the new proposal. And Wildwood Park will have a vote for only two of them – the county-wide Commissioner and the specific

district representative on County Council.

Will our fewer votes count more, however? For the single County Commissioner, probably not. It's like voting for the Governor: the vote of Wildwood Park don't have influence (although enough Wildwood Parks across the State may indeed have influence). But the new district for County Council will have about 38,000 voters as compared to 118,000 voters right now for each Commissioner and 88,000 voters for each Council district. Overall, it means there will be exclusively-City council districts, whereas now there are none.

For decades there has been a debate about the form of government: A City legislative body and a City manager as compared to a City legislative body and a true Mayor. The new proposal doesn't explain whether the County Commissioner will be more like a simple manager, or if that Commissioner will have the powers of a Mayor.

But this Referendum will get the process started, if the voters want to change the form of County governance.

P.S.: The same law allows County voters to go back to the old way (or to adopt a brand new way of governance) by the same Referendum process.

See you at the polls on November 4.

Crime Statics for Wildwood Park? It's Awfully Quiet.

Do you wonder about crime call-ins in Wildwood Park – how do we compare with other areas of the City? Actually Wildwood Park compares favorably to the suburban additions in Aboite Township. Once you focus in on Wildwood Park itself (and not just the area around Wildwood Park), we are doing quite well. Any traffic stop on West Jefferson near Wildwood Park, and anything involving the Wildwood Place Apartments, shows up on our crime report. But once you eliminate those issues, Wildwood Park appears to be a safe haven.

The Journal Gazette publishes “crime reports” in its Sunday edition. Wildwood Park is in Sector 34. Not much happening in Wildwood Park. And we like that.

Take some of these crime reports with a grain of salt, however. Many crime reports are based on how the caller describes the problem. Maybe there is a suspicious person throwing something on the neighbor's front porch at 4:30 in the morning. The police look in to it, and it turns out to be the morning newspaper carrier. No big problem. (And yes, we want you to call in any suspicious activity!) But that's still a “crime” report.

Are you really interested in crime stuff? Go to www.news-sentinel.com, and click on the “Lights & Sirens” heading. Go to the “Fort Wayne” listings, choose a date range, and start selecting streets in Wildwood Park. There are many more reports on the “Lights and Sirens” page than actual crime, since this reflects only the issue that was reported, not the actual results of the investigation.

Please remember to keep an eye on your neighbor's property; keep an eye out for any suspicious persons in the neighborhood, please keep your doors locked at night. Also: if you leave your vehicle outside, make sure nothing is visible in the passenger compartment that would interest a thief (and also remember to lock the doors!).

Natalie Bell-Kearney: Knitting and Knitting Off Broadway

Our neighbor on South Washington Road, Natalie Bell-Kearney, is co-owner and manager of Knitting Off Broadway. Born in Fort Wayne, she went off to college at Smith College, but returned here to set up her own business. Here's her story:

Natalie Bell-Kearney learned to knit from her now neighbor, Kimberly Summers, when Natalie was a freshman in HS during Canterbury's May term. She was not a natural knitter, but spent the entire summer knitting patterned dishcloths. The next year, Kimberly told Natalie about the Cass street yarn depot and Natalie instantly was hooked and took many classes. Natalie's mom Janet Bell was so captivated by the lovely yarns that she then learned to knit. Natalie took a 3 year hiatus from knitting until she got addicted in the fall of 2005, and shortly was working at Northampton Wools in Northampton MA while she attended Smith College. Natalie also worked around the holidays, or on occasion in the summer at the yarn depot and really enjoyed selling yarn, and helping customers find what they needed. The summer before her senior year, the Cass street yarn depot closed its doors after 30 years (and is now the bike and kayak outfitters) because the owner decided to retire. Natalie hadn't finalized any graduate school plans, and always having loved Fort Wayne; she and her mother decided to open a yarn store in December of 2007. Natalie let all of her professors know the final semester of senior year, that she would need to be gone an extra week here and there to open her store. While Natalie finished up her degree, her mom and staff ran the store until May.

Since the opening of Knitting Off Broadway, her new store, they have offered classes from beginner to expert, workshops with guest teachers, knitting retreats, finishing services for all types of knitting projects, and private lessons if you need help finishing an old project or starting a new one. They moved from the house they rented on Brackenridge in October 2010 to their newly restored, permanent home at 1309 Broadway. They specialize in natural



Natalie Bell-Kearney: this sweater was knit using one strand of Isager alpaca held with one strand of Isager wool 1. And the double knitting border was done in the Isager alpaca. It was in the book Japanese Knits by Marianne Isager. Knitting Off Broadway has the yarn at its online store, see <http://knitting-off-broadway.myshopify.com/search?q=isager>. The sweater was a study in cables, and double knitting. Natalie knit it 4 years ago during a knitting group at the store. 10 people ended up knitting this in all different color combinations.

fibers, and are mostly domestic producers, or at least hand dyed in small batches in the USA. The yarns they carry are yarns she feels good about selling, meaning they are responsibly dyed and harvested by people she has met using environmentally sustainable practices. Natalie thinks it is very important to knit with yarns that are not being processed with harmful chemicals, and are being harvested from animals in a responsible manner. Many people think shearing an animal is harmful, but it is necessary. A merino sheep will collapse under the weight of its own fleece if not shorn every year. Properly harvested angora is tougher to find, and they also carry some hand spun angora from Missouri that is spun by the same lady who raises

Knitting—Cont. from page 6

the rabbits. When you are hand spinning angora, the rabbit sits on the spinner's lap, while fluffy tufts are plucked out and spun onto a thick cotton thread for stability. Of course, all this means is you pay far more than you would at a craft store, but you can instantly see and feel a significant difference in every aspect of the knitting process. We say, if you are a dedicated artist, you do not shop for paint at Hobby Lobby, you seek out a specialty store.

Knitting Off Broadway is not unique, most large cities have at least one specialty yarn store. Natalie does feel that their store offers yarns that most other yarn stores do not carry.

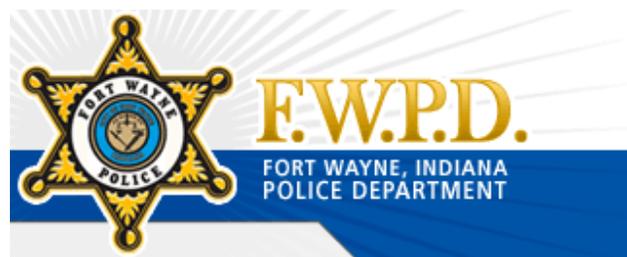
She also feels she needs to talk about one of the biggest misconceptions – wool is itchy. Yes, some wool is itchy, but most yarns they carry are merino which is the original luxury fiber. They also carry many superwash wools and wool cotton blends that are very soft, durable and easy to care for. Handwashing isn't the huge hassle it once was.

They carry rinse free, phosphate free, perfume free washes for all your fine fibers. You simply soak for 15 minutes and then lay flat to dry.

Natalie isn't bored by far with knitting. There are always new patterns to try, and new skills to learn. Our store is very fashion driven, and our stock is every changing. It has a boutique vibe, because once a color or a yarn is gone, it probably won't be back. Many things are one of a kind, and that is the beauty of our store. Sure, we carry some basics, but the fun is in the latest and newest knit. We also knit many timeless things that look great for years. We carry every needle and knitting accessory you would ever need, and top of the line knitting bags that wear for years, as well as small inexpensive cloth project bags to keep your knitting tidy.

Knitting is a lifelong hobby that provides hours of entertainment. Knitting teaches you patience, and makes you a more patient person because you always have something to do.

Scam of the Month!



FWPD Deputy Chief Haffner has identified a recent door-to-door scam, “refreshing” the asphalt coat on the top of your driveway. These people are not locally established businessmen or their employees. You do get your driveway sprayed with some black goop. It dries and I guess it looks ok. But after one or two rains, it has washed off. This is a total scam. If you believe your asphalt driveway needs updating, repair, or sealing, please contact a local business. You can always check with the Better Business Bureau to see whether complaints have been filed about that business.

Obituary

C. Lockwood Marine, our neighbor on North Washington Road, passed away on August 19. He and his bride Eleanor moved to Wildwood Park in 1967, first living on Saginaw Drive, then moving to their residence on North Washington Road. Lockwood was a past Board Member, and a frequent volunteer helping out in so many neighborhood activities. An avid hunter, Lockwood brought back meat from his successful trips out west, and we got to enjoy Hunter's Stew at the fall Campfire. Most recently he was a member of a special Architectural Control Committee to consider and rule upon proposed additions to a neighbor's home on North Washington Road. His advice to the Association was always insightful and helpful. We were saddened by his unexpected passing, and we extend our condolences to Eleanor and to Lockwood's entire family.

What's Going on with the Former Neuhouser Nursery & Gifts Building?

When it acquired the residential building at the corner of W. Jefferson and Randall, Neuhouser Nursery & Landscaping told the BZA, our neighborhood, and the Westwood-Fairway Neighborhood (the neighborhood association to the west of us) that it would be professional landscaping offices with some nursery sales (shrubs and trees). So the special use was allowed, and they moved in. But soon they became Neuhouser Garden & Gifts, a retail sales operation. They even acquired additional parking spaces across Randall, for the projected customer parking needed for a retail operation. In 2012, however the business closed, and the building has been up for sale. Now a proposal has been made by the Corner House Salon (currently located in Covington Plaza) to move its operation there and to expand. They would add a "medical spa," and a coffee shop. To accommodate this expanded venture, they would buy the currently vacant house to the south of the Neuhouser building on Randall Rd., tear it down, and create a 58-space parking lot.

What are your thoughts? Should we oppose this? It was made clear that one of the parties going in on this multi-use facility has acquired real estate on W. Jefferson to the east of Randall, and is considering asking for re-zoning to straight commercial. What do you think our Association should do? Contact any officer or director or send an e-mail to wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com.

Your Board of Directors

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