



**Headz Up Likes
42nd & Boulevard
Location**

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**Updates on Our
Neighborhood
Businesses**

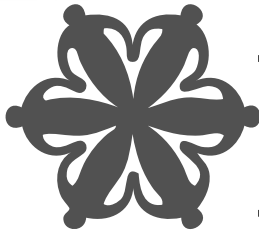
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**Montessori Option
Open to BTNA
Children**

PAGE 12

the news of our neighborhood • indianapolis, indiana



Butler-Tarkington

MARCH & APRIL 2010

www.butlertarkington.org

VOL. 55, NO. 2

BTNA NEEDS MENTORS & TUTORS

*Call 226-4243 to
ask how you can get
involved today.*

MARILYN PORTER
CONTRIBUTOR

“LeVon” (not his real name) is a sweet, good-natured first grader who struggles with reading. He is not alone. Of the 17 children in his class perhaps six or seven of them are not reading at grade level. These children would benefit from one-on-one tutoring—someone to sit and listen to them read, or help them with math or spelling.

“LeVon” is one of the 516 students enrolled at James Whitcomb Riley Elementary School #43 located at 40th and Capitol. There are 26 teachers making an average of 20 students per teacher. Additionally there are about 50 employees in other capacities—administrators, nurses, clerks, cooks, parent/school liaisons. All the students are eligible for a free lunch,

SEE MENTORS | PAGE 11

BTNA Resident Chad Mills Pursues His Passion: Music



WWW.MYSPACE.COM/CHADMILLSLIVE

BTNA resident Chad Mills cites Bob Dylan and Eddie Vedder as his early influences.

NEIL BLOEDE
BTNA PRESIDENT

The Butler-Tarkington neighborhood is filled with talented and interesting people involved in various pursuits. One individual pursuing his passion is Chad Mills.

Chad has lived with his family in Butler-Tarkington for five years. During this time he has developed into

a respected musician in the Indianapolis music scene and has released six albums.

Chad’s music is not the only thing that keeps him busy. Chad is a graduate of Rose-Hulman University and works as an engineer by day. In addition, he is a busy husband and father. In this day and age, it seems that everyone is busy with work and family so it is ever so impres-

sive that Chad can find time to write, record and perform his music.

NB: So Chad, have you always been interested in music? When did you decide to pick up the guitar and give it a go on your own?

CM: I think my interest in music really picked up in college. I found out I was a decent singer. My junior year

SEE MILLS | PAGE 14

BUTLER BRIEFS

Butler Sets Record for Retention Rate

Butler University's freshman retention rate from fall 2009 to spring 2010 is 96 percent—the highest in school history. The retention rate for all undergraduates from fall to spring is 95 percent.

Butler's goal is to have at least 90 percent of freshmen return for their sophomore year and to graduate a minimum of 75 percent of all students within six years. The University achieved those goals in 2009.

The average fall-to-fall retention rate for Indiana private colleges and universities is 76.8 percent. The average for four-year Indiana public schools is 73.4 percent. The average six-year graduation rate for all Indiana colleges and universities is 55.5 percent.

Phi Beta Kappa Adds Butler Chapter

The Phi Beta Kappa Society installed its Theta of Indiana Chapter at Butler on Feb. 4, making Butler one of only 280 universities nationwide to host a chapter of the country's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society.

Founded in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa recognizes outstanding undergraduates in the liberal arts and sciences. Lifetime membership in the honorary and its distinctive golden key are considered emblems of high achievement, bringing a competitive advantage for those who qualify.

Butler Wins Sustainability Award

Butler's new Pharmacy and Health Sciences building addition took the top spot in the Energy category in the first-ever Indianapolis Sustainability Awards program.

Some of the environmental components of the addition include a white roof that reflects heat rather than absorbs it, low-flow faucets and toilets, and motion and occupancy sensors.

The addition is currently being reviewed for LEED-Gold (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

the president's message

Participate & Join Us to Move Our Neighborhood Forward

NEIL BLOEDE
BTNA PRESIDENT

Hello neighbor. I hope that you made it through this snowy winter. I know that I shoveled too many driveways and sidewalks, and the sights and smells of spring are welcome in my house. As we look forward to a new season, I want to talk with you about the future of the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association. As the oldest neighborhood association in the United States, BTNA has been promoting our community and working to improve the quality of life for residents for over 50 years. Now in 2010, we face a period of relative stability in the neighborhood.

Currently, there is no one single issue to galvanize the neighborhood or one single issue for the BTNA to address. Instead, Butler-Tarkington is challenged by the same issues that face other neighborhoods in Indianapolis. There are issues of crime, abandoned housing, crumbling streets and sidewalks, and the challenge of maintaining a vibrant business community. To address these issues BTNA needs your support. I am not

talking just about financial support, but your support as an active member.

Membership is a vital part of any nonprofit organization. BTNA is no exception. We need to increase our general membership and add committed board members to ensure the long term health of BTNA and the neighborhood. Butler-Tarkington encompasses roughly 3,500 homes. BTNA membership is less than 10 percent of that number.



BLOEDE

An increase in membership in BTNA will help foster a greater sense of community and place. Increased participation in BTNA will allow us to tap into the talents and energy of our residents. BTNA will have a larger pool of people to rely on, people who may be interested in volunteering for activities that benefit the neighborhood. Additionally, the increased funding will enable BTNA to actively promote the neighborhood and support initiatives that will have a positive impact within Butler-Tarkington.

If you are already a BTNA member, I encourage you to attend our monthly meetings. I also would ask that you talk

SEE PRESIDENT | PAGE 5

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HEADZ UP LIKES 42ND & BOULEVARD LOCATION

CAROL CALDWELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Headz Up Barber Shop owner Andre Liggons says business is good at 42nd & Boulevard. The shop moved to this location about three years ago after there was a fire at its previous location. Now that the shop has settled into our neighborhood, Andre decided to replace the floor inside his neatly-kept and roomy space.

Headz Up offers hair cuts for men, women and children. In fact, there was a youngster getting a hair cut the day we visited the shop, and he wasn't very happy about it—



CAROL CALDWELL

Rodney Anderson gets a trim from Headz Up owner Andre Liggons.

just as it is with most children and hair cuts. The shop also offers shaves. Andre says he had gotten away from them

for a while since they are time consuming, but he's had more recent calls for shaves. And the shop is open six days a

week until 7:00 p.m.

What's popular these days at Headz Up? Mohawks—at least with young men.

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10 Questions in 10 Minutes for 2010 Census

Participate in the 2010 U.S. Census on April 1st and help Butler-Tarkington be counted!

KELLEY SPILLSON
BUTLER STUDENT

Get ready Butler-Tarkington, the 2010 Census is on its way. In preparation for Census Day (April 1st), 2010 census forms will be delivered to each Butler-Tarkington residence beginning in March. The form—one of the shortest census questionnaires in history—asks residents to respond to only 10 questions. It is designed to be completed in 10 minutes.

These 10 questions will provide vital information about the Indianapolis community and will help determine how \$400 billion per year is allocated throughout the United States. Each year this money funds schools, hospitals, job training, infrastructure and other vital services within the Butler-Tarkington community. Moreover, an accurate 2010 Census count will ensure proper government budgeting, representation and redistricting for the next decade.

All 2010 census forms should be completed based on the number of people residing in each household as of April 1, 2010. The questionnaire will ask for each resident's name, gender, age, date of birth, and ethnicity. The census form also requests that residents provide a telephone number to be used in the event that information on the returned form is incomplete.

All personal information provided on the 2010 Census form is confidential and protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. The information will not be published or disclosed to anyone or any government agency—under any circumstances.

It is vital that each household return a completed 2010 Census form in the prepaid envelope provided. Please note that for security reasons, the 2010 Census form is not available online. If the U.S. Census Bureau does not receive a form from your residence, you can expect a visit from a local census taker to request the information. In the event that no one is home, the census taker will leave a door hanger with information on how to schedule a visit at a more convenient

DID YOU KNOW:

Less than 10 minutes of your time helps the government decide where over \$400 billion is spent annually.

FILL OUT YOUR CENSUS FORM THIS MARCH. EVERYONE COUNTS.

For more information about filling out your census, contact rewillia@butler.edu.

2010.census.gov

Census hotline Feb. 22 8a-5p
317.940.8081

United States
CENSUS
2010

time.

Each household is required by law to be represented in the 2010 Census effort, but more importantly, being counted in the census is each person's responsibility to the community.

Participate in the 2010 U.S. Census and help Butler-Tarkington be counted!

For more information about the upcoming census effort, visit www.2010census.gov.

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10 Reasons to Join BTNA

LARRY FITZGERALD
BTNA BOARD MEMBER

Have you ever considered what \$10.00 will buy?

1. Medium pop corn and a small drink at movie
2. Two \$5.00 specials at Subway
3. Two 1/2 gallons of chocolate almond ice cream at Safeway
4. One ticket to a movie
5. Salad and drink at Henry's Coffee Shop (tip not included)
6. ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP WITH BTNA

There are many advantages of being a BTNA member:

1. Discount at select merchants
2. Watchdog for zoning and code violations
3. Community pride—Oldest neighborhood association in the US
4. Forum for expression and to have your voice heard
5. Active program for crime prevention
6. Cost is 2.7 cents per day
7. Advocate for neighborhood improvements
8. 6 newsletters yearly
9. Opportunity for active participation in your community
10. We need your support!

Please consider a \$10.00 membership today and join us in working to make our neighborhood the best place to live in Indianapolis. Ten reasons/Ten dollars/2010. Fill out the enclosed envelope and send in today.

President's Message

PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 2

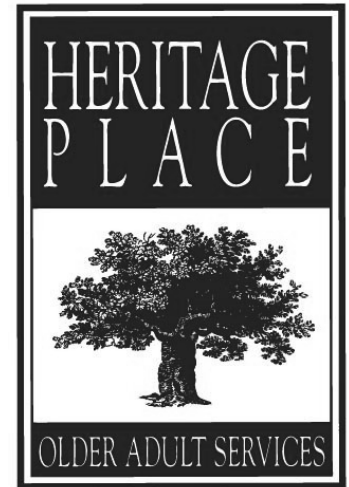
to your friends and neighbors to ask if they are interested in joining BTNA. If they are not, please ask them why and let the board know what barriers are keeping residents from joining. If you are not a member, I would recommend that you attend to see if you would be interested in joining BTNA. The BTNA board cannot effectively operate in a vacuum. While we continually reach out to our neighbors and listen to their concerns, we need our residents and our members to share their thoughts and ideas.

BTNA also has openings for board membership. If you are interested and have the time and talent to commit to making a positive impact on our neighborhood, please consider applying to be a board member. BTNA seeks to create a board that is representative of the entire neighborhood. Therefore, I encourage anyone who is willing to contribute to improving our neighborhood through BTNA to contact me or any other Board member about membership.

BTNA has been an institution in our neighborhood for over half a century. It is up to all of us to ensure that BTNA remains a viable organization that provides an avenue to effect positive change for our neighborhood.

Computer Literacy Classes for Older Adults

Heritage Place. provides older adults with comprehensive and coordinated human services to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles, independence, well-being and quality of life.



Heritage Place of Indianapolis has received a \$10,000 grant from Today's Options PPO. The funding will be used to support The Senior Companion Program that connects older adult volunteers to clients by visiting them at home. During the home visits, volunteers provide companionship, emotional support, encouragement and quality time with clients. The funding will also support computer classes tailored to older adult students. The goal of the classes is to develop the computer skills of 120 older residents of Indianapolis to help them obtain future employment.

"We are delighted that our organization was selected for this donation," said Ruth Ann Schroeder, executive director "We recognize that the health and well being of older adults is dependent on support from generous community partners like Today's Options PPO." Heritage Place offers a unique combination of center-based activities and in-home services that help older adults continue living in their own homes and serves 1,000 to 1,500 older adults each year.

Today's Options PPO is a Medicare Advantage plan that is dedicated to working collaboratively with members and their healthcare professionals in order to improve their health and well-being. The Company's "Collaborating for Good Health" Giving Back Program will support the Heritage Place mission of providing older adults with services that encourage and promote healthy lifestyles, independence, well-being and quality of life.

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Spring Garden Tips from a Master Gardener

Spring is coming soon and now is the time to plan ahead. Thankfully, our Master Gardener and BTNA Board Member knows what to do.

LARRY FITZGERALD
BTNA BOARD MEMBER

Spring is fast approaching and the daylight is expanding two minutes each day. Now is the time to think about getting busy with gardening plans and thoughts of getting your hands into the soil.

Our thoughts turn to excitement as we see the snow slowing melting away.

Our planting zone in BTNA is 5b, which typically means you can safely plant from the middle of April without concern for frost.

Activities to consider:

1. Start annual seeds in doors in early March. Gardening trays and seeds are now available. As the weather warms the trays can be set out to "harden" and then returned inside at night. Do not over water. Keep on the dryer side. Do not put in direct sun.
2. Bulbs and Corms can be dug up and divided if they were not done in the fall. Leave an eye on each tuber when re-planting. Easter flowers can be transplanted in the yard-remove old dead flowers before planting.
3. Plan on setting out house plants when weather permits. Spring is a good time to repot. Use insecticidal soap to control pests. Divide Boston Ferns every 2-3 years. Do not put house plants in direct sun.
4. Lawn care and equipment. Now is a good time to schedule a tune up for your lawn mower before the seasons gets too active. Do not work on the lawn if ground is too wet so as to not compact the soil. Rake the lawn to remove old leaves and debris.
5. Roses can be planted in March after the snow melts. Bare root roses should have their roots spread out when planting. Soak the roots for a few hours before planting to hydrate the roots. Make a mound in the hole to spread the roots and fill half way up with soil and then water to settle the soil before adding more soil. Existing bushes should be pruned of any dead canes. Spread fresh mulch around the plants.
6. Non flowering shrubs can be pruned to stimulate new growth. When planting new shrubs, always check the size of the mature plant to avoid over crowding when mature. Soak bare root plants before planting. Balled and burlapped plants should have the wrappings removed before planting. Mix existing soil in with ball to interface with ball of shrub.
7. Trees can be planted now. Dig the hole as deep as and twice as wide as the roots of the plants. Fill soil half way up and water. Then fill in balance of soil to same height as where tree was grown. Remove burlap and twine before planting and mix in with existing soil. Most shade trees can be trimmed in April. Do not prune flowering trees until after flowering.
8. Ornamental grasses should be cut back to stimulate new growth. When planting new grasses, mix existing soil with the soil on the root ball.
9. Vegetable seeds can be planted in trays the same as flower seeds. Place trays in well-lighted areas. Gradually move trays outside to "harden" during warm days. Avoid direct sun to prevent wilting. Plant taller vegetables to the north side of the garden to prevent shading of smaller plants.
10. Garden ground preparation for healthy garden with layering technique:
 - Layer 1-place old newspapers over sod
 - Layer 2-cover with peat moss
 - Layer 3-apply compost
 - Layer 4-cover with peat moss
 - Layer 5-apply grass clippings
 - Layer 6-cover with peat moss
 - Layer 7-chopped leaves
 - Layer 8-cover with peat moss
 - Place black plastic over layers to allow to cook for a few weeks.
 - Uncover garden and plant seeds or plants

Welcome Spring and happy gardening.

BUTLER UNIVERSITY



BCAS Butler Community Arts School

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Steel Drum ensemble (ages 11 and up)

Butler Children's Orchestra (ages 6-12)

Butler Youth Jazz Orchestra (ages 14-18)

www.butler.edu/BCAS

Tips from One of Our Own BTNA Runners

Not sure how to get started on that run? Here are a few tips to get started on the right foot.

ANDREW APPEL
CONTRIBUTOR

Despite the snow on the ground, spring is just around the corner. With spring will come the lure of warmer weather coaxing winter runners away from the gym and their treadmills, or calling first time runners out of the house to give this simple form of exercise a try.

Butler-Tarkington residents are ideally situated for running through our neighborhood's wonderful series of tree lined streets, ample sidewalks, and varied scenery. Whether you are new to the sport or have been running for years, it is worth reviewing a few tips and resources before you hit the roads this spring.

PLANNING ROUTES

One of the primary benefits of running beyond exercise is the ability to explore new areas on foot at a pace that allows you to take in your surroundings. Butler-Tarkington residents realize that our neighborhood is centrally located as we commute to work, shopping, and cultural destinations; and this favorable geography extends to running.

Our neighborhood allows runners to choose a route to suit any training or scenic

need. Head south on the canal towpath and you will soon be at the Indianapolis Museum of Art where you can run around the well maintained grounds, or explore the soon to open paths of the Virginia M. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park. Head north on the canal towpath to Broad Ripple where you can extend your run by linking up with the Monon. If you are feeling like a challenge you can take advantage of the hills that our neighborhood's proximity to the canal and White River afford.



APPEL

There are many resources to help you plan out your routes, but one of my favorites is www.mapmyrun.com. The site allows you to experiment with your own routes, or search for runs your neighbors have posted online.

FOR BEGINNERS

If you are new to the sport and are not quite sure of where to start or how best to work your way into training, fear not, runners are social creatures.

In addition to the many resources accessible on the Internet, there are several local running groups and stores that will help you get into the sport. Indy Runners (www.indyrunners.org) has group runs that leave from Hinkle Fieldhouse several days a week and has a pace for every runner.

Local running stores are also a good resource for beginners and are a good place to start for advice as well as a

properly fitted pair of shoes. Nothing can stop a new runner in their tracks like an injury, and a shoe that is designed for your specific gait will help keep you injury-free. A more extensive description of the importance of proper fitting is available on the website of the local running store, The Running Company (www.erunningcompany.com).

RUNNING SAFETY

As we hit the streets this spring all runners, both new and experienced, should remember a few safety tips. If you are new to the sport, or are just getting back into shape after a winter off, take it slow as you start running. John Bingham has popularized the benefits of running with walking breaks built into your run (www.waddle-on.com).

As you start to add distance to your runs remember the 10% rule: try not to increase any individual run or overall mileage for a given week by more than 10%. This will help to keep you injury-free and running as the days grow longer, which leads me to visibility. If you are running early in the morning or after dusk wear reflective clothing or a flashing light to allow traffic to see and avoid you on the road. It also might be worthwhile to invest in a running ID that has your emergency contact and medical information if something should happen to you while you are alone on the road (www.roadid.com).

Our neighborhood is full of great and varied scenery, why not take advantage of them? Hope to see you on the road this spring.



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253-3237

BTN Business Briefs: Quick Updates on Our Neighborhood Businesses

JOHN BARTH
BTNA BOARD MEMBER

COSTUMES BY MARGIE UPDATE

Costumes by Margie has made some recent improvements, and owner Cheryl Harmon reports that her shop's refreshed look has already brought complements. In considering the new look Cheryl says that "first impressions have an impact on how we are perceived and we felt it was necessary to give a good one of our business!" Anyone walking by the shop will quickly notice the new sign and fresh paint at Costumes by Margie. In addition, Cheryl reports that she will be making some additional interior improvements over the next several months including replacing the carpet and

painting. In other good news, Cheryl reports that, even with the sluggish economy, Costumes by Margie managed to break even as costume shops across the nation have been closing.

Indianapolis will be host this year to the National Costumers Association Convention held in July, and Cheryl expects fellow costumers to visit Costumes by Margie to network. When asked how she manages to make her business such a success in our current economic environment, she says, "Successfully operating a small business is hard work, because I personally oversee every aspect of it. But, I love what I do and find it very rewarding!" Please support Cheryl and her long-time Butler-Tarkington business: Costumes by Margie.



JOHN BARTH

Costumes by Margie has a bright new coat of paint!

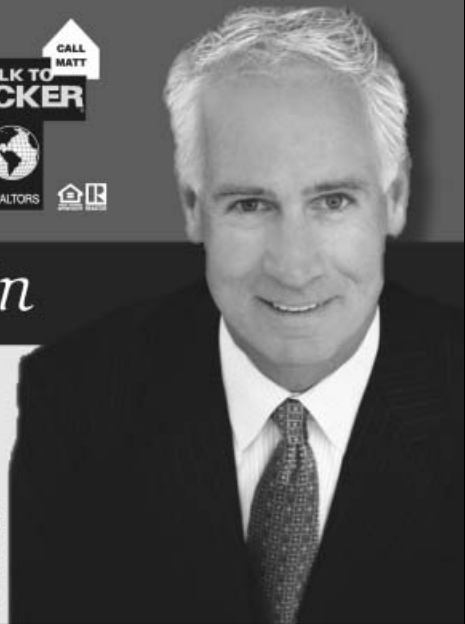
FLYING CUPCAKE UPDATE
Butler-Tarkington's Flying Cupcake bakery, the first cupcake bakery to set up shop in Indianapolis, is expanding and adding a new location. The new shop is located in

the heart of downtown's Chatham Arch neighborhood at 715 Massachusetts Avenue. Flying Cupcake owner Kate Bova reports that the new shop will be open in early

SEE BRIEFS | PAGE 9



*Thinking of Buying
or Selling in the
Butler Tarkington Area?*



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Flying Cupcake Expanding; 38th & Ill. Improving

BRIEFS FROM PAGE 8

March and will feature the same cupcakes, treats, and feel of the Butler Tarkington parent store (5617 North Illinois Street). Kate selected the location for the second shop because “It has a similar feel to the Illinois Street store—there is strong support from the community and a distinct neighborhood energy.” The new shop will have two display cases, allowing even more varieties of cupcakes and candy (including cupcake truffles in flavors such as Red Velvet, Chocolate Peanut Butter, and S’Mores) to be displayed. Please support this great local business as it expands from its roots in our neighborhood.

ENGAGING SOLUTIONS UPDATE

Located across the street from the official boundaries of the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood is a thriving business that you may not know is there. Located at 3965 North Meridian Street, Engaging Solutions (ES) is a management consulting firm doing work such as fiscal management, planning and community outreach, and fund development.

Founded on Martin Luther King Day in 2005, ES just celebrated its 5th anniversary after serving important roles in such projects as the Combined Sewer Overflow Program for the City of Indianapolis and the Lucas Oil Stadium and the Indianapolis Convention Center Expansion for the Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority.

It is exciting that new businesses and new types of businesses are growing and thriving in and around our neighborhood. Please join me in congratulating ES on their first five years.

NORTH UMC ACQUIRES BUILDINGS ON ILLINOIS ST.

The storefronts on the east side of Illinois Street just north of 38th Street are deserted, except for the Ace Hardware Store. It’s staying. However, the hat shop has moved across the street and the other businesses have either closed or moved elsewhere.

The vacant storefronts along there have problems with mold, asbestos and other biohazard considerations that make them unsuitable for continued use. North United Methodist Church is purchasing the property and Dave Damin of North Church says the buildings are being demolished. The church is working with IDEM and an environmental engineering company to ensure that the demolition and grade work is compliant with applicable codes and future use.

North Church will be using the space for additional parking in the immediate future. The church does not yet have a timetable for landscaping and paving (shown in conceptual plan), let alone a long term plan for the site. They are coordinating with the HARMONI Project, which includes revitalization of this section of Illinois Street.

Editor in Chief Carol Caldwell contributed to the North UMC portion of this article.



JOHN BARTH (TOP & CENTER), NORTH UMC (BOTTOM)
 Engaging Solutions continues to thrive at 39th & Meridian Street (top). North UMC has acquired properties on Illinois near 38th Street (center) to be redeveloped (bottom).

New Workshop Offered at Heritage Place: “Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions”

Learn to communicate better with your doctor, make daily tasks easier, reduce stress and anxiety, and take back control of your condition. This workshop is open to participants with chronic conditions, such as Arthritis, Asthma, Cancer, Chronic Pain, Diabetes, Fibromyalgia,

Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Osteoporosis, Parkinson's and more.

Caregivers and relatives of participants, who would benefit from problem solving skills related to managing a chronic condition, are also welcome. All must commit

to attending six consecutive Tuesdays, April 20th & 27th, May 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Registration is required for the workshop, which is being facilitated by CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions. Call Heritage Place to register at 317-283-6662. The \$10.00

fee covers the six-week workshop and the Living A Healthy Life resource book.

Press releases also handled by the Indiana State Department of Health on their website and is distributed on SharePoint, which is a website available to all the Local Health Departments.

Want to Write for *The Butler-Tarkington*?

Our newsletter, *The Butler-Tarkington*, needs volunteers to help tell the stories behind various activities in our neighborhood.

A major time commitment is not required. Some yes, but it's only an hour or two every couple of months. That's the time needed to attend a very short meeting to brainstorm articles for upcoming issues, then the time to write a story that may be assigned to you.

These stories are not lengthy so they're easy to do, and it's fun getting to know more about *The Butler-Tarkington* and your neighbors. Writers are needed to help us reflect the tremendous diversity in our neighborhood!

If you're interested and would like more information, contact newsletter editor Carol Caldwell: carol61244@att.net. We'll put your storytelling skills to use.


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Welcome

North Church programs and ministries reach out to people in our neighborhood, our city, across the country, and around the world.

Our membership and leadership are diverse, drawn from many walks of life and we invite you to join us for worship any Sunday morning. Or call us for more information about our church and its activities.



Where Spiritual Journeys Meet

NORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Located on the northwest corner of
38th and Meridian Streets
317 924-2612
www.northchurchindy.org

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

BTNA Children Need Mentors & Tutors

MENTORS FROM PAGE 1

although some bring their lunch from home.

The Indianapolis Star, in a recent article on “Our Children Our City,” issued a call to action for 10,000 volunteers. The article points out “Children start out behind and many never catch up. Some children enter kindergarten not knowing how to hold a crayon. Some can’t identify the letters of the alphabet... Their vocabulary is limited. They simply have heard fewer words than kids from affluent areas. In the suburbs, kindergartners are reading and counting. In the city, teachers are still showing them how to interact. It is a gap evident on Day One.”

Our current State Legislature is divided over “social promotion” for children who are not reading at the third-grade level. However, I believe we need to be more concerned with our kindergarten and first grade children who are already behind and will have difficulty ever catching up if they don’t receive help now.

How can our community help? School #43, which is one of Butler Tarkington’s neighborhood schools, already has 30 volunteers assisting in the classrooms, but they could benefit from twice that many. Unlike some other city schools who struggle to get parents involved, School 43 has an active Parent Teacher Community Organization that meets the last Monday of every month from 5-6 pm.

Principal Kamona Coleman-McDowell says: “School #43 is blessed to have sev-



CALVIN PORTER

Tutor Marilyn Porter meets with Mikel Patrick. Also pictured is Mikel’s grandmother, Kathryn Lewis, who was visiting his class.

eral community partners who support our students in various ways. They provide financial support, uniforms, supplies, books, resources and more. There are many people who care about the lives and futures of our students. We appreciate all of our supporters and want to welcome more. We simply cannot do what we need to do for our students without the help.

I wholeheartedly believe in the African proverb, ‘It takes a whole village to raise one child.’ As principal of this great school, I personally want to invite you to come out and be a part of something wonderful. I pray that your heart is touched and you have decided to make a difference. It takes only one person in a child’s life to truly care and that child can become someone special. Will that one person be you?”

Please show how you care

about our neighborhood children by giving a few hours of

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Montessori Option Open to BTNA Children

MARY JO MOSS
CONTRIBUTOR

School 91, 5111 N. Evanston, is a thriving, successful Indianapolis Public School. Located in a quiet neighborhood just west of Keystone Avenue, this public Montessori school was honored in 2008 with the National Blue Ribbon Award. In addition School 91 has received a National Magnet Award of Distinction and an Apple Distinguished School Award for educational excellence and leadership in creating a 21st Century environment.

Students are admitted to School 91 through a lottery system, as with all IPS elementary option programs. Children living in Butler-Tarkington are eligible to attend through this option and lottery program. When the option programs were developed in 1979, eager parents acquainted with private Montessori pre-schools lobbied for this to be one of the options.

School 91 has over 460 students from kindergarten through 8th grade. Presently sixty-five percent of the student body are minorities, with fifty-nine percent qualifying for the free lunch program. There are classrooms for autistic students many of whom are mainstreamed into regular classes and children with Down Syndrome find the Montessori environment a place where they can learn successfully.

Margaret Higgs is the principal and there are 34 faculty members. Several years ago I was one of the faculty members there, teaching 4th, 5th and 6th graders. My grandchildren have been students at School 91 and my daughter presently works as an assistant in one of its kindergarten classes. This has allowed me to stay in touch with this fine option program.

How is the Montessori approach different from other educational philosophies?



MONTESSORI

Maria Montessori was an Italian physician who discovered that children learned instinctively what they needed to know if given a prepared environment with materials they could manipulate. She and her assistants designed colorful sturdy materials for every facet of a curriculum.

Montessori in the public school must follow the curriculum outlined for all students in IPS. However, approaches are different. For instance the Montessori number system is taught with concrete materials, not just paper and pencil. First, a single golden bead is presented. The bead is passed

square and the heavy thousand cube are introduced. This material will be used to count combinations of numbers. Soon students are using golden beads to count by tens to a hundred. Hundred squares are used to count to a thousand. Even many thousands can be shown and demonstrated. Students work independently from a plan (or contract in the upper grades) to complete their work for the week.

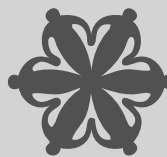
Visitors usually marvel at the look of a Montessori classroom. The teacher is seated with a small group gathered around her on the floor. All over the room children are working alone or in small teams. Assistants work with the teachers to check on completed work and to help with the organization of the day.

At the intermediate level, I enjoyed introducing the units on geography. The students would design an imaginary island incorporating as many land and water forms as they could. One year, a team designed a flag and wrote a name.

*Visitors usually
marvel at the look of a
Montessori classroom
where children are
working alone or in
small teams.*

around among the children. Then the ten bar is shown. This is ten golden beads on a wire. Eventually the hundred

SEE SCHOOL 91 | PAGE 13



the news of our neighborhood • indianapolis, indiana

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BTNA Mission

To enhance neighborhood livability, to maintain open communication with state and local government and other neighborhoods and neighborhood associations, to involve neighbors in neighborhood activities, to eliminate prejudice and discrimination, to defend human and civil rights, and to combat juvenile delinquency.

About the Newsletter

The *Butler-Tarkington* is the official newsletter of the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association (BTNA) and is funded with BTNA membership fees and advertisements.

This newsletter exists to provide relevant news and diverse perspectives in and around our neighborhood.

Letters to the Editor & Advertisements

To write for *The Butler-Tarkington*, please contact the editor in chief. For information about advertising, please contact the advertising manager.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and should be sent to editor in chief.

Nominations Sought for 2010 Indiana Authors

A Call for Nominations for the 2010 Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award extends through March 26, 2010. The Award is a program of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Foundation and recognizes the contributions of Indiana authors to the literary landscape in Indiana and across the nation; it is funded through the generosity of The Glick Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation.

The Indiana Authors Award invites participation from people around the state beginning with the nomination process. Participation then continues throughout the year with outreach to organizations serving readers and writers with an interactive Web site. The program culminates in a day of free public programs and a ticketed Awards Dinner on Oct. 9, 2010 at the Central Library in Indianapolis.

Nomination forms are available until March 26th at www.indianaauthorsaward.org. Complete information and eligibility guidelines are included on the nomination forms.

Any published writer who was born in Indiana or who has lived in Indiana for at least five consecutive years is eligible for nomination. An eight-member, statewide Award Panel will select winners in three categories from the pool of publicly nominated authors:

- National Author - \$10,000 prize: a writer with Indiana ties, but whose work is known and read throughout the country. National authors will be evaluated on their entire body of work.
- Regional Author - \$7,500 prize: A writer who is well-known and respected throughout the state of Indiana. Regional au-

thors will be evaluated on their entire body of work.

- Emerging Author - \$5,000 prize: A writer with only one published book. Emerging authors will be evaluated on their single published work.

In addition to a cash prize, each author's Indiana hometown public library will receive a grant of \$2,500 from the Library Foundation.

"When you put together our state's amazing writing talent, wonderful public support, and the resources and expertise of the Library Foundation, you get something truly brilliant," said Marianne Glick, daughter of Eugene and Marilyn Glick and vice chairwoman of The Glick Fund. "We are well on our way to building one of the nation's premier literary award programs."

Last year's inaugural Awards Program included a public program celebrating Indiana authors attended by 400 participants and an Awards Dinner raising over \$40,000 for the Library Foundation. At the dinner, Indiana native James Alexander Thom was presented with the National Author award while Susan Neville received the Regional Author award and Christine Montross received the Emerging Author award. These authors, as well as their hometown Indiana libraries, each received grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

"Winning this award was a rare and heart-lifting pleasure," said James Alexander Thom. "I am grateful that Eugene and Marilyn Glick honored the storytelling art highly enough to applaud it in such a grand and generous way, and I look forward to applauding those whose work will be so acknowledged in the years to come."

To submit a 2010 nomination or to learn more, contact the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Foundation at (317) 275-4700 or visit www.indianaauthorsaward.org.

Montessori Option Open to BTNA Children

SCHOOL 91 FROM PAGE 12

tional anthem for their island nation.

In a Montessori classroom, two or three grade level students are combined. While a combination of three grades of children is a challenge to the teacher, it is an opportunity for a student to be brought into a reading or math group above or below his/her actual level. Peer teaching is a natural outcome of the work environment. Teachers receive special training to facilitate this style of learning.

Parents are impressed when their first grader learns the names of all the continents and can point them out on maps. Young students learn parts of speech using colorful paper symbols for the verb, noun, adjective, etc. By fifth grade, students are diagramming sentences.

The Montessori program at School 91 is a treasure in our community. You can learn more about it by going to the IPS web site: www.ips.k12.in.us.



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Mills Is Another Example of BTNA's Diversity

MILLS FROM PAGE 1

I decided playing guitar was something I just had to teach myself to do, and so I did. It wasn't long before I was getting asked to play some parties here and there...writing my own songs. I started to see the impact music could have on people, and I just wanted more.

NB: How would you describe your musical style? Which musicians have influenced you?

CM: Contemporary folk...or maybe folk rock. Poppy Folk? Ha...sounds like a character from Little House on the Prairie. A couple of early influences for me were Bob Dylan and Eddie Vedder. I've picked up others along the way.... folks like David Gray & Damien Rice.

NB: How would you describe the Indianapolis music scene? Are there any local artists we need to know about?

CM: Buried treasure! There are so many talented players here in Indy, just not enough folks out there interested in taking it all in. It extends even beyond music though—artists of all types are walkin' around virtually every corner



WWW.MYSPACE.COM/CHADMILLSLIVE

When not playing music, Chad Mills is working full time as an engineer!

of this city. As far as music though, if you've got a style you like, there's a band or act out there that you should be listening to. Support Local Music folks!

NB: So you are an engineer and a musician. At first read, those seem like opposing pursuits. How do you do it?

CM: Left brained vs. right brained. Unfortunately, learning to play music followed the decision to pursue engineering. I'm still engineering 'cause it's paying the bills...and I guess 'cause the major record labels haven't come knock-

SEE MILLS | PAGE 15

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7th Release in Progress for BTNA Musician

MILLS FROM PAGE 14

ing.

NB: What is your favorite aspect of performing?

CM: Connecting with an audience...to have them feel something when I sing a line...particularly if it's something I've written. That rocks.

NB: Is there a specific show you played that stands out as your favorite?

CM: A good friend of mine, Jenn Cristy, recently invited me to kick off her CD Release Party at the Buskirk-Chumley Theatre in Bloomington. Jenn is extremely talented and I was honored to do the gig. That was probably one of the bigger venues I've played, and the acoustics in there.... I can't even describe how fantastic it sounded from the stage. The crowd she brought was great.

NB: Do you have a favor-

ite local venue to either play or go watch live music?

CM: I love Radio Radio, Locals Only, Birdys...each has it's own character, but they all share a theme of supporting local music. To me, that's what makes each of 'em special.

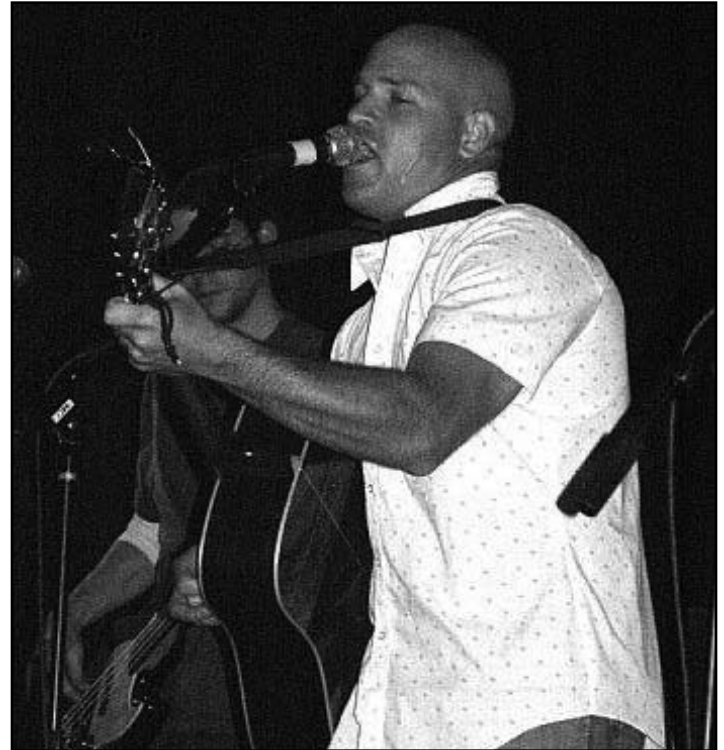
NB: Do you have any upcoming shows?

CM: I do have a couple of upcoming shows, including a CD release party tentatively set for May 8th! You can always check www.chadmillslive.com for details.

NB: Any plans to record a new album?

CM: I'm actually working on one right now. It'll be my 7th independent release. We've been working on it for nearly two years now....been quite a process!

NB: Two years?! Wow... that's a long time. What's that



WWW.MYSPACE.COM/CHADMILLSLIVE

This rockin' musician loves BTNA because it's "quiet." process like?

CM: I guess it all depends on how much time, money and resources you have. For this current project, it's been a pretty low-budget lengthy ordeal...with lots of re-do's! I'm recording with a good friend of mine, Ryan Powell, at his home studio called Rypo Records....super cool space. He gave me a deal I couldn't refuse, knowing we'd both gain a lot of knowledge in the process. I've had a lot of fantastic local talent come in and contribute and I'm very grateful for that.

NB: What is it that you

think make Butler-Tarkington a great place to live?

CM: We like that it's quiet and the homes are diverse. We think the people are great. It's close to our church over at 57th and Central. We enjoy being close to Butler and the canal. And though you're only a couple minutes from Meridian, and 10 minutes from 465 to the North or downtown to the South, we still feel far from the 'hustle and bustle' traffic. What does it mean to bustle anyway? Do you bustle? I feel like I bustle...perhaps I should write a song about it.

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CHAD MILLS ON ITUNES



To find Chad's 2 Places @ Once album on iTunes, visit itunes.apple.com/us/artist/chad-mills/id299678040#. Chad is also online at chadmillslive.com and myspace.com/chadmillslive.

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Online Tools Offer Property Assessed Values

CAROL CALDWELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Here's the good news about property taxes: 2009 assessments (payable 2010) are complete and the property tax cap is in effect. The bad news? There are three tax installments payable in 2010: the final installment from 2008 (payable 2009) and the two installments for this year.

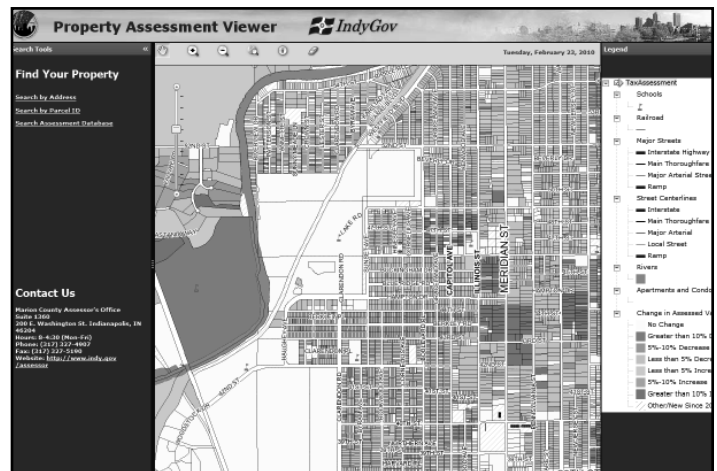
The first payment (the last one from last year) was due in February of 2010. The two installments for 2009 are payable on the regular schedule of May and November 10th.

Marion County Assessor Greg Bowes says this is the first time since 2006 that assessments supporting the tax bills for this year have been complete on time. In addition, Bowes says that more

than 82% of residential properties will see a decrease in their assessments.

If you're interested in seeing details on the assessments, there are a couple of on-line tools you can use. At maps.indy.gov/propertyassessmentviewer/, you'll find a map tool that will show you assessed value changes by neighborhoods. Click on the "Search by Address" tool on the left side of your screen. Once you type in your address, the screen will pull up a color-coded map of your street and highlight your property. For instance, I discovered that assessments in my block are down an average of 3%—although there are some exceptions.

Another tool at cms.indy.gov/MyAssessedValue gives you your exact property



MAPS.INDY.GOV/PROPERTYASSESSMENTVIEWER/

Online tools exist for you to dig into property tax information.

assessed value, as well as what it has been the past couple of years. You can search by name, address or parcel number. Because tax rates have not yet been established, you won't be able to determine your exact tax liability. However, taxpayers with homestead status may multiply the 1% tax cap times the

figure you'll find in the 2009 Gross Assessed Value to predict your worse case scenario. Bear in mind, however, that the resulting figure will not include costs approved by referendum, such as those for school construction. Rental housing and some other types of property have a different tax cap.