

February  
2013

# Fairfields-Sylvan News & Views

**FSNA Calendar**  
Fairfields-Sylvan neighbors meet at John Strange School, **7:00 pm**, 3rd Wednesdays

- **Feb 20**  
Guest Speaker is Republic Recycling Representative
- **Mar 20**  
DPW – 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Trail/Other Topics
- **Apr 17**  
Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc.

**\$25 Annual Dues per family. Send to FSNA Treasurer**  
PO Box 20070  
Indy, IN46220-0070

**Email:** comments  
@ fsnaindy.org

**Important Phone Numbers:**

**Indy North Police**  
327-6100

**Mayors Action Center to report:**  
327-4622  
Potholes  
Abandoned vehicles  
Illegal dumping, etc.

**Christine Scales  
County Councilor**  
317-578-8901  
cscales\_2000@  
yahoo.com

**Gregory A. Ballard  
Mayor**  
2501 City-County  
Building, 200 East  
Washington Street  
Indpls, IN 46204  
**CofS:** [Ryan.Vaughn@  
Indy.gov](mailto:Ryan.Vaughn@Indy.gov)

**DEDICATION OF EAST 62<sup>ND</sup> STREET TRAIL – MAYOR BALLARD INVITED!**  
March 16, 11:00 am, at John Strange School, 3660 East 62<sup>nd</sup> St.

**Please visit our website**

[www.fsnaindy.org](http://www.fsnaindy.org)

Neighbors for nearly 500 households in our area can view updated 9-1-1 Facts; IMPD link; homepage postings for Lost Pets; meeting agendas, online opinions; Drainage Mapping Project; Republic Recycling calendar; DMD map showing your street and lot; minutes; our Independence Parade & Pitch-In; Facebook; upcoming events; and so on.

## Crime Watch and Banding Together

*Is rising crime replacing missing jobs?* This is a difficult question, but heartening that more neighbors are on the alert, and paid memberships increasing. Councilor Christine Scales met with FSNA members on January 16, providing them with personal news on City Council and IMPD activities. *Plan to attend some of our 8 association sessions each year.* Mayor Ballard and Christine have been invited to our March 16 Trail Dedication. *How many families will be present?* FSNA has seen many improvements in recent years, but more hands are needed in support to keep events, such as *Independence Parade & Pitch-In* continuing in 2013. *Regards, Joe*

## Annual Neighborhood Cleanup/Fire Hydrant Painting, April 13, 10:00 am

Join in to clean up winter trash along your streets on Saturday, April 13. Meet School main entrance for gloves, bags, and water. This year, we would like other volunteers in two teams to restore 22 FSNA fire hydrants in a scraping, wiping, painting project lasting about three hours.



*Liaison Noelle Malatestinic and four sons with GACC/FSNA painting 62<sup>nd</sup> Street hydrants.*

## **John Strange PTO Landscaping** by Michelle Lanosga

FSNA has joined with Lowe's Toolbox for Education, which is a nationwide grant program for public schools, and the John Strange Elementary PTO to provide funding for *Learning Landscape*, which will include a new garden at the school's main entrance and redesigned landscaping around the site of the school sign at corner of 62<sup>nd</sup> Street and Olney. *Learning Landscape* will offer opportunities for teachers and students to learn about science, nature and Indiana horticulture, while providing a beautiful and welcoming entry area for students, families, staff, and community.

Lowe's awarded \$4,985 to the John Strange PTO on January 10, 2013, and the *FSNA Board approved a donation of \$500 toward the project* on January 16. Principal Maravene Inman expressed her appreciation for FSNA's generosity and support of the school. Further, she said that the school is excited about the grant and opportunity to partner with our neighborhood in landscaping efforts. The PTO will organize school and neighbor volunteers for several work days, collaborate with local Lowe's store to include interested employees, and will sponsor a spring fundraiser for remaining money to reach total projected cost of \$7,133. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Lanosga at 255-8714.

**If you wish to comment or suggest other local community projects**, please contact our Board, [www.fsnaindy.org](http://www.fsnaindy.org), or Mayor Ballard and/or Councilor Scales. ...See contact information on first page. For news regarding FSNA's umbrella organization, *Greater Allisonville Community Council (GACC)*, see website at [www.greaterallisonville.org](http://www.greaterallisonville.org).

### **FSNA Drainage Problem Mapping Project** – by Tom Sturmer

Have you experienced drainage problems on your property and wished that something could be done about it? Have you called the City only to find that you are among thousands of residents with similar problems? Would you like for the neighborhood association to speak on our collective behalf to see if we can get some of these problems addressed?

This spring, the FSNA Board is planning on soliciting resident feedback on drainage problems affecting your property. Our goal will be to create an uncomplicated map that will show the location of drainage obstacles in the neighborhood, which will be linked to a spreadsheet describing the problem.

This information can then be used to communicate with City-County Councilor Christine Scales and Department of Public Works (DPW). With assistance of City staff, we may be able to document the problem areas more specifically, and relate these areas to existing or non-existing stormwater infrastructure.

Expect a survey form to arrive in your mailbox in future months. Prompt feedback will be requested, so that that project can be completed before Fairfields-Sylvan begins its summer recess following our Wednesday, May 15 annual election meeting. Thank you for your interest.

I can be contacted at [tsturmer@fsnaindy.org](mailto:tsturmer@fsnaindy.org). Tom Sturmer, FSNA Vice-President

## Annual Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

Saturday, April 13, 10:00 am. John Strange School – Main Entrance

In cooperation with Mayor's Office and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Inc (KIBI), we will have our annual spring cleanup along all Fairfields-Sylvan streets from 10:00 am to about 12:00 Noon. Gloves, trash bags, water bottles, and a City dumpster will be provided. Please come and sign up for your block. Participating families and members will be eligible for a KIBI flower drawing, which Directors will distribute around Memorial Day.

*Fairfields-Sylvan is planning to provide 7 wire trash baskets along the 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Trail with neighbor's support.*

## January 16 Guest – Councilor Christine Scales *by Kathie Church*

Some new neighbors enjoyed their exercise in FSNA local democracy on Wednesday, January 16, as City-County Councilor Christine Scales presented an extensive report on her activities for District 4 voters, while answering questions from the audience during her various topics. She has been a tireless advocate for our neighborhood during her first term and since re-election. Her hard work is appreciated by many residents.

Christine asked all present to consider upcoming issues concerning taxes, budget, and zoning development, letting her know of our opinions. One idea to explore for future revenue sources would be *PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)* program. Many other cities of our population size charge non-profit institutions, such as hospitals, universities, and charity endowments, an assessment to cover city services. This could include maintenance of streets, public safety departments, and other services which they use, but do not pay any taxes. An additional consideration would be charging *Special Events user fees* to cover police protection and overtime expenses not otherwise budgeted, for example the 500 Mile Race in May every year.

### **Fairfields-Sylvan Neighborhood Association**

#### **FSNA E-MAIL:**

[COMMENTS@FSNAINDY.ORG](mailto:COMMENTS@FSNAINDY.ORG)

#### **F-SNA BOARD**

PRESIDENT  
Joe Goeller

VICE PRESIDENT  
Tom Sturmer

MEMBER SECRETARY  
Ken Ingle

RECORDING SECRETARY  
Kathie Church

TREASURER  
Sherry Seiwert

DIRECTORS  
Barb Hazel  
Bill Hazel  
Ted Hudnut

Crime Watch – Terry Dobson  
News Editor – Joe Goeller

She recounted some District 4 and FSNA improvements in recent years:

1. Repaving of East 61<sup>st</sup> Street, with associated new sidewalks and drainage improvements in that area.
2. Repaving of East 62<sup>nd</sup> Street, unexpectedly accomplished in the same year within one neighborhood association.
3. Completion of the East 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Multi-Use Trail, providing a bicycle and pedestrian route from Binford Boulevard to Broad Ripple Village for Fairfields-Sylvan residents and many other neighborhoods.
4. Demolition of abandoned “Keystone Towers” plagued with squatters and drugs at Fall Creek and Allisonville Road.
5. Redevelopment of that location into the “Point on Fall Creek” apartments by Whitsett Group.

She outlined the projects involving her attention in the near future:

1. Reinstatement of the ladder truck at 71<sup>st</sup> & Keystone fire station.
2. Construction of the Ironworks Retail/Restaurant/Condos at 86<sup>th</sup> and Keystone Avenue.

**Editor’s Note:** *Rather than mass transit trains running through Fairfields-Sylvan about every 30 minutes on a single-use railroad track infrastructure, Christine has proposed a less expensive Monon Trail-type use of the Nickel Plate route for a rapid transit buses corridor. This could become a pedestrian and bicycle route for the community to enjoy.*

**Some articles inside – Crime Watch and Banding Together; John Strange Landscaping; Drainage Mapping; Councilor’s Report; so on -**

Located in northeast Indianapolis, FSNA strives to improve and protect the beauty, integrity, and security of our area. It serves residents of the neighborhood bounded by Allisonville Road on the East, both sides of 65<sup>th</sup> Street on the North from Allisonville to Tuxedo; by Tuxedo from 65<sup>th</sup> to 62<sup>nd</sup> and Oakland Avenue from 62<sup>nd</sup> to Kessler on the West; by Kessler Boulevard on the South.

**FSNA Membership is for one year. Dues are \$25 per household. Your Benefits are:**

- FSNA website; February Newsletter. *May/Sep issues will be sent only to paid members*
- Additional important updates by email or flier. *Crime Alert emails only to paid members*
- Association Meetings; \$10 Attendee Drawing; Advocate of our interests with City leaders
- Proponent of infrastructure improvements; Supporter of John Strange Elementary School
- Independence Day Parade and Pitch-In; potential for Block Parties; and other events

***“MAKING A GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD EVEN BETTER!”***

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Membership dues are \$25 per year for a household or business. Membership is good for one year from March 2013 to March 2014.</b></p>
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*(Return with check to: FSNA Treasurer, PO Box 20070, Indianapolis, IN 46220-0070)*

FSNA Secretary  
PO Box 20070  
Indianapolis, IN 46220-0070