



MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

N E W S L E T T E R

WINTER 2005

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

KATHY SHORTER

Greetings, neighbors! On behalf of the Meridian Street Foundation, I would like to extend a special welcome to all new neighbors, including Governor and Mrs. Mitch Daniels and their daughters.

January is the time for New Year's resolutions, so I encourage you to add an important one to your list: Get involved in the neighborhood—with MKNA or BTNA and with the Meridian Street Foundation. There is so much to be done, and there are so many benefits in knowing your neighbors. Please join MSF this year! And be sure to make me aware if you are interested in serving on an MSF committee. We need your participation!

Many of you ask, "What exactly does the Meridian Street Foundation do?" We are an all-volunteer neighborhood association that focuses upon the Meridian Street corridor between Westfield and 40th Street, encouraging historic preservation and the work of the Meridian Street Preservation Commission. We sponsor beautification projects such as the spring bulb project, the holiday décor, and the Alice Carter Park development. We work to encourage crime watch, traffic calming, property maintenance, and to generally represent our neighborhood's needs to the City. In addition, we have fun, with social events that also promote

awareness of historic preservation.

Over twenty of your neighbors spent six hours in two planning sessions in November reviewing priorities of the neighborhood and making commitments to this year's action plans. Many of the plans are included in articles in this newsletter.

For example, we hope to improve communications this year with the continuation of our excellent newsletter and with the further development of our MSF website, www.meridianstreetfoundation.org. We believe the website will help us be more effective in getting resident input, in securing help for neighborhood projects, and in promoting interest in historic preservation.

Early this year, our Land Use/Historic Preservation committee will be distributing an important notebook to each household in the MSF area. Please read this book and keep it in an accessible place. It will make you aware, if you are not already, of the law and the guidelines that govern the historic preservation of our area. This important law protects all of our properties from the type of development that could destroy a

neighborhood that is historic. Our Land Use committee's purpose is to help you understand the law and the



historic preservation architectural guidelines so that your plans for renovation will be acceptable when you go before the Meridian Street Preservation Commission.

Ok — so you're thinking of volunteering? What are some specific places where we immediately need your help?

- (1) Delivering welcome packages to new neighbors
- (2) Planning and raising awareness and funding for the Alice Carter Park project
- (3) Organizing social events or home/garden tours
- (4) Hosting crime watch events
- (5) Phoning

We are also looking for help on the Beautification committee. If you have particular expertise or interest, please let me know. 283-5322 or FJSHORTER@aol.com

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

For the second year, holiday greenery and red bows were installed on the North Meridian Street lamp posts for the month of December. This gift to the city from Meridian Street Foundation area residents and businesses has received much acclaim.

In order to continue this newly

established tradition, we will need to replenish the beautification dollars. On the enclosed membership envelope, there is a place for you to check and include your contribution. Thank you in advance for your support!

Continued on Page 2



Melissa Oesterle, Kathy Shorter, and Fischer Oesterle prepare the red bows for the holiday street decor.



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NEWS AROUND THE BLOCK

In the past several months, a number of families have moved to the street from other states. John Guinee has moved to the neighborhood and will be followed by his wife and daughter at the end of the school year. Catherine and Chris Touloukian, along with baby Harry, have moved here from Boston. Patty and Bill Hirst and their children, Adrienne and Colin, are here from Leawood, Kansas. Adrienne is at Cathedral and Colin is in kindergarten at BJE. Patty once lived in Indianapolis and is delighted to be closer to her family. Ann and Richard Rich, who moved away from Meridian Street several years ago, are back on the street, north of their former home. Chris and Kathy Swisher, also new to Meridian Street, have already joined in neighborhood activities, as they helped with the bulb-planting in the fall.

Life in the Oesterle household is drifting back to a more normal pace, following Bill's 24/7 dedication to Mitch Daniel's gubernatorial campaign. Once the election was over, the family celebrated time together with a trip to Belize.

Jane Cox has brushed up on her French as she, Phil their children, Philip and Caroline (who study French at St. Richard's School), eagerly prepare for a two-week visit in February from a French exchange student.

Sheila and Monroe Little are looking forward to the spring graduation of their son Alex from Princeton.

Our neighborhood's very own Walter Knabe continues to be applauded for his fabulous art, which adorns wall coverings, fabric, coasters, totes, tees, and more. In early December, an

article appeared in the *Indianapolis Star* about Walter.

Many families have recently welcomed grandbabies. Barbara and Chris Velonis have one grandchild and are expecting another in June. The Velonis's other daughter was married in October at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox, with a reception following at the Alison Mansion.

Carol and Paul DeCoursey and Paul are expecting two new grandchildren, one to be born in Florida in February and the other will be born here in July. This will make eight grandchildren for the DeCourseys! For the first six weeks of 2005, Carol will be teaching a yoga class at Epworth Methodist Church on Allisonville Road. Among his many volunteer commitments, Paul has the post of treasurer of Highland Country Club, where he serves on the board.

The O'Guinn family welcomed the first grandchild, born to daughter, Torie, and her husband in October, and celebrated the publication of the second edition of Helen's book, *Day Trips from Indianapolis*, which hit stores in early fall.

Tony and Marla Smith are doting upon their new granddaughter, Megan Ann, born in October. She is their second grandchild, and, to the Smith's delight, both live here in town. Looking forward to retirement, the Smiths have purchased their personal dream-mobile: a large motorcoach with a motorcycle garage on the end. They took possession in November, followed by an inaugural drive to Fort Wayne. The first big will be to the 24-Hour Rolex Race in Daytona in early February or to Colorado in the spring.

We are sad to report the death of Ted Surchevich. He and his wife, who died several years ago, moved onto Meridian Street in 1977.

Neighborhood dining options have multiplied with the eclectic additions this year of Binkley's (a full and varied menu), Oasis (Mideastern), Taste (upscale deli), Rob and Jay's (fish and chips). Shopping options are scheduled to expand in the second half of 2005, when Marsh opens Arthur's Fresh Market on the former Atlas site. According to the Marsh web site, Arthur's is a new concept for the company, designed to meet needs of shoppers not served by "big box competitors." The store will feature high-quality perishables, as well as a full variety of grocery items.

The historic marker at the south end of Meridian has been hit and knocked down again. This is a particular shame because an anonymous neighbor had offered to put shrubs by the markers at both ends of the street, a project that must now be postponed. Another major concern is the fate of the financially troubled Riviera Club, a longtime neighborhood anchor and the source of happy memories for children and adults alike.

Sheila Little, who has spearheaded the district's Crime Watch efforts, wants to caution neighbors that their are thieves afoot. One, a car-key bandit, breaks into homes, steals readily accessible car keys, and returns the next day to steal the car. The other thief is swiping bicycles, so keep yours locked up!

If you have news for this column, please contact Peggy Sabens (jmsabens@hotmail.com) or Helen O'Guinn (htoguinn@aol.com).

Beautification, continued

Thanks also to the spirited group who turned out on Saturday, October 9, for our final spring bulb planting event! (See photo.) Over 20,000 bulbs were planted that day, bringing the three year project to an official end. Over three fourths of the sidewalk area on Meridian between Westfield and 38th Street has been planted with early spring (blue) flowering bulbs which will naturalize.

Meridian Street Residents — Important! We need your cooperation with the following beautification issues:

- Please do not allow commercial signs

to be put in your yard. Exception: If you have a For Sale sign, please put it inside the sidewalk.

- If you must have signs for political or charitable purposes, please limit the time they are up to two weeks or less. Please put them inside the sidewalk area as well.
- Please keep your sidewalk area free of plants and shrubs. Take a look at your property — is the sidewalk clear and safe? If someone could trip on a sidewalk square, please have it replaced. If the bushes are growing over the sidewalk, cut them back!

- When the Glory of the Snow flowers are in bloom in early April, please do not have any signs up in your yard. They truly detract from the beauty of the flowers! And remember, don't mow that area before the flowers bloom — or you won't have any flowers!

Kudos to all residents who had beautiful holiday decorations in December. A special thanks to the many residents who also used red bows, which enhanced the overall neighborhood feel of the street lamp décor.

ALICE IN MERIDIAN LAND

ALICE BERGER | 283.2453

Over the last few years I have noticed a wonderful thing about our community. Every week a committee from your Meridian Street Foundation gets together to solve problems facing our historic neighborhood.

As all of you know, once a month our Foundation Board meets for two to three hours. But what you may not know is each committee meets for another couple of hours during the month. These wonderful people, your neighbors, work on traffic issues, safety, historic preservation, beautifying the street, this newsletter and ways to get

us together as a community.

As a neighborhood association MSF is very small with only 700 homes but huge when it comes to dedication and hard work. The Foundation has an added responsibility to preserve the historic integrity of these old houses. Sounds easy, but you would be surprised how many times the area is threatened by commercialism or the desire to make an old house look “modern.” I won’t even mention code enforcement and other city issues.

So, as you go about your business this winter, know that this wonderful community has dedicated people working for it and keep in mind the Meridian Street Foundation could always use “one” more.

Editor's Note — remember you don't have to serve on the MSF Board to volunteer for a committee.



LIVING WITH HISTORY

VAUGHN HICKMAN | 816.9760

Enjoying life in Vonnegut's childhood home

As a proud owner of an historic home, you may at some time have wondered about its past residents. My wife Melissa and I are fortunate enough to know exactly who lived in our home, and the knowledge of its rich history has brought a special appreciation for our surroundings.

Our three-story home at 4401 N. Illinois was the boyhood home of celebrated author Kurt Vonnegut Jr. Some of his most renowned works include “Slaughterhouse Five,” “Breakfast of Champions” and “Cat’s Cradle.”

Although Vonnegut spent only seven of the first eight years of his life in this house (from 1923 to 1930), he has



remarked that this is the place he thinks of as home when he is in Indianapolis.

While we have made the home our own in the 18 years we have lived here, Vonnegut’s presence is still felt in the Arts and Crafts style construction and in some of the unique characteristics of the home. Many original features still grace the house, including a leaded glass window in the front door, which

displays the Vonnegut monogram and the year the family first lived here, 1923. The Vonnegut family—Kurt, his father Kurt Sr., mother Edith and two older siblings—also made their mark, with their handprints embedded in a cement stoop just outside the back door.

All of the rich oak woodwork throughout the home is original, as are the Rookwood tile floors and the beautifully restored leaded glass windows—and even the goldfish pond in the backyard. These elements combine to create a wonderful charm steeped in a very interesting history.

The house has hidden treasures as well. During one of many visits from our plumbing friends, a secret room was discovered with several vintage children’s toys. The passageway to reach the room is much too small for an adult, but one can imagine the young Vonnegut crawling through the portal to his secret domain where he would spend hours letting his imagination play.

There have been updates to the home to reflect the personal tastes of its owners after the Vonneguts left. Prior to us purchasing the home in 1987, well-known architect Evans Woollen and his family lived here from 1962 to 1987. Woollen made some structural changes, one of them a dramatic removal of the ceiling that separated the living room from the master bedroom, transforming the living room into a soaring, open space. Melissa and I really love the resulting light and space, showcasing our collection of contemporary Indiana art.

We couldn’t resist making some of our own updates as well. We recently



installed new hardwood floors in the kitchen, along with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. The new additions enhance and complement the historical Arts and Crafts style with a contemporary flair.

We have enjoyed reveling in the richness of memories made by our home’s previous famed owner. One example is a framed photo displayed on our memory wall that shows Melissa and I posing with Mr. Vonnegut himself during an unannounced visit. Or the rubbings we made of the Vonnegut family’s handprints in cement, which Kurt Vonnegut Jr. signed and are now hanging in the powder room. We also enjoy showing guests our first-edition books that Vonnegut autographed on one of several visits to his childhood home.

Reflecting on our home of 18 years, Melissa and I have a warm fondness for this place, for its charm, comfort and history. Had Vonnegut never lived here, it would certainly have held us captive with its simple yet sophisticated style and many mature trees crowding its natural setting. But add its interesting ownership, and 4401 N. Illinois is a place we’re not likely to give up any time soon.

Editor's Note: If any readers are interested in learning more about Kurt Vonnegut's early childhood memories and family history in Indianapolis, read his book, "Palm Sunday".

MERIDIAN STREET EVENTS

Another year has chased us down and is attacking us with its cold and snow. Now is the time to climb out from underneath that quilt and look ahead to warmer months. A brand new repertoire of Meridian Street Foundation Neighbor events is on the way. The recently appointed events planning committee has been charged with designing a fresh new series of gatherings for young and old. Our goal is to create events that will be inclusive of all MSF neighbors. Our neighborhood is a melting pot of wonderful characters that would make any Disney movie a hit! Our homes were the residences of the fathers of our great city. We hope to tap into that history to entertain and educate.

Our 2005 event schedule will offer you an opportunity to get to know your neighbors next door and down the street.

Events:	Location	Date	Time
Winter wine tasting	5437 North Meridian	February 26 th 2005	7:00pm
Easter egg hunt	4343 North Meridian	March 19, 2005	12:00pm
Neighbor Picnic	To be announced	June 11, 2005	11:30am
Block parties	To be announced	August 13, 2005	6:00pm
20's theme costume gala	To be announced	October 22, 2005	7:00pm
Holiday Party	To be announced	December 3, 2005	7:00pm

(Reservations will be requested for most events)

Event description:

A representative from National Wine and Spirits will be available at our **winter wine tasting**. She will offer a wide selection of wines for tasting and purchase. This event will be held at the Quinn/Malooley residence at 5437 North Meridian.

Our annual **Easter egg hunt** will offer children a chance to find the golden egg and other goodies as well. The annual hunt will be held on the grounds of the Klein home at 4343 North Meridian.

The **neighborhood picnic** will be an event for young and old. A local caterer will supply us with the most fattening food available by law. Children's games and entertainment will be provided to ensure that all our young residents will have lasting memories of our great neighborhood.

The **block parties** will break up our area in to regions that will all have a sponsor house where the party will be held. This event will offer you the chance to get to know your neighbors. Find babysitters, dog-sitters and new friends.

Our **20's themed fall costume party** will be an old fashioned masquerade party. We hope to jazz up the event with awards for costumes and encourage neighbors to team up for group costumes.

This **holiday party** will offer all the opportunity to celebrate with holiday foods from around the world. We will go all out to create a party that will offer food from many nations. We will encourage our neighbors to contribute their ethnic family holiday recipes.

We ask that over the course of the next year you make an attempt attend one or all of our events and ask a neighbor to attend with you! Watch your newsletter for additional event information.

(Event locations and dates are subject to change)

Thanks from the events planning committee, Anne Rich, Marilyn Strawbridge, Michael Quinn and Jean Easter.

AROUND THE CORNER...

DICK PICCOLO

Did you know that the homes along Meridian Street represent only 30% of those within the Foundation's boundaries, with the remaining 70% coming from our friends on Pennsylvania, Illinois, and the side streets along Meridian?

Several of the businesses on Pennsylvania and Illinois, along with

those on Meridian just north of 38th Street are also part of the area being served by the Foundation.

Events are being planned for this year that will provide opportunities for both current and potential members — from our entire neighborhood — to become better acquainted with each other, and to learn more about the

benefits of membership in the Meridian Street Foundation.

Our website, www.meridianstreetfoundation.org will soon provide details of these upcoming events, along with other important information about Foundation matters — along Meridian, and Around The Corner.

ALICE CARTER PLACE PARK UPDATE

BRENT HARVEY | 926.4893

Alice Carter Place at Meridian Street and Westfield Boulevard has been part of Indy Parks since 1922. In 1998 an adjacent undeveloped parcel to the South was gifted to the to the park by the estate of O.C. Winters, a former Indianapolis-area homebuilder. This was made possible by efforts from the Meridian Street Foundation including Peggy Sabens and John Peoni. More recently, Cindy Zweber-Free and others worked with Indy Parks to develop a plan to transform the green space into a park.

The park committee, comprised of Phil Cox, Brent Harvey (chairman), Stacey McCarthy, John Peoni, Jim Sabens, and Peggy Sabens, is excited to build upon what Cindy and others accomplished thus far. The mission is to develop the park property, in partnership with Indy Parks, into a

distinguished gateway park which celebrates the architectural and historical qualities of the neighborhood. Features include a starting point for self-guided tours, walking paths, and sculptures. Our objectives for 2005 are to (i) create a design that's functional, welcoming, and fits the aesthetic characteristics of the neighborhood and (ii) develop a fund raising strategy. If you are interested in getting involved with the park project please contact one of the committee members.



CLOUDS OF WITNESS

The Meridian Street Foundation neighbors have lost a member, good friend and long time resident in the recent passing of Mrs. Marion H. (Cordie King) Stuart. Cordie was an illustrious model and singer as well as a prestigious business woman, having risen from a childhood laboring in the cotton fields around Water Valley, Mississippi.. She served as inspiration to many African American women both by her example and her generous contributions in time and expertise, as well as her Cordie King Castle for Modeling and Charm School. Mr. Stuart, who survives, was a board member of the MSF and along with his wife has contributed a great deal to our neighborhood.

INTRODUCING RACHEL O'NEIL

As the Washington Township Administrator for the City of Indianapolis, Rachel O'Neil works with neighborhood groups, such as the Meridian Street Foundation, in a variety of ways. As part of Mayor Peterson's team, Rachel regularly attends neighborhood meetings throughout Washington Township to hear first-hand the issues and concerns voiced at the grassroots level. She is a liaison between citizens and organizations in these neighborhoods and the various City agencies that can address concerns and provide services. Rachel is involved in a wide range of community issues, such as economic development, land use, and Indianapolis Works, the Mayor's proposal to streamline local government and tax structures.

For a one-stop shop for reporting concerns and requesting services, Rachel recommends contacting the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4MAC (327-4622). By providing the MAC

with information, such as the location of abandoned vehicles or problems with trash collection, citizens can play a direct role in improving our neighborhoods. An added note regarding the Mayor's Action Center: 2005 will bring technological improvements to the MAC system that will give citizens the ability more closely track activity on specific complaints.

Rachel hopes to serve as an additional resource to MSF neighbors who have questions or concerns but aren't sure of whom to call. "If you have a question and I don't know the answer, I will certainly find my City colleague who does," she says. "I strive to help connect neighborhoods to the programs and services they need." You can contact Rachel directly at 327-5380 or roneil@indygov.org.

Also new in 2005, Rachel will be distributing an e-newsletter that will feature updates on City initiatives,

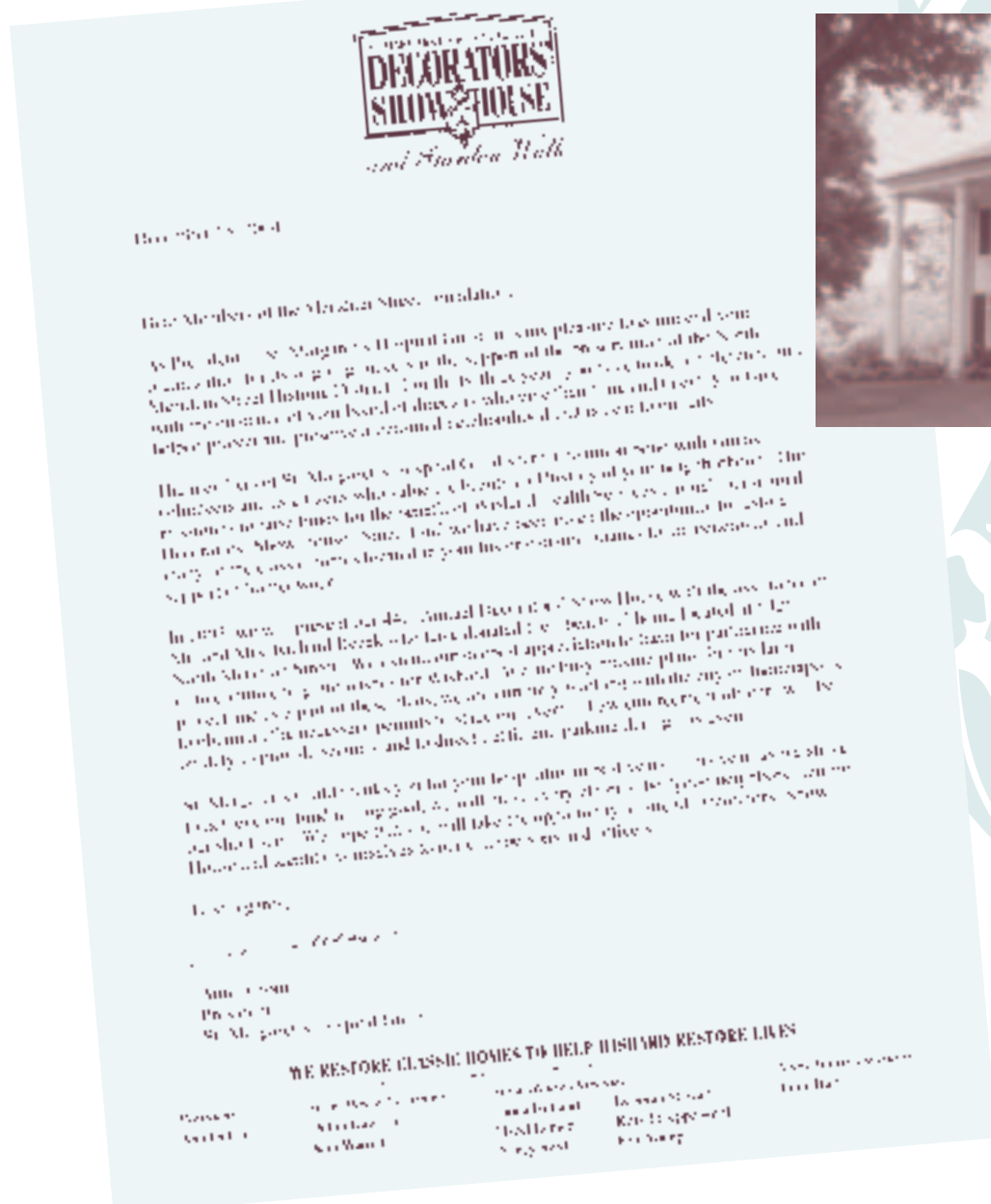
links to informative web sites, meeting announcements, and information on other useful community resources. If you would like to sign up to receive a copy via email, please let her know.

Rachel is a native of Muncie, Indiana, and graduated from Ball State University with a political science major and four minors. Before her current tenure with the City, she worked for several years in state government, most recently in community relations with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. She lives with her husband in Broad Ripple.



MSF Land Use Committee Meeting. Rachel O'Neil in photo, third from right.

DEAR MEMBERS,



YOUR CRIME WATCH GROUP IS LOOKING OUT FOR YOUR SAFETY

The Public Safety Committee of the Meridian Street Foundation has started many activities to raise awareness of safety issues in our community and to provide for more collaborative efforts with safety as the goal. The biggest initiative is the Crime Watch in conjunction with the Indianapolis Police Department that strives to promote public safety by providing a network of communication among neighbors. Neighbors provide the first line of defense against crime by providing eyes and ears that are in the best place to monitor crime and other suspicious behavior in our neighborhood, in and among our homes. By making communication easier among residents and the police department we provide a partnership that can deter crime before it happens or as it happens. Also by keeping in touch with crime related trends in the neighborhood we neighbors can tailor their efforts with specific measures to deter certain prevalent types of crimes. The public safety committee members are: Sheila Little (Chairman), Berita Landham, Elaine Klein, Rom Nikosi,

Rosie Sweeney and Marilyn Strawbridge. Collectively, they urge you to know your neighbors in front, behind and on each side of you so that each neighbor can look out for the safety and security of those most close to them and let them know of any irregularities that may signal crime vulnerability. This project is called the 360 degree watch and you will hear more about the specific things you can do in the future but just knowing your neighbors and how to contact them when they are both home and away is a great place to start.

An ongoing effort on the part of this committee is the Crime Watch Zone project which includes: collecting an accurate record of the names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of residents organized into of 7 zones by location. Zone captains can share this information with pertinent parties whose responsibility is residents' safety. Zone captains will also host zone watch meetings in which members of the Indpls. Police Department will attend to discuss the specifics of safety in their particular

zone. Helpful tips to deter crime can be shared and residents can share information among each other regarding safety in their immediate surroundings.

Other efforts of your Safety Committee include collaboration with other neighborhood groups such as the Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association and the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association. Also, this committee will keep you informed of the measures each one of us can take to insure the safety of ourselves and those around us. These include just being more aware of vacant houses or uninhabited houses in your neighborhood, using motion detector lights in your yard and garage areas and joining together to pay for security lights in strategic areas. If you have any information you would like to share toward the safety effort please contact any member of the committee or contact Kathy Shorter and she will see that your information is shared with the committee. Safety will be assured if we all make an effort.

THE RIVIERA CLUB'S FUTURE?

As a result of the recent article in the Star and general rumors, many have been wondering about the Riviera Club's future... We are not selling, nor are we in discussions with any party regarding the sale of the club and/or its' property.

The club has not declared bankruptcy, nor have we been foreclosed upon.

The recent financial difficulties have revealed the true strength of the club — our members who have a common

love for "the Rivi." The outpouring of support from the membership has been amazing and this provides our real confidence for the future. Over 100 volunteers have offered both time and expertise. An executive advisory committee to the Board has been formed which includes accountants, financial experts, IT specialists, a private club development professional, attorneys, fund-raisers, engineers and architects.

The Riviera Club is committed to

continue to be a good neighbor to the Meridian Kessler, Meridian Street Foundation and Butler Tarkington neighborhoods for the next 71 years!

Would you and your family like to share in the "New Rivi" vision? Please join us! Call the office for an application to be sent to you or stop by a pick one up. 255-5471

The Riviera Club Board of Directors

NEIGHBOR VOICE

Dear Editor:

As the parent of two children and one dog, my wife and I take many walks on Meridian and around the neighborhood. I love admiring the architecture of the fine old homes on our street and the pride of ownership our neighbors take in their historic homes.

I would politely request that all neighbors consider walkers like me as they prepare for their spring yard work. Unfortunately there are a few instances where bushes have been allowed to grow over the sidewalks forcing people

(including my children!) into the grassy area much too close to our busy street. Ditto for low hanging tree limbs blocking the sidewalk. Call me cranky, but I find this dangerous, un-neighborly and inexcusable.

You'll be surprised how quickly a deep pruning fills in and looks beautiful again!

Sincerely,
Phil Cox
5272 N. Meridian St.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Meridian Street Foundation News & Views is the communication arm of the Meridian Street Foundation, published three times a year. We welcome comments and ideas from our neighbors. Our main thrust is to reinforce the idea that while a certain degree of discipline and commitment is necessary to live in a unique and significant neighborhood, the rewards far outweigh any disadvantages.

Peggy Sabens ph. 257-3741, fax 475-0224, email jmsabens@indy.net, Kathy Shorter, Vaughn Hickman. Also, Rome Nkosi, email rnkosi@aol.com attn: MSF, will gladly accept letters or comments for inclusion in upcoming issues.

Neighbor Spotlight

Erick D. Ponader

I am a partner at Sommer Barnard Attorneys, PC specializing in real estate and corporate law. I am married to Wendy Ponader, an attorney at Ponader & Associates, LLP specializing in creditor's rights. We have 2 children: Margaret, a freshman at Park Tudor and Andrew, a 7th grader at St. Richard's. I grew up in Indianapolis, worked in Chicago for 3 years, and returned in 1988. We have lived on Meridian Street for 6 1/2 years.

LAND USE COMMITTEE

What is the Meridian Street Preservation Commission and when do I need to go before the commission when make changes to the outside of my home? This question comes up all the time. Here are a couple of basic rules of thumb to keep in mind:

If you live in the primary historic district (the east and west side of Meridian Street) and are making changes to the outside of your property you will need to go before the MSPC and request a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) before you begin any work.

If you live in the secondary historic

district (the east side of Illinois, west side of Pennsylvania and the numbered streets in between and you need a variance from the city, you first must get a variance from the MSPC.

If you are not sure you can call Tamara Tracy, Chairperson, and Meridian Street Preservation Commission at 317-327-5014.

Additionally, you can meet with our Land Use Committee prior to going before the commission. Our committee will review your plans and provide input on the process of obtaining a Certificate of Appropriateness or Variance from the

MSPC. Our committee meets the first Friday of every month at the Meridian Street United Methodist Church at 55th and Meridian. We begin at 8:00am. Please call Cindy Zweber-Free at 921-9571 or Erick Ponader at 713- 3473 to schedule.

Finally, in late January we will be distributing a Meridian Street Foundation Resource Guide to all neighbors. The guide will include information on our historic neighborhood, Copy of the Meridian Street Preservation Act (our law that protects the neighborhood) and Guidelines and information on our neighborhood association.

GOOD NEIGHBORS...



New Resident Joins in Bulb Planting

New resident Chris Swisher (in cap), Brent Harvey and Phil Cox plant bulbs in front of Swisher's home.



Hard at Work at 9:00 a.m. on a Saturday

"The Hardcore Planters" Janice Seidenstecker, Brent Harvey, Phil Cox, Melissa Oesterle, Katie Oesterle and Raul Burciagia.



Annual Meeting

Alice Berger presents award to Ruth Vignati.



Katie Oesterle ready to plant bulbs.

CLOUDS OF WITNESS

The Pipes, The Pipes Are Calling

On Dec. 20, 2004 my friend Max Davis O'Guinn, Jr. (Dave) passed away. He left behind two sons, a daughter and a new grand daughter. He also left his wonderful wife Helen. Helen is a past president of MSF and was also our newsletter editor for several years.

Dave grew up at a time when we could leave the house in the morning on our bicycles and not return until the streetlights came on at night. A time

when we lived dangerously without helmets or seat belts and a time when we had chores and responsibilities at a young age. A time when we listened to music on our transistor radios and we all wanted to be "Rock" stars.

Dave became a man of conviction, a man who would stand up for what he believed in, a man who lived up to his responsibilities. He also lived his dreams; he sang with "The Boys Next Door," founded and operated O'Guinn Dental Laboratory and purchased an

old house on Meridian Street.

I will miss my friend Dave, his warm smile, twinkling eyes and great stories. I'll miss talking to him about politics and patriotism. I'll miss knowing he is just a block away. But as the song say's "From glen to glen, and down the mountain side — the summer's gone, and all the flowers are dying — 'tis you, 'tis you must go and I must bide."

In loving memory, Alice Berger and your neighbors in the Historic District

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

BY G.B. LANDRIGAN, REALTOR

BOARD OF REALTOR'S MSF STATISTICS

figures from Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors

NORTH MERIDIAN STREET	NORTH PENNSYLVANIA STREET	NORTH ILLINOIS STREET	SIDE STREETS
Homes Currently For Sale: 11	Homes Currently For Sale: 10	Homes Currently For Sale: 8	Homes Currently For Sale: 5
Average List Price: \$652,350	Average List Price: \$404,435	Average List Price: \$274,062	Average List Price: \$396,740
Homes Currently Pending: 2	Homes Currently Pending: 1	Homes Currently Pending: 1	Homes Currently Pending: 1
Homes Closed since 1/2004: 12	Homes Closed since 1/2004: 18	Homes Closed since 1/2004: 14	Homes Closed since 1/2004: 12
Average Sold Price: \$715,366	Average Sales Price: \$447,035	Average Sales Price: \$311,928	Average Sold Price: \$245,100

SPOTLIGHT ON...Richard Piccolo

Richard Piccolo has been a board member of The Meridian Street Foundation for three years. He is a CPA who recently started his own firm called The Masthead Group — Certified Public Accountants and Performance Management Consultants. Prior to that he had been a chief financial officer with organizations in mortgage banking, commercial and multifamily real estate development and management, manufacturing, and software services. He and his wife Judi, who is the Director of The Children's Corner Preschool, moved here from Columbus, Ohio in July 1977. He recounts the move to their home on Pennsylvania Street.

My office was on 38th and Guion Road when I began commuting to Indianapolis from Columbus, Ohio in January of 1977; and I maintained an apartment in Carmel until we moved. Our realtor was my boss' friend of a friend, who didn't quite understand the concept of "older homes." We lived in an older neighborhood in Columbus — our home was built in 1912 — and we were looking for a similar situation here. After looking at dozens of homes in Carmel and Indianapolis, we finally met a gentleman who introduced us to the neighborhoods of Meridian Kessler, Butler Tarkington, and Forest Hills. We felt like we were reborn! Since we had the time we looked at as many homes as we could. Our realtor was growing impatient; however, we enjoyed the process.

One day in April, when Judi was over during the week, she had been out and came across two homes for sale on Pennsylvania — both by owner. Not exactly what our realtor wanted to hear. We never did see her again. But we've enjoyed raising our family here and the friendships that we've made over the years. Our children were ages 1, 3, and 5 when we moved here. Although each has enjoyed our home, as well as helping with the projects we've taken on over the years, interest in home maintenance is not something we've been able to pass on.

*Meridian Street Foundation
Hopes to see all neighborhood
preschool and elementary children
at the*

*Annual Easter Egg Hunt
(A Tradition dating back to the 1960's)*

at 1:00 p.m.

*Saturday, March 26, 2004
on the lawn of the "Old" Governor's Mansion
4343 North Meridian Street*

*Bring your own basket and camera for photos
with the Easter Bunny*

\$3.00 donation at the door — limited to 100 children

Parking east side of Meridian, north of 43rd street

Rain or Shine

RSVP Elaine Klein 283-1835 or

Email garden006@aol.com

Editor's Note: The splendid article in our last newsletter about our already sorely missed neighbor, Ruth Vignati, was written by our neighbor Helen T. O'Guinn. It had been incorrectly attributed. Sorry

Your Business Name Could Be Here!

The MSF News & Views is now accepting a limited number of appropriate advertisements. For information, call 257-3741 or email jmsabens@indy.net

OUR MISSION



MERIDIAN
STREET
FOUNDATION

The Meridian Street Foundation is a charitable (501C3) foundation originally organized in 1960. The Foundation's chief purposes are the maintenance and improvement of existing health, safety and ecological standards, and the preservation of the architectural, historic and aesthetic significance of residential North Meridian Street and the neighborhood in which it lies.

Please Note: We live in the North Meridian Street Historic District, governed by the Meridian Street Preservation Act of 1971, administered by the Meridian Street Preservation Commission. Before undertaking any changes in structure or usage of your property, please check with either the MSPC or the Land Use Committee of the Meridian Street Foundation.