

Town of Meridian Hills

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

JUNE 21, 2009

TOWN SECURES \$102K STIMULUS FUNDS

On February 17, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 was enacted by President Obama. The ARRA included significant funding for transportation projects throughout the country. The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) received \$39,569,672 for use in the Indianapolis Urban Area. The MPO coordinates transportation planning efforts with cities, towns, and a variety of agencies in Marion County and portions of the surrounding counties. The Town of Meridian Hills submitted funding requests based on identified criteria. The MPO evaluated projects submitted to them for potential funding totaling more than \$700 million. Through multiple meetings and submittals, the MPO used certain criteria to evaluate and modify the list

of projects to equal the available \$39,569,672 ARRA funding. On April 9, 2009, the Indianapolis Re-



gional Transportation Council (IRTC) of the MPO approved a project list for ARRA funding that included **\$102,000 for 75th Street improvements!**

The improvements along 75th Street will include asphalt milling and resurfacing of 75th street from Pennsylvania Street to the west side of College Avenue. New

pavement markings will be installed to include yellow centerline and white stop bar markings. Some street signs will be replaced along 75th Street from Spring Mill Road to College Avenue. The Town Engineer is working with the MPO on proper coordination and will be submitting the final project documents to INDOT for bid letting as required by the funding. ARRA funding will be used for the construction costs and construction inspection costs of the project. This federally funded project is currently anticipated for fall 2009 construction.

Special thanks to Brad Eckler of Crossroad Engineers for an outstanding attention to detail and thorough follow-thru on our behalf! For additional information on the stimulus funds, visit www.in.gov/indot/div/public/arra/arra.htm.

reclaimed about half the sidewalk on the east side of College from overgrown grass.

Special thanks to Christy Scofield for helping to organize the event. Be sure to thank Christy & John Scofield & son, Shirley &

The Great Meridian Hills Clean Up!

On Saturday, April 25th, several residents and non-residents participated in the Great Meridian Hills Clean Up, sponsored by Keep Indianapolis Beautiful as part of the Great Indy Clean Up.

The north side of Meridian Hills Boulevard, between Meridian Street and Illinois

was the primary area of concentration. Dick Ristine, former resident of the Town, hacked away at the honeysuckle with chainsaw and chip shredder for two days! And Shirley Fry took a slide down a muddy embankment while picking up trash! Talk about dedication! We removed several bags of trash and tons of honeysuckle from the street. We also

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POLICE

Emergency 9-1-1
Non-Emergency 327-3811
Answering Mach. 253-5678

ADMINISTRATION

Town Council

Jim Rush, President
257-1886

Terry O'Brien
979-5646

Walter Freihofer
253-5556

Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor
459-7708

Town Attorney

Sue A. Beesley

Town Engineer

Brad Eckler, PE, SIT

Town Marshal

Michael S. Russo

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MAINTAINING DRAINAGE FEATURES

Now that warmer weather is here, rain events have made their abundant presence known. Sometimes there are obstacles preventing the drainage system from successfully conveying the water away from properties and roadways. Drainage issues such as standing water may be the result of blocked swales, inlets, curbs, or culverts. It appears most of the Town's original drainage was conveyed with open roadside swales. Unfortunately, over time many of these have accumulated sediment or have been filled in by owners.

- **Remove leaves and debris from swales & ditches**
- **Remove debris and trash from storm inlets and pipe culverts**
- **Remove sediment accumulated at pipe culvert ends to maintain proper flow**
- **Keep curbs free of sediment and debris**
- **Clean curb turnouts to allow a proper outlet from the curb**

As the Town is included in the Marion County Stormwater Management District (MCSMD), the City of Indianapolis' Department of Public Works manages the stormwater system within the MCSMD. Property owners have the responsibility to maintain drainage on their property and driveway culverts within public right of way. A storm water utility fee is collected by the County from property owners within the MCSMD. These fees are used to fund drainage improvements throughout the

entire district. There are many drainage issues outside the Town limits that receive a higher priority due to the severity of the issue. However, the drainage issues present within the Town are important to all its residents. The Town Council and Town Engineer are con-

tinually working with DPW to address drainage issues throughout Meridian Hills. Some routine maintenance items listed here will assist in ensuring proper

drainage is maintained or restored. With regular maintenance by individuals, the entire Town will collectively benefit from a functioning drainage system.

If you know of drainage issues beyond routine maintenance, please share them with the Town Engineer. Visit www.meridianhills.org/documents to view the 'Drainage 2.0 Presentation' and utilize the Drainage Fact Sheet link for additional information.



Vine & Branch has helped the Town of Meridian Hills maintain safe roadways for several years with expert tree inspection, analysis, and proper pruning.

Now we want to ensure the safety of the trees on your property as well.



Warm weather means outdoor playtime and family gatherings.

Call us today for a **FREE** visual tree assessment to help keep your property safe for you and your kids!

Contact the Vine & Branch experts today!

317.846.3778

www.vineandbranch.net info@vineandbranch.net

4721 E. 146th Street · Carmel, IN 46033

2010 U.S. Census

Every 10 years, the U.S. Constitution requires a national census to count every person residing in the United States. It affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding.

Census employees with proper identification may be appearing throughout the Town to verify and update addresses. (Please call 9-1-1 to report any suspicious individuals or activity. The police can verify census employee credentials if necessary.) Short census questionnaires will be mailed to every household in the spring of 2010. The law requires that you complete and return your questionnaire. If you do not return your questionnaire, census takers will visit your household in the summer of 2010 to complete the questionnaire. The information is confidential, and necessary for the apportionment of government representation and redistricting that will take place in 2011.

For additional information, please visit www.census.gov/2010census.

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THE GREAT MERIDIAN HILLS CLEAN UP

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Meridian Hills Boulevard - Before



Meridian Hills Boulevard - After



College Sidewalk - Before & After

Michael Fry, Dick Ristine, and Malcolm Mallette for all their time and effort improving this area of the Town. You can't drive down Meridian Hills Blvd without noticing the difference a

few dedicated volunteers made. Although every day can be spent cleaning up our Town, The Great Meridian Hills Clean Up may become an annual community event to coincide with Earth

Day. What a great way to meet your neighbors, contribute to the community, improve the environment and clean up your own back yard!

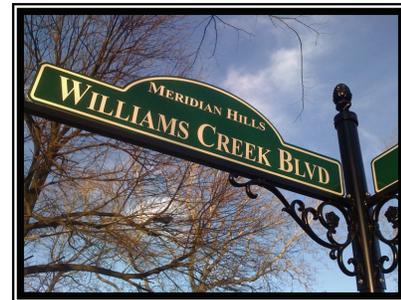
BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS

In response to the Town Survey and the recommendations of the Town Planning Committee, steps toward beautification have been taking place as funding allows. The new Town entry signs, landscaping, and decorative street name signs are all designed to improve the sense of community, to help create an identity and brand the Town, to beautify the neighborhood, and to maintain property values.

Last year, four Town Entry signs were placed at 71st & College, 75th & College, Meridian Hills Blvd & 73rd, and 64th & Meridian. This year, the final three additional signs have been approved for installation at 79th & Spring Mill, 80th & Meridian, and 64th & Spring Mill. In addition to the Town Entry signs, four new decorative street name signs were installed where existing signs were either damaged or missing. The council is considering the installation of additional decorative street name signs along 75th Street to coincide with the resurfacing project that will take place early in the Fall.

Of course, if your street or neighborhood would like to have the new street name signs installed sooner rather than later, please consider donating to the Town Beautification Fund. If you contribute 80% of the cost of an approved sign, streetlight or landscaping, the Town will pay the other 20% and install as funds and priorities allow. Any contributions to the Town are tax deductible.

If you're interested in contributing to the Town Beautification Fund, or learning more about the Town's beautification efforts, please call Terry O'Brien at 979-5646, or email at tobrien@obrienauto.com.



Decorative Street Name Sign



Town Entry Sign

meridianhills.org

Town of Meridian Hills
P.O. Box 40437
Indianapolis, IN 46240

www.meridianhills.org

Phone: 459-7708
Fax: 334-0955

Calendar of Events

2009 Regular Council Meetings - 7:00pm

July 13
September 14
November 9

July

- 1 - 29 "Hot Dog Nights," St. Luke Catholic Church, Wednesday nights in July, 6-8pm, 259-4373
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 5 "Family Fun Day," Holliday Park, 1pm - 5pm, 327-7180, FREE
- 9 Holliday Park Summer Concerts, "Matt Roush" 7pm, 327-7180 FREE
- 16 Holliday Park Summer Concerts, "Living Proof" 7pm 327-7180 FREE
- 23 - 26 "Rent," Park Tudor Ayres Auditorium, 7:30pm on the 23rd - 25th, 2pm on 26th, 415-2705
- 26 "Family Fun Day," Holliday Park, 1pm - 5pm, 327-7180, FREE
- 30 Holliday Park Summer Concerts, "The Buselli-Wallarab Jazz Orchestra" 7pm, 327-7180 FREE

August

- 1 "Madagascar 2" Holliday Park, movie starts at dusk - approx. 9pm 327-7180 FREE
- 13 Holliday Park Summer Concerts, "Cathy Morris" 7pm 327-7180 FREE
- 23 "Family Fun Day," Holliday Park, 1pm - 5pm, 327-7180, FREE

September

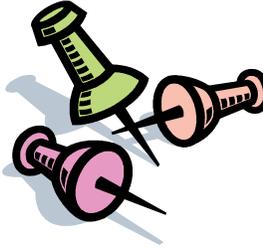
- 7 LABOR DAY

BULLETIN BOARD

Eliminate possible breeding grounds for mosquito larvae on your property by cleaning your gutters and downspouts, and preventing standing water in flower pots, tire swings, buckets and ponds. Please call Mosquito Control at 221-7440 to request a neighborhood spray or to have the city treat stagnant water on your property.

The Town received a "Keep Indianapolis Beautiful" grant to landscape around the new town entry sign on the north side of Meridian Hills Boulevard east of Spring Mill.

Last Fall, several residents spent two weekends planting the donated materials. The gateway to the Town looks incredible now! Special thanks to Rose & Dave Scovel who helped coordinate the effort and maintained the plantings once they were in the ground!



THE TOWN SUCCESSFULLY LOBBIED THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS TO INSTALL A NEW DECORATIVE STREETLIGHT NEAR THE SAME TOWN ENTRY SIGN AT NO COST TO THE TOWN. THE FLUTED "WASHINGTON" STYLE LIGHT - THE NEW TOWN STANDARD AS FUNDS ALLOW - IS ONE OF ONLY TWO DECORATIVE STYLES THAT IPL HAS AVAILABLE THROUGH THEIR RENTAL PROGRAM. THE LENS IN THE LAMP DIFFUSES "UP" LIGHT TO REDUCE LIGHT POLLUTION IN THE NIGHT SKY.

This newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee for the Town of Meridian Hills. If you're interested in contributing to the newsletter, please contact Terry O'Brien at 979-5646 or Helen Carroll at 722-4350.

Town of Meridian Hills
P.O. Box 40437
Indianapolis, IN 46240

meridianhills.org

*Town of Meridian Hills
Established 1937*