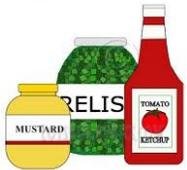


# WILDWOOD PARK

Newsletter September 2015



## PICNIC 2015

Kids Games and Activities; beverages and a potluck dinner.

Come to the Park at the Point (intersection of North Washington Road and South Washington Road) on Saturday, September 12, for our annual picnic and games. Festivities for kids start at 2:00, and will conclude 5:00 p.m. [Rain Sunday, September 13]

From 5:00 till 5:30 we do set up for the potluck dinner. Your Association will be providing pulled pork (eastern North Carolina recipe), with eastern North Carolina coleslaw and vinegar-based barbeque sauce (ok, we will have traditional tomato based barbeque sauce as well), buns for having pulled pork sandwiches; Wildwood Park's traditional grilled chicken breast in our secret marinade; and lots of hotdogs. We will provide all of the condiments you might want for the hotdogs (buns, too!). And we will have lots of pop and Wildwood Park's own *Wildwooder Bräuhaus* for beer lovers.

It's a potluck! You bring casseroles, vegetable dishes, salads, side-dishes and desserts. Let's have your baked beans! Your green bean casseroles! Nifty salads with tomatoes from your gardens! Bring your bowls, trays and dishes with a serving piece, and at 5:30 we'll be ready to start the food line. (Those of you have limited mobility, or simply can't walk very fast: let us know and we will make sure you go to the head of the line.)

This is your chance to meet new neighbors, greet neighbors you've known for a while, find out the neighborhood gossip, etc. (We have noticed that the attendance is much, much higher than the attendance at the Annual Meeting. So weather permitting, this will be the big event for the year!).

OK, what happens if its going to rain? We will push everything off until Sunday, September 13 (except that our block party permit is only for September 12, so the barricades will not be there).

Where can you park? Park on South Washington Road, or on North Washington Road just outside the barricades.

Yes, we will have a port-a-jon. (Since we are having beer it sounds like a wise idea.) You don't have to go rushing home.

Want to volunteer? Let Grant Shipley know [grant.shipley@gmail.com](mailto:grant.shipley@gmail.com), 432-7645 (home), 422-2700 (work). There is always something to do. Obviously, set-up and tear-down are important and time consuming. Set-up should start around 10:00 a.m.; tear-down takes place when everybody is full of food and the sun goes down. In between we can use help supervising kids, helping with trash, and some help in the food court under the tent.

See you there!

## Officer Bob says...

Robert Wilcox FWPD, our neighborhood Liaison Officer reminds us (once again) that there have been thefts from vehicles in Wildwood Park. These are opportunistic reach-and-grab thefts, which come about because someone has left their car unlocked and there is something visible in that car that a quick grab will suffice.

1. Lock your car!
2. Put valuables out of sight – in the trunk if necessary (GPS, iPhones, radar detectors, small purses, etc.).

As we approach the Christmas shopping season, it will be very important to stow your purchases in the trunk, out of sight. Thefts from vehicles take place in the parking lots of the major shopping malls, as well as the apparent privacy of your driveway.



Let's do all we can to keep the monthly crime report down near zero.

## Never too soon to ask people to join the Board of Directors!

We're starting to look now for people who want to be on the Board of Directors of Wildwood Park Community Association, Inc. Lots of people enjoy our neighborhood. And of them, a lot of people don't mind volunteering for activities. We are looking for that next level up – people who want to be in charge of the neighborhood. (I know what you are thinking: you mean someone is really in charge of this neighborhood?) It's almost like herding cats; Wildwood Park neighbors are independent, highly territorial, intelligent and sometimes a bit contrarian. But we have our Restrictive Covenants to enforce, and over the years these covenants have protected us from some silly moves by our neighbors. That is what "being in charge" really means: maintaining the traditions and ambience of Wildwood Park. This includes everything from regulating fences (yes there are disputes about this), saving our trees, maintaining the residential quality of our neighborhood, and thereby keeping alive the vision of the developer and landscape architect who saw what Wildwood Park could become: Lee Ninde, and Arthur Shurcliffe. The Board of Directors are the legal successors to these pioneers in urban planning.

Yes, we want you! No experience required. Of course you should read the by-laws and Restrictive Covenants (conveniently available online at [www.wildwoodpark.us](http://www.wildwoodpark.us)), so that you know more about the structure of Wildwood Park Community Association, Inc. and the tasks it should fulfill. Right now we have a nominating committee you can contact: Grant Shipley, president, at [grant.shipley@gmail.com](mailto:grant.shipley@gmail.com), 432-7645 (home) and 422-2700 (work) or any other board member. More on this later. The sooner you identify yourself (yes we have a tradition of self-nomination), the better. In any event we may be contacting you.

Our fearless President, who acknowledges he is no longer as young as he used to be (I know this could be said of all of us), is anxious to hear what the younger generation(s) might have to say about the governance of our Association.

## New! Improved! By-laws

Our General assembly has been at it again. Every year some neighborhood somewhere does something stupid (remarkably these neighborhoods seem to be in and around Marion County, which is where Indianapolis exists), since it is the legislators from those counties that seem to propose new laws regulating homeowners associations. When we have new statutes, and have to change our by-laws accordingly.

Your Board of Directors has responded to these statutory mandates (we can not wiggle out from under them – we have to go change things according to the General Assembly’s superior wisdom) we add new by-laws and modify existing ones. The new by-law adopts a Grievance Procedure. This Grievance Procedure apparently can be invoked by the Association or any homeowner. Oddly enough it is not clear from the statute as to what kinds of grievances are included, but we know what is not included (dues collection is not included, so you can not get out from under your obligation to pay your annual dues. Ha!). But just about anything else is apparently fair game for the Grievance Procedure, which can actually lead to arbitration and mediation. So if you think your neighbor is somehow violating the Restrictive Covenants, or if you just want to complain about your neighbor, I guess you can invoke the Grievance Procedure. For sure you can complain about what your Association does (and possibly you can complain about what your Association isn’t doing). Read Section 7 of the new and improved 2015 By-laws, available at [www.wildwoodpark.us](http://www.wildwoodpark.us) (to be updated shortly).

One minor change relates to the use of Proxies. A proxy is technically someone who acts on your behalf at any meeting. The appointment of the Proxy (confusingly also called a “Proxy”) is an official notification to the corporate secretary or treasurer as to the existence of this appointment as attorney-in-fact. We have always sent out a Proxy form when we have an official meeting of members. We use the form that is required for an Indiana non-profit corporation. You would think that this would be good enough. But, no! A homeowners association has to have a special form. So we are changing our By-laws to use this special form. Of course the form is not exactly the same as you would use for an Indiana non-profit corporation. Your homeowners association, Wildwood Park Community Association, Inc., is both a homeowners association and a non-profit corporation. So we have conflicting statutes here. Got to love the General Assembly when they impose conflicting obligations on us, on something as Important as the form of the Proxy for voting of meetings of members. Your hard working lawyer-for-free, that being the President, has taken care of this with a draft Proxy that probably satisfies both laws. The Board of Directors agrees and have adopted the amendment to our By-laws governing the use of proxies.

We know: this is not something that is on your list of priorities (“Oh, my! Have you seen the changes to Wildwood Park’s form of Proxy! So groovy, totally rad, kewl, neat-o, slick, The Bomb.”) Ok, maybe not. But we have to make these changes.



## Want to Donate your old Clunker?

We received this offer: “Donate or sell your car for fireman training. Free Towing. 260-432-4525.”

## Wildwood Park has its own “Little Free Library”

Thanks to Denise Douville and John Coffman, 3410 North Washington Road, Wildwood Park now has a “Free Little Library” in front of their home. Denise Douville explains:

The general concept of the Little Free Library is very simple. "Take a Book, Return a Book". When someone takes a book, they aren't expected to return the same book (unless they want to). If they like the book, they can keep it and return a different book.

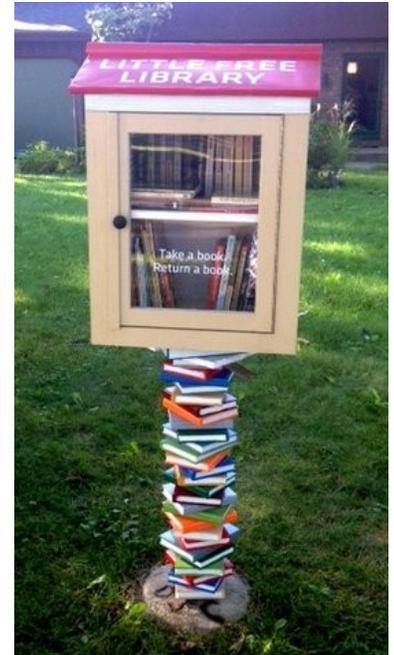
The LFL is a worldwide movement to promote literacy and build community. Our library is intended as a neighborhood gathering place where neighbors can share books and a love of reading. I don't mind if books are not returned/replaced as long as they are read! This will probably be the case primarily with kids. And certainly if neighbors know of households in need of a few books, I'm happy to contribute without expectation that they will replace/return.

I have stocked the library with a nice variety of books. Top shelf is books for adults, hopefully titles that will appeal to wide variety of readers tastes. My contributions are mostly of a literary nature since that is the kind of books I read. Bottom shelf is kid's books. I have a lot of books for little kids, and then small selection for more advanced readers (probably ages 10+). I do have a shortage of early readers and books for kids ages 5-10, so if neighbors would like to donate a few titles for early readers that would be great. Also I do ask that users of the LFL be mindful of closing the door on the library after using it. We've found it open a couple of times, which could be dangerous if someone is walking and doesn't see it but also if we get a storm, the water could do serious damage to our inventory!

I do want to mention that our library was designed by local artist and craftsman Bob Kiel, and his parents John and Eileen helped with the woodworking details and the painting on our library (as well as expertly installing it!) I've seen quite a few of these little libraries, and I do think ours is especially beautiful and unique. Bob and his parents put a lot of hours into this and they donated much of their time because they loved the idea.

To learn more about the Little Free Library concept, go to [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org). Locally, Rotary has been sponsoring these little libraries; they have already sponsored 75 in the Fort Wayne area (Ms. Douville and Mr. Coffman have registered Wildwood Park's library with the local Rotary, so this may be number 76 in the Fort Wayne area. The local Rotary wants to hit 100 such installations.)

If you have books to contribute (even if you do not take a book with you) feel free to place appropriate books in the Little Free Library. (Remember: top shelf is books for adults; bottom shelf is kids' books.)



## Historic Marker Sign has been Ordered.

Wildwood Park Community Association, Inc. has ordered a plaque (sign) and pole, for placement at the corner of North Washington Road and South Washington Road (approximately at the site of Newsletter mailbox). The City has graciously agreed to install the pole/sign (it will be in the City's right-of-way.) Here is what we have ordered;



Acquisition of this sign has been made possible through generous donations by various Wildwood Park residents. In addition, ARCH, Inc. has agreed to be the sponsoring agency, actually the purchaser of the sign, so that donations made to ARCH, Inc. will be tax-deductible. ARCH, is a 501(c)(3) organization. ARCH was the author of the written proposal to include Wildwood Park in the National Register of Historic Places. ARCH, Inc. has sponsored House and Garden tours of Wildwood Park in the past. Our participation with ARCH, Inc. is long-standing, and has truly benefitted Wildwood Park.

Thanks to Mike Galbraith executive director of ARCH, Inc., for participating in this project.

## Why are there Branches by the Curbside?

Heavy winds sometimes hit Wildwood Park. Branches fall down. For some reason neighbors are pulling these branches to the curb and making a stack out of them. Why? The City will not pick up branches left at the curb. In the fall the City will pick up leaves (but not branches).

If you want the City to haul away branches, cut them (lopping shears, bowsaw, axe?) into lengths of no more than three feet. These can go in your trash cart or a separate barrel. Put them out on trash pick-up day and the City will haul them off.

## Clean Up After Your Dog!

Wildwood Park loves dogs. But Wildwood Park is not crazy about doggy doo. The City says that dogs can not be let loose without a leash, so we know that you are out walking your dog using a leash. Therefore you know when your dog makes a contribution to your neighbor's lawn, or on the sidewalk, or on the street. That is what plastic bags are for.

Fun facts to know: the average dog excretes 3/4 of a pound of waste per day – or 274 pounds of waste per year. We worry about fecal contamination of our waters, but only five percent of fecal contamination is of human origin. Dog poop has 23 million e-coli bacteria per gram. When their poop is not scooped, that e-coli lives for several years. Over time, mother nature will take care of dog droppings, but our ecosystem can only handle two canines in a square mile. In an urban area, there are typically 125 dogs per square mile. That's too many for mother nature to take care of.

So let's take care of the problem by bagging your dog's poop and throwing it your trash can (please do not throw it in your neighbor's trash can).



## 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

1625 Hawthorne Rd.

432-6374

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**Asst. Treasurer:** Steve Souers

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432-8717

[ssouers@hallercolvin.com](mailto:ssouers@hallercolvin.com)

Our Website is:

[www.wildwoodpark.us](http://www.wildwoodpark.us)

Letters to the Editor to:

[Wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Wildwoodparknewsletter@gmail.com)

### *September's Trivia Corner*

*In any year, no other month ends on  
the same day as September.*



## Important Survey!

We are conducting a survey to confirm your receipt of this Newsletter. Please go to the e-mail to which this Newsletter was attached, click on Reply, and send a brief message (such as: I got it). That way we know you have received the Newsletter, and have read at least part of it.

If you have sent the e-mail to Trash, please try to retrieve it. Some programs allow you to reply to an e-mail in Trash; if so go ahead and reply even though it has not been brought back to the Inbox. But if you must bring the e-mail back to the Inbox first, please do so.

We are testing to see how effective e-mail delivery is, when we send out the Newsletter. In the past we hand-delivered the Newsletter to everyone's screen door. We were wondering whether e-mail delivery is as effective. So please send us your response.

We will measure the participation rate for the next two weeks. Anything after that is of interest to us, but suggests that the Newsletters are not being timely reviewed.

