



SOUTHWOOD PARK NEWS

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

HISTORICSOUTHWOODPARK.COM

JULY 2021



Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meetings, 7PM. Locations TBA on website and Facebook.

- **September 8**
- **November 10**

Garage Sale:

- **September 11**

Dumpster Day:

- **August 7**

Block Party:

- **July 24**

Neighborhood Block Party: July 24th

The spirit of Historic Southwood Park burns brilliant and true just like the Olympic torch. We welcome all neighbors to join us in a long-awaited celebration of determination, perseverance, and comradery!

Come reunite with great food, games, live music, and friendship. There will be Olympic-inspired games and prizes. There will be a moonwalk for the kids as well as entertainment for the adults.

There will be a tent and limited seating. BYOB responsibly. Individually packaged chicken barbecue meals will be provided, while supplies last.

Opening Ceremonies begin at 3:00 at the Westover Esplanade and Closing Ceremonies are at 7:00. Music will be provided by Jess Thrower. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon!



Important

Contacts

Emergencies: 911

FWPD Desk Sergeant (non-emergency number): 427-1222

APS Security Patrol for home vacation checks: 747-7700

Dues questions: Above & Beyond Community Mgmt. at **490-2226** or e-mail at **office@abcmanagement.org**

City-related questions (code violations, trash and recycling problems, street lights out, potholes): **311**

Nuisance fires: 911

Other questions: e-mail **Southwood_Park@yahoo.com**

Don't Miss These Events:

- **Flamingo Fridays—August 6, 6-9PM:** The next Flamingo Friday will take place at the home of Jess Coleman and Shane Case, 4201 Old Mill Road. Dogs are welcome! The pool will be available if anyone wants to take a dip! Watch our new website and Facebook for updates or more Flamingo Friday dates as they are added. It's a great way to meet new neighbors! If you are interested in hosting a Flamingo Friday gathering at your home, contact Board Member Nadine Rager at **nadinerage@gmail.com**.
- **Dumpster Day—Saturday, August 7:** The City-provided dumpster will arrive about 8AM at the Westover Road-Beaver Avenue corner. The dumpster will be closed by noon, and if the past is a guide, will fill very early. It can't be filled over the top and the door must close, so if you see the **EVENT CONCLUDED** sign, it's over until next time.
- **Second Chance Garage Sale—September 11, 8AM-4PM:** The Association will place yard signs and advertise in the Journal-Gazette. You provide the sales! Please place a sign or balloons in your yard, there's no need to place signs out and about. We have it covered.

Restoration to Begin

Fort Wayne Parks and the Friends of the Parks have fundraised and work will soon begin on Foster Park Pavilion #3 restoration. Hoch Associates is a consultant for work to be performed. The New Deal era stone structure has long been on the local ARCH Most Endangered List.

Invasive species will be removed and selected trees will be managed to allow better sight lines in the oak grove and along the river.



Neighborhood Flag Available

Show your Southwood Park pride for all to see! Flags are again available at \$20. Mail or drop off this order form to Steve McCord, 4125 Indiana Avenue and we'll deliver yours to you.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Check No. _____ or Cash Paid \$ _____



You can return this Petition by email, mail, or hand deliver to 4125 Indiana.

PETITION FOR TRAFFIC CALMING

We, the undersigned residents of the City of Fort Wayne, do hereby petition the Board of Public Works (and the Board of Public Safety where applicable) of the City of Fort Wayne, to make the following change in traffic control:

**Lower the residential speed limit in
Historic Southwood Park and Historic Foster Park
to 25 MPH from 30 MPH.**

By signing this petition, the signatory affirms that she/he is authorized to do so and thereby bind the owner(s) of the respective parcel to the effect of this petition.

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Address: _____, Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Return to Petition Contact Person: Stephen McCord (Board President, Historic Southwood Park)
4125 Indiana Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46807
260-745-8070
Email to Southwood_Park@yahoo.com

(This petition must be signed by at least 51% of affected residents as determined by Traffic Engineering and returned for review and acceptance. The Board of Works (and the Board of Public Safety where applicable) approves projects upon the recommendation of the Traffic Engineering Department.)

Rats!! ...and Related Problems

It's an unpleasant topic: **neighborhoods have rats**. This neighborhood is no different. It's an important subject, so please read this article and make adjustments to your habits. Your health may depend on it.

FACT: 46807 is the only zip code that has its own dedicated Vector Control and Healthy Homes officer for rats.

NOTICE: the Vector Control and Healthy Homes program will be making a sweep of our neighborhood in the coming weeks, based on rat reports. Officers will go door-to-door checking for signs of rats and likely rat habitat. **The target area will be between Tacoma on the east, Pasadena on the north, Beaver on the west, and Maple Grove on the south.** This does not mean rats are confined to this area. There are reports elsewhere.

Is it worse than usual this year? Probably, yes. Health Department resources have been pandemic-focused the last 18 months, and not as many resources were available to combat vectors of disease like rats.

According to the Health Department, the top three rat attractors are:

- Dog poop not picked up
- Bird feeders
- Extensive ground covers like ivy

How many of these conditions exist in your yard?

What can you do?

- Pick up after your dog!
- Put your bird feeders away! (The Indiana DNR has asked bird feeders to be stored this year because of an unexplained disease affecting Indiana songbirds, so you have an extra reason to do so!)
- Keep your ground covers and weeds under control. Report weed violations to 311.
- Keep firewood 18" above ground. Get rid of trash heaps or piles of boxes in your garage or shed.
- Use good trash practices. Bag your trash in tied bags, don't just dump in the carts. Make sure your cart lids actually close. If yours is broken, phone 311 for a free replacement. If you always have trash piling out of the top of your cart, request a second cart. It's only \$2 a month!
- Missed trash pickups? Phone 311 or report online.
- **REPORT possible rodent infestations to the Allen County Vector Control & Healthy Homes Program at (260) 449-7459 during normal business hours.**

One of our Southwood Park neighbors became quite ill, and her beloved dog died from exposure to a rat.

Her dog found a decapitated rat in the driveway. The dog made contact with the carcass with its nose, but she was able to keep her dog from picking it up. She used gloves to dispose of the rat and used bleach and a hose to clean the area.

She called Allen County Vector Control, and they placed a rat bait box within three days. Rat feces was found in the area.

About a week later, our neighbor started having symptoms of toothaches. Later still, symptoms of an infection. Again later, shortness of breath. After several weeks, she was admitted to the ER, diagnosed with bacterial pneumonia.

During this time, Vector Control did not find bait box activity, but our neighbor continued to report the presence of rat feces.

Following her diagnosis at the ER, her pet started exhibiting symptoms. Loss of appetite. Coughing. Labored breathing. Despite making trips to the vet, the dog's condition did not improve. Within days, it had developed into bacterial pneumonia, and heroic efforts did not prevent the dog from passing. Blood samples have been sent to Purdue University to determine if there is a definitive link to rodents.

Board VP Erika Stuller made compelling reports of this problem to City and County officials. We have their attention. It's important to cooperate and do our part in this battle against disease. — **Steve McCord**

Historic Southwood Park Neighborhood Association, Inc.
 c/o Above & Beyond Community Management
 507 Airport North Office Park
 Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Pollinator Garden Completed!

Thank you to everyone who attended a garden talk with Sean Nolan of Sanctuary Native Landscapes! We learned a lot about our new Native Pollinator Garden on South Wayne at Pettit. Search “Historic Southwood Park Neighborhood Association” on YouTube to find the garden talk video!

We were all able to take some tidbits with us to implement at our own homes. Keep an eye out for a spring event where Sean will help demonstrate how to maintain our new garden bed in a way that maximizes pollinator benefit.



Website Redesigned

Visit our new website!

HistoricSouthwoodPark.com

Featuring useful information in an easy to navigate format, we aim to make it simple for you to find answers to your Southwood Park questions.

Thank you, board member Sierah Barnhart, for designing this new home for us on the internet!

