



Nothing says "spring" like these beautiful tulips blooming in the yard of Jim and Cathy Vale along Watson Road.

**2008 WMNA officers and board members:**

Scott Vankirk, **President**  
 Dianne Montgomery, **Vice President**  
 Betty Hurn Johnson, **Treasurer**

**Board of Directors:**

Martha Blue, Shannon Forsell,  
 Tanya Walton Pratt, Dan Kraner

**Our Mission**

The Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association exists to promote, create and maintain a viable and productive living environment conducive to neighborhood enhancement. We provide our members services, representation, programs and a commitment to enhance quality of life through community-based problem solving, neighborhood-oriented services and public/private cooperation.

**Bird Preserve** *continued from page 1*

species and shrubs that will support birds .

- "Fill in" the center area of the park with appropriate trees and shrubs.
  - Clean up the area along Watson Road and the Fairgrounds lot which is currently unkempt and overgrown with invasive honeysuckle.
  - Replace invasive species with native trees, shrubs and plants that will support birds, yet still look planned and intentional.
  - Include possible mass plantings of naturalizing daffodil bulbs for spring color. Although these are not specific to birds, they will add seasonal beauty to the park.
  - Create a volunteer force to ensure quarterly maintenance.
  - Long-term plans could also include adding decorative street lamps along the perimeter of the park and along Watson Road.
  - If Indy Parks discontinues mowing due to budget cuts, a long-term plan would be considered to replace grassy areas with ground cover— but only if regular mowing would cease.
- Proposed features that concern residents in immediate proximity to the park:**
- Bike racks—residents do not want to encourage the possibility of negative traffic.
  - Iron entrance gates or any gates around the

perimeter of the park—residents do not feel it necessary for cost and maintenance issues

- Wetland—mosquito issues, and safety/liability issues with children.
- Trails—neighbors feel that this area should remain natural and but do not want to encourage unwanted pedestrian traffic and activity within the park itself

Enhancing the Bird Preserve can only benefit the neighborhood. The park can provide numerous educational opportunities for area youth—exposing them to a natural resource. Local students could also create artistic bird houses for the park.

A few misconceptions about public greenspace have surfaced. Some residents feel that attracting visitors to the park will also encourage illegal activities. Long-term studies prove otherwise. Numerous studies show that increasing investment and encouraging human connectivity reduces crime and increases opportunities for relationship and community-building.

The local Audubon Society and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. have expressed an interest in partnering with the neighborhood to continue to enhance the park. Grant money and additional resources may be available from these organizations.

**To include your input for proposed park plans, email Shannon Forsell at shannonforsell@sbcglobal.net.**



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- 1 Note From Scott
- 1 Bird Preserve Changes
- 2 Unity Forums Kick Off
- 2 Annual Trash Pickup
- 2 2007 Holiday Party
- 3 National Night Out
- 3 Community Garage Sale
- 4 Membership Renewal

**A Note from Scott**

*by Scott Vankirk, President, WMNA*

SPRING IS HERE! The icy snow has melted from our streets and the sounds of children playing in the sun can be heard as we peep our heads out of our front doors. Spring brings so many welcome changes. Nature wakes up and paints our landscape with vibrant colors, and many of us feel a renewed interest in improving our immediate surroundings. I challenge each of you to take that extra step and not only spruce up your yard and home, but also the area around your home. Once again Watson-McCord will be organizing it's annual **Community Trash Pick-Up**. This ia a fantastic opportunity to gather with neighbors and help our community look its very best. Read more on page 2.

**Bird Preserve Changes Pending**

*by Shannon Forsell, Watson-McCord resident*

THE WATSON ROAD Bird Preserve, created in 1925, is a rare and unusual asset to the Watson-McCord neighborhood. The Preserve provides beauty, much needed public greenspace, and is one of the only urban bird preserves in Indianapolis. Many residents would like to see a continued investment in this public park.

In late October, 16 Watson-McCord Neighborhood residents gathered to discuss their vision for the Watson Road Bird Preserve.

Postcards were hand delivered to residents within the general vicinity of the Preserve to encourage their involvement in the discussion. Contact information was gathered from those in attendance to allow better communication of potential changes to the Bird Preserve.

Greenspace chairperson David Woodrupp led the discussion. Of those in attendance, all agreed that they like the Bird Preserve the way it is, with just a few "tweaks" to make it look more intentional and cared for.

Those in attendance came up with a checklist of items they would like to see for the Preserve:

- Create and install more attractive signage for the park, as well as signage that clearly states park rules—signage that is able to be restored if tagged with graffiti should be considered.
- Work with the Audubon Society, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. and Indy Parks to increase the number of native trees, appropriate

*continued on page 4*

**WMNA MEMBERSHIP**

**YES!** I want to join the Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association and let my voice be heard.

**YES!** Please renew my membership to the Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association for one year.

Joining the WMNA allows you to have critical input on decisions that are regularly made about your neighborhood. You must be a member in good standing in order to vote on these critical decisions at WMNA meetings. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month from 7-8 p.m. at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church. As a member, you will be notified by postcard in advance of the meeting location.

We have no paid employees. Membership dues go toward the basic operating expenses of the organization such as newsletter and postcard printing, postage and distribution and various other expenses associated with the organization.

In 2007 we worked together to fight crime, improve our streets, curbs sidewalks and parks. We worked together to fight crime and make Watson-McCord a safer place to live. Join today and help us accomplish these tasks and more in 2008.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

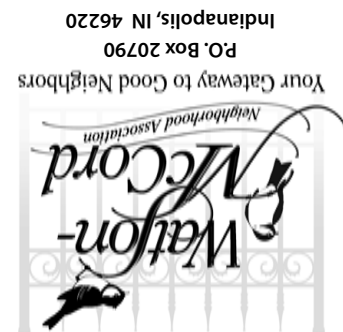
**Residential Membership:**  \$15  \$25  \$50  \$100

**Business Membership:**  \$50  \$100  \$200  \$300

**Religious Membership:**  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1000

**Clip and mail form to:** Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association  
 P.O. Box 20790, Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 Indianapolis, IN  
 Permit 323



## Annual Trash Pick-Up Planned

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 26, more than 10,000 ambitious volunteers from 17 neighborhood organizations will flood the streets of Indy with an eager willingness to do their part, by picking up trash and giving the city a spring cleaning.

"The Great Indy Cleanup", a program of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. (KIB) in partnership with the City of Indianapolis/ the Department of Public Works (DPW), and South Side Landfill, aims for streets, walkways and alleys to be relieved of the obtrusive eyesores left behind by litter and illegal dumping. Last year, volunteers removed more than two million pounds of litter through 277 neighborhood cleanups as a part of the program.

"The Great Indy Cleanup" is part of the "Great American Cleanup", the nation's largest community improvement program, sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

Watch for details in the coming weeks concerning our annual Watson-McCord neighborhood clean-up effort.

## Unity Forums Kick Off

THREE NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE forums—each focusing on a distinct facet of life within Mapleton Fall Creek—are planned this Spring for residents of the MFC area. "Meetings are designed to provide a welcoming environment for Mapleton-Fall Creek residents as they find connections with each other through our gifts, talents, and dreams," said De'Amon Harges, one of several neighbors involved in the Unity effort. The first forum was held on March 10. It focused on **Arts, Roots & History in Mapleton Fall Creek**.

The **April 14** forum will be held at at Broadway United Methodist Church (609 E. 29th St.) from **6 to 8 p.m.** and will focus on lowering utility costs through environmentally sound practices, caring for your home and supporting green sustainability.

The final forum on **May 12** will be held at the Children's Museum from **6 to 8 p.m.** and will focus on a spectrum of youth issues ranging from intergenerational activities to education, leadership development and recreation.

These forums are made possible through an IMAGINE grant from the Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative (GINI) and are being hosted by the Mapleton-Fall Creek Unity Group, which consists of an informal group of Mapleton-Fall Creek neighbors.

Questions can be directed to [mfcunity@gmail.com](mailto:mfcunity@gmail.com). We hope to see many of our MFC neighbors at these forums!

# 2007 Holiday Party a Huge Success

photos by Brenda Havens, Watson-McCord resident



ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 6TH over 45 Watson-McCord friends and neighbors gathered at the home of Kevin Warren and Neil Bagadiong for an evening of celebration, festive music by Cynthia Lane and sumptuous catering by neighbor Rob Hoaglin of Hoaglin To Go. This annual event gave neighbors a festive opportunity to mingle and spread the holiday spirit. See you next year?

## Giving Back to Our Community

I've been a realtor for 12 years, and have lived in the Meridian-Kessler, Mapleton-Fall Creek and Watson-McCord areas for 13 years. My love of older homes inspired me to become a realtor. Living in a 100-year-old home has taught me to understand the work that goes into home restoration.

*Housing values in our neighborhood are constantly rising. Make sure you have a realtor who knows and understands the value of your older home.*

I donate five percent of my commission to the Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association for every sale I make.



**Kevin Warren, Realtor**  
Office: 317.595.2100  
Voice Mail: 317.558.6811  
Direct: 317.507.7660  
Residence: 317.925.4723

Mayor's Community Service Award  
Community Volunteer  
Top 5% in production nationally  
"Keep Indianapolis Beautiful"

## National Night Out Scheduled

THE "25TH ANNUAL National Night Out" (NNO), a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2008.

Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. Over 34 million people participated in National Night Out 2007.

**National Night Out is designed to:**

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in,

local anticrime programs;

- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Bring a covered dish or dessert and join our neighborhood in celebrating National Night Out at a gathering in Tab Park, **Tuesday, August 5, 2008 starting at 6:30 p.m.**

McGruff the Crime Dog®, police officers, fire fighters, and local officials will make appearances at these neighborhood block parties.

**If you have questions about this years National Night Out contact: Dianne at (317/920-0732).**

## Community Yard Sale Slated

As they say, **one man's trash is another man's treasure. This successful annual event is your opportunity to prove that addage true.**

THE ANNUAL YARD sale for the Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association is scheduled for **June 7, from 8 a.m. to noon.**

This community event is a great opportunity to rid yourself of unused belongings, and an ideal time to meet neighbors and members of the surrounding community.

The \$10 participation fee will go toward advertising, a notation on the neighborhood sale map to be handed out in McCord Park and various other locations, and an individual yard sign placed on your property the week prior to the event. Other signs and banners will be placed throughout the neighborhood as well.

To participate and help make this year's event the most successful ever, contact **Dianne Montgomery, Committee Chair, at [diannemadison@aol.com](mailto:diannemadison@aol.com) (317/920-0732)**

Fuel for  
Your Day



beyond petroleum™



### Wake up to the Wild Bean Café

Coffee...java...joe. Whatever you call it. However you like it. The Wild Bean Café has it. Pop in for a relaxing cup of the finest brew in the morning or anytime. Fresh baked rolls, cookies and muffins too.

**\$2.00 off delicious baguettes every Tuesday!**



**Amoco Ultimate** from BP for cleaner engines and restored performance—including driveability, emissions and fuel economy. BP offers three grades of quality Amoco fuels designed to meet all your gasoline needs and optimum engine performance.

### Your BP Connect

**38th Street  
and Fall Creek Boulevard  
317/920-0850**

**Catering Available  
\$45.00 off your  
first catering order  
(24-hour notice required)**