



History ~ Diversity ~ Community

NEWSLETTER

Next Neighborhood Get-Together at Simpson United Methodist Church
November 29 – Dinner 6:15 p.m.-Discussion 7 p.m.

Thankfulness

by Richard Friedman

November is a month that is often associated with thankfulness; and for my family that could not be more accurate. Four years ago when David and I were looking for a place to buy a home we were drawn to Williams Woodland not only by the beautiful house, but also by a chance encounter with Jim Williams in the alley behind the house. His attitude, welcoming spirit and description of the neighborhood tipped the scales to the point we knew we had to buy this house. Four years later, I cannot imagine living anywhere else.

It is impossible to describe the feelings David and I had when we showed up to the most recent monthly meeting to find a surprise baby shower. The idea that our neighbors would organize such an event for us really shows just what a great group of people live here. As David and I have progressed through this adoption process there have occasionally been those nagging questions people ask us such as “what if people judge him or you?” David and I have always responded that we will raise him to be the strongest boy we can and teach him to listen to the kind of people who understand what real love and neighborliness is about and not judgments – two characteristics clearly borne out by the actions of those in this neighborhood.

I think it's also important to note that not only in this attitude present in adults, but it permeates down through the children of Williams Woodland as well. David and I are fortunate enough to have front row seats to the weekly football games on the Bolakowski greens. Seeing so many neighborhood children get together each week to spend time together in a positive activity is inspiring to say the least. So often all you hear about is the problems of the youth of today but watching the ever changing teams and children flow in and out of the game without fighting shows that there is an incredible amount of promise here.

Lest this article seem to focus only on us, I would like to remind us of other very significant neighborly things this neighborhood has done in the past. Giving to the family of children who were hit by a car, helping a neighbor strip their house and get it repainted, contributing to the family whose house suffered through a major fire, cleaning up the areas around vacant homes, spending several hours hanging decorations so that visitors are impressed when they drive down our streets and taking food to a family when one member was seriously ill are things that do not occur in every neighborhood; but they are things that we do around here without a second thought.

Someone recently asked me about our neighborhood association and what it does and they were utterly amazed by my description of all the events that we sponsor each year. That individual told me that his neighborhood is a good three to four times larger than ours is and they struggle to get fifteen people to their monthly meetings and have stopped planning some events due to lack of interest. And yet, here, we are constantly adding to our yearly events and even further expanding participation in events such as the Three Rivers Parade and the Holiday Home Tour.

In closing, I would encourage all of you to spend some time this season thinking about how great the people of Williams Woodland are and just how lucky we all are to be living in this neighborhood. This is a truly special place in Fort Wayne and I cannot imagine a better place to live and to raise children. When one of our neighbors moved in not too long ago they said that part of the reason they chose this area was that they had heard that WWPNA was a great place to raise children. Our reputation is clearly earned and it is getting out there and I think we should all congratulate and thank each other and ourselves for that.

And now here is your monthly quote from the early 18th century British novelist Daniel Defoe, “All our discontents about what we want appeared to spring from the want of thankfulness for what we have.”

WWPNA Minutes

October 25, 2011

The October membership meeting began with a baby shower as we welcomed our newest neighbor, Edwin Truett, son of David Brandon and Richard Freidman. Edwin was born on October 19th.

The November membership meeting is our annual Thanksgiving celebration. Everyone is invited to join in the neighborhood feast. The Association will provide the turkey; and neighbors are asked to provide the rest of the fixings.

Leaf pickup happens this next week. Be sure to get leaves raked out to the curb for pickup.

Peter and Traysa will be hosting their annual fall Bonfire on Saturday, October 29 at 6:00pm at the back of Peter's red house property. Hot dogs, chips, cookies and s'mores will be provided.

Justin Vedder reported on the Best Practices project. The group representing the neighborhood got their application accepted. There are eight neighborhoods are participating. The project is designed to foster leadership and sustainability to Fort Wayne neighborhoods.

Gene Loch gave the Treasurer's Report. The beginning balance was \$12,886.76. The ending balance is \$12,430.32.

Everyone was reminded to bring mittens, gloves, scarves or hats for the Embassy Festival of Trees. Our tree's theme is "Keeping Warm". The mittens, etc. will be donated to the "In As Much" Ministry

at Broadway Christian Church after they are used to decorate the tree.

Peter Bolakowski talked about the purchase of two houses at the end of Hoagland. A neighbor of those two houses, Rose Guzman, was concerned that the houses would be torn down. Don Orban was contacted by Pete. There has been no formal application regarding those houses. Pete suggested that if anyone witnessed any activity around those houses that they contact Don Orban.

In preparation for the Holiday Home Tour, the Christmas ornaments need to be hung from the lamp posts in the neighborhood. Volunteers are needed for Saturday morning, October 29 at 10:00am.

Peter Bolakowski gave a report for the Tree Committee. A list of preferred trees has been prepared with the consultation of Tom Cain. It will be sent out to the rest of the neighborhood for input. For those putting in trees on private property, the time is now.

The Holiday Home Tour Committee reports the posters, postcards and tickets are printed. People who wish to volunteer should contact Marlene Fenstermacher. There will be a meeting for the homeowners whose homes are on the tour. Anyone interested in sponsoring the tour can contact the committee. Anyone interested in selling tickets pre-tour can contact the committee.

A request was made by a neighbor for help cleaning another neighbor's home. Anyone willing to participate can meet on November 2 at 7:00pm.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Volunteers Needed

This is it! Time to let me know when you can volunteer for the home tour which is rapidly approaching. We are looking for folks to be host and hostess at 7 homes and 2 apartments. Most shifts are for the full time (4 hours), but we do have some 2 hour shifts available. There are also things that kids can do, so the whole family can be involved. Contact me ASAP if you are available and willing to help.

Marlene Fenstermacher
744-4301 or 443-1640 or email me

Places to volunteer:

- Host or hostess at a home or apartment
- Rake leaves, shovel snow, or pick up trash before tour so everything looks great (you don't have to let me know, just do it!)*
- Help fill luminary bags with sand (Saturday, December 3, 1:00pm Fenstermacher's driveway) and deliver to home*
- Help pick up luminary bags about 9:15pm Saturday night*

*Things kids can do too!

Let's join together to showcase the neighborhood we live in and love. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Embassy Festival of Trees

Rog and Judy S and Rebecca G spent an afternoon down at the Embassy decorating our neighborhood tree. This year we have a live tree and are on the ground floor right in the middle...great spot!! We used the wonderful mittens/hats/scarves that neighbors contributed plus some that were given to us by our sponsor this year, Indiana Michigan . We decorated the tree and then had two baskets full that didn't fit on the tree!!


WOW! (One wonderful person hand knitted 3 beautiful pairs of mittens!!)



This is such a win-win this year and a paying it forward event. The tree is live and will be planted in one of our Fort Wayne parks so it will go on giving. Our mittens/hats/scarves will decorate the tree for the season and then be removed and go on giving to people in need of warm things this winter. The warm items will be going to the Broadway Christian Church "In As Much" ministry.

So a big **THANKS** to all who contributed items for the tree...go to the Embassy and see it in person!!

Advertisements If you are interested in placing an ad, please contact Steph Johns at Stephanie.olivia@gmail.com




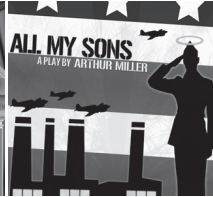



ipfw dept of theatre

Schatzlein Box Office
260-481-6555
www.ipfw.edu/theatre

2011 – 12 season

- ▼ *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*
September 30, October 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 2011
- ▼ *All My Sons*
November 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 2011
- ▼ *Purely Dance 2011*
December 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 2011
- ▼ *The Pot Boiler and The Real Inspector Hound*
February 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 2012
- ▼ *The Good Person of Szechuan*
April 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 2012

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CinemaCenter

You Can See the World from Here

TWO LOCATIONS:


Cinema Center Downtown - 437 E. Berry St.
 Cinema Center @ Indiana Tech - 1600 E. Washington Blvd.

Upcoming WWPNA Social Events

Nov 29, 6:15--Potluck Dinner

Dec 3-4--Holiday Home Tour

Aaron J. Butler, Attorney at Law



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