



A Container Garden Grows on Capitol Avenue

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Look Down My Rain Barrel: Save Money & Water

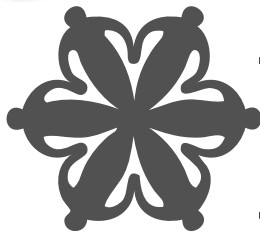
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Love of Books Led Neighbor to Write for Children

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the news of our neighborhood • indianapolis, indiana



Butler-Tarkington

MAY & JUNE 2011

www.butlertarkington.org

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Neighborhood Children Served by MLK Community Center



CALVIN PORTER

Paige, Shedrick and Dasjion pose with Mr. Horne before leaving for a visit to the Children's Museum.

MARILYN PORTER
CONTRIBUTOR

Bright-eyed "Darius" hurries into the large, sunny room at the Martin Luther King Community Center. Shortly after he arrives and settles in, hands are washed and he sits down to a hot meal provided by Second Helpings. Today's menu is stromboli and chicken pot pie and smells delicious! "Darius," along with the 15 other children, are enrolled in the Building the Dream Youth After-

School Program. Following the meal, MLK Youth Services Coordinator Tremayne Horne and a cadre of volunteers and interns from IUPUI, Butler and Ivy Tech help the children with their homework and provide one-on-one tutoring in math and reading. A variety of learning materials is available including a sizeable library of children's books, as well as an arts and crafts room where children can color and experience other art projects. Only after their homework

SEE MLK PROGRAMS | PAGE 8

FAIRVIEW PARK DREW MANY PEOPLE TO THE NORTHSIDE

CAROL CALDWELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This is the second installment of a series on the development and history of the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood. Information is based upon research of the POLIS Center at IUPUI, the "Encyclopedia of Indianapolis," as well as archives in the libraries of the Indiana Historical Society and Butler University's Willard Library.

Up until around 1800, the land where Butler University is now located was a large wilderness tract. Indians roamed this wilderness, hunting and fishing, for game was plentiful here. Land settlements with Native Americans led to the last tribe relinquishing its claim to this property in 1819.

The first white settler was William Appleton in 1821. Appleton and successive owners of the property added to its acreage. By 1889 the Citizens Street Railway (the streetcar operator) purchased the 246-acre farm from Adam Scott, including the initial portion settled by Appleton.

Citizens wanted to develop and expand its streetcar system and John C. Shaffer, the new president of the railway company, stayed at a downtown hotel while visiting from Chicago.

SEE DEVELOPMENT | PAGE 12

BUTLER BRIEFS

Butler Introduces Its New President

James M. Danko will become Butler's 21st president on July 1st. Danko currently is Dean of Villanova School of Business (VSB), part of Villanova University in suburban Philadelphia.

Danko joined Villanova in 2005, after serving at top national institutions including Dartmouth College and the University of Michigan. Under his leadership, VSB has gone from being unranked to being consistently ranked among the top 20 undergraduate business programs in the nation. Financial giving to the business school has more than quadrupled during Danko's tenure.

Danko succeeds Butler President Bobby Fong, who will leave Butler May 31 after 10 years to become the president of Ursinus College in Pennsylvania.

Bulldog Fans Say Thanks to the Team

The Butler community said thanks to the men's basketball team shortly after its historic run in the NCAA tournament, giving the players and coaches a two-minute standing ovation and lauding them for representing the University, city and state with dignity.

"Almost everybody in the nation is a Butler fan, and that is no small accomplishment," Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard said.

"You are all that's right about college sports," Horizon League Commissioner Jon LeCrone added.

About 3,000 people came to Hinkle Fieldhouse to cheer on the 2010-2011 Bulldogs one more time. The team finished the season with a loss to the University of Connecticut in the championship game on April 4th, but before that the Bulldogs were co-champions of the Horizon League during the regular season, winner of the Horizon League tournament and victors over Old Dominion, Pittsburgh, Wisconsin, Florida and Virginia Commonwealth in the NCAA tournament.

The Bulldogs also became the first Indiana team to make it to the championship game in consecutive years.

the president's message

Neighborhood Cleanup on July 11th & Tox-Drop on August 13th

NEIL BLOEDE
BTNA PRESIDENT

Hello Neighbor. What another amazing season by the Butler Men's Basketball team. We should all be very proud of the way the team conducted itself on and off the court. They represented their university and our community in a terrific way. Now that basketball season is over we can put a close on another long cold winter. With spring arriving in Butler-Tarkington we have a lot to look forward to in the neighborhood.



BLOEDE

NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS

BTNA, in partnership with Butler University, Midtown Vineyard Community Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis, participated in the Great Indy Clean Up on April 23rd. Roughly 100 volunteers cleaned several streets and alleyways of trash and other debris. Most of the clean up was concentrated around Butler University and south of 42nd Street. Thank you to everyone that volunteered to make our neighborhood a cleaner and safer place to live.

The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) will be resurfacing Illinois Street and Capitol Avenue from 38th to Westfield Boulevard. The resurfacing project will include the striping of bike lanes going north on Illinois and heading south on Capitol. Additionally, and long overdue, the project will include sidewalks between 47th and 49th on the west side of Illinois. The construction of sidewalks on this section of Illinois will finally complete a contiguous string of sidewalks on the west side of Illinois from downtown to the canal.

Moreover, these new sidewalks will finally allow school children to safely

walk to school at St. Thomas Aquinas and give residents the ability to walk down Illinois without having to venture into the street. DPW has been very helpful by offering to construct this missing piece of sidewalk and has worked with the residents in the area to come up with a design that will have a minimal impact on the properties between 47th and 49th.

The proposed flood wall on the canal along Westfield Boulevard continues to be a major concern of the BTNA board of directors. We are monitoring the situation and attempting to gather as much information as possible. There has been no new communication from either the city or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the design of the project. I would encourage anyone with strong feelings about the impact this project will have on Butler-Tarkington to contact Mayor Ballard and Congressman Carson to make them aware of your thoughts. Ultimately, our elected officials will have to deal with the proposed plan and do what is right for the community.

BTNA EVENTS

The BTNA "All-Neighborhood" meeting will be July 11th at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center at 7:00 p.m. Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry will be the keynote speaker for the event. Prosecutor Curry will discuss his policies and programs to improve public safety and prosecution in Marion County. Please join us to hear from a very important public official.

BTNA and Butler University will also be hosting a 2nd annual Tox-Drop at Hinkle Fieldhouse this summer. The date is tentatively set for August 13th. Please continue to check at www.butlertarkington.org for further details and

SEE PRESIDENT | PAGE 7

Church Leaders Comment on Community Issues

Our previous issue included information on the history of several churches in our neighborhood. In this issue we look at how some of these churches participate in our community.

REV. ANNE ROSEBROCK MERIDIAN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Community is a word that we use on a regular basis, but in a world where people continue to rely more and more on electronic social networking, what does it mean to be a part of a community in the 21st century? Community is defined by more than geographic boundaries. Community is shaped by the care and connection of the people within it. It is the connections between individuals, families, schools, churches, businesses and other organizations working together, that build trust and ultimately define community.

Since 1952, the congregation of Meridian Street United Methodist Church has

worshipped at 5500 N. Meridian Street. Moving to the Butler-Tarkington/Meridian-Kessler communities has forged long held friendships and identified common interests between our neighbors and the church. It is our hope to continue to develop these connections.

In a world where more and more people are becoming isolated from one another, there is great value in building strong communities. Together with our neighbors, the church continues to partner with parents in ministries for children through our weekday nursery and preschool ministry and our children's sports ministry. Most days of the week, you can find families enjoying time together on the sports field as they throw a ball around or enjoy the slide and swings. Working together with our Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry, members of the congregation have enjoyed working with local community neighbors who have need for assistance with light

maintenance or small construction projects.

Over the years, our relationships have strengthened as we have joined together on many neighborhood projects. This year, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful is sponsoring an opportunity to "re:THINK COMMUNITY" on Saturday, April 16. The congregation at Meridian Street and other community neighbors participated in clean-up projects in the Riverside and Brightwood neighborhoods as we expanded our understanding of what it means to be in community with one another.

On Sunday, June 7th, the people of Meridian Street invite you to be our guests for worship, lunch and entertainment at 10:30 a.m. under the tent out on the sports field at the church. It will be a great opportunity for celebrating the congregation's 190 years of ministry and the strong partnerships we enjoy within the community. We look forward to future opportunities to work together on issues

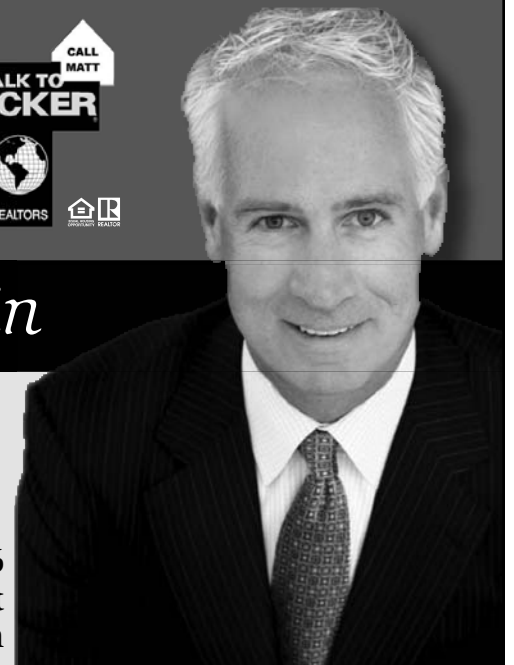
SEE CHURCHES | PAGE 4



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CHURCHES FROM PAGE 3

that will benefit our Butler-Tarkington neighbors.

PASTOR ROB STILES MIDTOWN VINEYARD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pray like you mean it; serve someone else.

At Midtown Vineyard Community Church, we not only proclaim the news that God came to earth in the person of Jesus, we also try to demonstrate that reality in tangible ways. We believe knowing who you are (or better Whose you are) and your purposes in life will demonstrate itself in compassionate service to others.

We've experienced positive outcomes in strengthening marriages and families by engaging the authentic power of prayer, counsel and discipleship. We offer a seven-week marriage course that helps anyone (whether you believe in God or not) understand your spouse better and renew the romance. We do this because strong, intimate marriages create robust, loving communities.

We believe the challenges facing our city and neighborhood can be addressed by encouraging each other spiritually and demonstrated through acts of service and encouragement. The spirit of cooperation between different churches and other organizations is more prevalent now than at any period in my lifetime. Last summer, our church joined five other area churches, a restaurant, and Green

Broad Ripple to make our neighborhood a better place. Together, we put on a benefit concert at Noodles & Company Restaurant in Broad Ripple that filled the shelves of the MLK Center food pantry with groceries. We also completed major landscaping projects for the front of IPS School 55 and the International School at 49th & Boulevard.



STILES

For 2011, start an adventure. Invest in your own spiritual journey. Risk serving someone else. If we all do that, our neighborhood will be a wonderful place to live.

REVEREND ALAN MEAD ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6050 N. Meridian, is an important and forward thinking part of the Kessler-Tarkington neighborhood. Many of our parishioners live in this neighborhood and are actively involved in a variety of initiatives to maintain and improve our community.

Going Green Team

Our ministry is partnering with Trinity Episcopal Church and Christ Church Cathedral to bring about an awareness, appreciation and sense of stewardship for God's gifts.

In the past year we have raised \$8000 and, in collaboration with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, put these funds to use to start reclaiming Spades Park, a near eastside park that borders Brookside Parkway and Pogue's Run. We have pulled honeysuckle and planted almost 100 indigenous

trees. The neighbors are now in the process of determining what they want in their park. It might be a bird sanctuary that could be under planted with indigenous shrubs and perennials, or possibly a more utilitarian approach with walking trails and family friendly activities. Either way, Pogue's Run can be seen now and has been cleaned up both literally and figuratively.

Our Going Green ministry decided we didn't want to stop so we are continuing with other pursuits. Trinity Church purchased a house that borders their property and will be a home for homeless teenage mothers. Our Green Teams will be landscaping the property this May and putting in a small vegetable garden and pots for the mothers and kids to learn gardening skills and have some fresh vegetables to

eat.

Farther from home we decided we would ask Waycross, an Episcopal camp located in Brown County, if there was work down there we could help with. Alien invasive plants are alive and thriving down there and in the fall we will spend a weekend there to begin wrestling them from their unwanted homes. This will be an ongoing project.

Faith in Action

- A Food and clothing ministry at East 10th Street Methodist Church now in it's 4th year. This is a once a month commitment.
- School 15 Partnership that has been longstanding. We fund school supplies and uniforms, scholarships, have reading mentors, adopt children for Christmas, book

SEE CHURCHES | PAGE 5

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Local Churches Address Community Issues

CHURCHES FROM PAGE 4

drives and Strings & Jazzy Things program in the summer.

- Grant seed money to anyone for small projects.
- Day Spring Center: two parishioners are on the board and we help fund them.
- Craine House: receives funds from St. Paul's and parishioners are active in this ministry.

St. Paul's Choir School and St. Paul's Music

The choir program offers free musical training to any youth in the community and scholarships are available to underwrite private instrumental lessons. This is an opportunity for children eight years and older to sing with trained adults through worship, concerts with orchestra, and do-

mestic and international tours.

Another initiative of St. Paul's that is open to all from the community is the Terrific Thursday's program. It is for senior citizens and meets in our parish hall each Thursday, with an interesting program and lunch.

**PASTOR JEFF KRAJEWSKI
COMMON GROUND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

We love Butler-Tarkington! Three and a half years ago Common Ground Christian Church was privileged to move into your neighborhood. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of such a rich and diverse community. We are aware of the stress that our presence has placed on

the residents in our area and we are actively trying to address these issues.



KRAJEWSKI

We noticed that fresh produce is not easily accessible to all of the neighborhood, and we wanted to try and help meet this simple yet very vital need. The SHaRP Garden (Shared Harvest Project) is an effort to grow healthy, staple foods that can be shared by the neighborhood. SHaRP is a collaborative gardening effort including Butler-Tarkington neighbors, parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, and Common Ground Christian Church designed to address nutritional needs in the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood. A member of the community has graciously offered up the empty lot on the corner

of 46th and Illinois so that this vision could become a reality. Our hope is that in starting this project, we will be able to create space for neighbors to serve neighbors with the valuable resource of healthy produce.

The garden's operation is simple. We share a percentage of the crop with the St. Thomas food pantry, School 43, and the MLK Center for those who do not have access to fresh produce. The remaining food is shared among those who work the ground. The longer range plan is to establish it as a community-run garden that stands outside of either of the churches who helped get it started.

To get involved please visit our blog www.sharedharvestproject.blogspot.com or e-mail us at sharedharvestproject@gmail.com.

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A Container Garden Grows on Capitol Avenue

MAELEEN HURLEY
CONTRIBUTOR

Inspired by the tomato plants growing so effortlessly in my neighbor's backyard (at least that's how it looked to me), I decided to grow vegetables in a container garden. I grew up on the Big Island of Hawaii and have fond memories of picking mountain apples and pineapple in my backyard and breaking sugarcane off the stalks near Grandma's house. I wanted my children to get this same enjoyment from eating fresh food. I also felt that they would appreciate vegetables and maybe eat them more than cookies and chips if they participated in the

whole process from planting to cultivation.

Getting my family involved was easy. Brendan, age 9, likes the science of it all; and Julia, age 4, likes to eat. Fortunately for me, because he would later carry the heavy bags of soil, my husband John has his own fond memories of working in his family's garden that he wants to relive—this time with his own family.

I decided to grow vegetables in a container instead of in the ground because while we do have a South facing deck that will ensure plenty of sun, we don't have much space in our backyard. Also, containers are portable so we can take them with



MAELEEN HURLEY

John (left), Brendan and Julia started the seeds in the small greenhouse. After the seeds have grown some and the weather has warmed, they will help transfer the seedlings to the containers outside.

us to our next house. They are inexpensive too. Since a container garden can be grown in almost any container as long as there is proper drainage, even the ordinary 5-gallon plastic food buck-

ets discarded by restaurants or a plastic wading pool can be used. Recycled materials like wood from pallets can be made into containers as well. We first decide on what
SEE GARDEN | PAGE 7



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Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) has partnered with area tree retailers to re-launch "My Tree and Me." The campaign features a \$20 coupon that can be used towards the purchase of a tree at participating retailers. The tree must be 1" caliper or larger and be planted at a Central Indiana address.

Coupons are available for download at www.butlertarkington.org. The program runs until June 13, or until 1,000 tree coupons have been redeemed. My Tree and Me is part of KIB's NeighborWoods initiative to increase the tree canopy in Marion County by planting 100,000 large trees in Indianapolis by 2017.

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GARDEN FROM PAGE 6

vegetables to plant. As the most exuberant member of our family, Julia decides first: carrots and bell peppers! Brendan selects cucumbers and I, with visions of our very own tomatoes, chose what else—tomatoes. We have seen them grow so we know they will succeed. My husband, the gourmet and cook, feels his food would be accentuated with fresh herbs.

At our nearest garden supply store, we purchase one packet each of hybrid tomato, heirloom tomato, assorted varieties of bell pepper, carrot (Kaleidoscope Mix—looking forward to a purple carrot), cucumber and garlic chive seeds. We buy garlic chives because planting them around the vegetables is supposed to naturally discourage pests. On the back of each packet is information on what kind of sunlight the plant needs, how deep to plant the seed, how far apart the seeds should be planted and how many days until harvest. Cucumbers, for example, take about 55 days to harvest with seedlings emerging between one to two weeks.

Next stop is the container aisle. We narrow our choices to the 20" tall black window box poly planter at \$11.94 each or the 30" tall heartwood planter box at

\$53.68. We are actually trying to save money by growing our own food so four plastic planters go into the cart. Each planter holds 32 quarts of soil. We also buy two 64 quart bags of Miracle Gro Potting Mix for \$13.47 each. (One cubic foot=about 30 quarts.) Including the Dora trowel and cultivator we buy for Julia, our bill is \$103.66. I now feel the need to grow at least 100 cucumbers to justify this trip.

Back at home, John drills two holes in the bottom of each planter. He fills the planters with soil and leaves them on the deck. According to their seed packets, tomatoes and bell peppers need to be started indoors and then planted outside. We also bought a small plastic greenhouse that has 72 discs of peat moss. We are using this greenhouse to start the tomatoes and peppers. In about three weeks, we will transfer these seedlings and the carrot, cucumber and garlic chive seeds to the planters. We will have a lot more sprouting plants than we can fit into the containers so we will either give some to friends and family or buy more planters.

Brendan and Julia are excited to plant the seeds and are amazed by how tiny they are. How can a large beefy tomato grow from a seed less than an eighth

of an inch? I record what we are planting in a 12 x 6 grid. Next we cover the greenhouse and place it near a sunny window. As our last step, I ask the kids to say something nice to the plants so that they will grow. They happily oblige and look forward to their bounty.

By starting our container garden, we are having fun together and enjoying an endeavor that will reap delicious rewards. We welcome our first spring in Indianapolis with each seed we plant and can't wait to see tiny leaves.

Next issue: vegetables grow on Capitol Avenue.

The President's Message

PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 2

list of items that will be accepted.

BTNA would also like to set a date for the Butler-Tarkington Garage Sale. This year we will be setting the date for August 20th. BTNA will use appropriate outlets to promote this event and attract people to the neighborhood. So, if you have some items that you have been wanting to get rid of, August is your month. The BTNA Tox-Drop or the garage sale should help you free up some space in your place.

MEMBERSHIP

Finally, I want to let you know that our membership numbers have been relatively strong through the first quarter and a half of 2011. Many neighbors have made the decision that BTNA is positively representing the neighborhood and working to make Butler-Tarkington a better place to live. If you feel that BTNA represents you and you like what we are doing, either by informing you of events through this newsletter or other more specific projects, please take the time to fill out the membership envelope in this newsletter and join BTNA. As always, I encourage you to attend a monthly meeting and let us know what you are thinking.



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Children Served by MLK Community Center

MLK PROGRAMS FROM PAGE 1 is completed, are the children free to play.

Tremayne is excited about opportunities to go to venues such as the Children's Museum and Clowes Hall where they will attend a ballet program this weekend. Ballet classes are offered Monday afternoons at MLK in a separate program.

Horne says he relies on help from his volunteers, but students aren't always consistent and occasionally he finds he is the only adult there. In that case, he calls on one of the Ivy Tech interns or co-workers for assistance. Community volunteers are always needed and welcome. A background check is required for any person working with children.

The 16 children who attend the after-school program are from IPS School 43 (40th & Capitol), School 60 (3330 Pennsylvania) and two private schools. The children from Schools 43 and 60 are picked up by MLK staff. The program runs from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and costs \$35 per child monthly.

On the job at MLK since September, Tremayne Horne exudes confidence and excitement about the youth pro-

gram. With a ready smile, Tremayne says that he grew up in Indianapolis, graduating from Warren Central High School before leaving to attend college in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Now back home, he is eager to take on the even more ambitious program of this summer's youth camp.

Offered for children ages 5 through 14, May 31st to July 29th, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the summer camp plans a variety of recreational and learning experiences. "Home base" is the MLK center, but the children will be all over Indianapolis for field trips including ice and roller skating, swimming, Children's Museum, NCAA museum, College Avenue library, local college tours, and Traders Point Creamery. The nearby Tarkington Park is utilized for recreation. There will be a special theme for each of the nine weeks and the day's schedule includes breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack.

Families are urged to register early for the camp since enrollment is limited to 55 children. Cost for the nine weeks camp is \$300, but that fee can be pro-rated for children who do not attend the entire time. Some scholarship help may be available. A one-



CALVIN PORTER

Tychelle, Imani, Jai'lah, Samara and Jyni from IPS Schools 43 and 60 love to have their picture taken.

hour mandatory parent orientation will be held May 19th at 6 p.m. and at 7 p.m.

MLK has applied for a funding grant from Lilly Endowment, but the amount to be received won't be known until late April. Each year BTNA budgets \$1,000 to

help finance youth activities at MLK. Interested individuals who would like to provide scholarship aid for needy children are encouraged to contact Tremayne Horne, Youth Coordinator, 40 W. 40th Street, 46208. Phone 923-4581; email: dhorne@mlk-msc.org.

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Look Down My Rain Barrel: Save Money & Water

CAROL CALDWELL
CONTRIBUTOR

My neighbor, Deb Walker, and I both spend a fair amount of time outside in the warmer months. She has a uniquely compact vegetable garden where she grows an assortment of produce. Flowers are my thing. Whatever type of garden, one of the primary needs is water. Deb and I have decided we want to try and conserve water while still maintaining our gardens, so we're both looking to install rain barrels.

Remember the old-fashioned rain barrel? When connected to a downspout, a rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from a roof that would otherwise run off and be diverted to a storm drain or a stream. The water is harvested (yes, that's one of the catch phrases) and stored in the barrel for later use in irrigating flowers, lawns and vegetable gardens. Rain barrels can reduce a homeowners monthly water bills in the summer.

You'll note I referred to the "old-fash-

ioned rain barrel," lest you think this is a new invention. Once upon a time, not that long ago, when people still raised their own chickens and canned vegetables, many houses sported a rain barrel or tank of some sort. The rain barrel was even featured in the lyrics of popular song from the 1940s:

Oh Playmate, come out and play with me

And bring your dollies three.

Climb up my apple tree,
Look down my rain barrel
Slide down my cellar door
And we'll be jolly friends forever more.

With a plentiful supply of water, rain barrels were eventually replaced by new-fangled sprinklers and irrigation systems. But with rising costs of water use, as well as concerns about conservation and runoff, rain barrels have reentered the vernacular.

An obvious reason to harvest rainwater is to save money. A rain barrel can minimize the need for water from your city utility or well by capturing rain water

to use for your plants. This can be especially helpful during the hot and often dry summer months when the demand for water is at its highest. Depending on the size of your house and the amount of rainfall in your area, you can collect a substantial amount of rainwater with a simple system. This extra water can have a significant impact on your water bill. That's why even Indianapolis Water promotes the use of rain barrels.

But, perhaps the best reason to use rain water collected from a barrel is the benefit to the environment. Rain water is fresh, soft and low in salt and chlorine - a great way to nourish the landscape since plants respond very well to it. Even better, the barrel captures water, preventing it from carrying soil and pollutants across the ground (watershed) into the sewer where it impacts everyone's water supply.

I found a quick formula on-line to help calculate how much rain you might collect on your roof. One inch of rain

SEE RAIN BARREL | PAGE 10

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KIB Offers Workshops to Build a Rain Barrel

RAIN BARRELS FROM PAGE 9
 on a 1000 sq. ft. roof yields 625 gallons of water. To calculate the yield of your roof, multiply the square footage of your roof by 625 and divide by 1000.

Harvesting systems can vary from the simple use of barrels aided by the force of gravity to deliver the water, to more advanced systems using cisterns, pumps, and flow controls. Costs vary considerably as well. You can spend anywhere from a few dollars to thousands of dollars.

If you are interested in rain barrels, your best bet is to review the options available on the market to find out what's in your price range and what's a realistic set-up for your home. I've decided to go with a simple system purchased through the Marion County Soil & Conservation District at www.marionswcd.org. For \$100 I can purchase the rain barrel, the parts that connect it to a downspout, a screen for the top to keep mosquitos away, and a diverter that reroutes overflow when the barrel is full. I don't plan to tackle installation myself, although it sounds fairly simple if you have the right tools and the inclination.

You can also build your

own system if you are the least bit handy. It's easy to find instructions on-line or Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) offers workshops on how to build your own. KIB used to sell rain barrels, but I did not find them available this year.

I found a particularly useful website that shows all the different types of rain barrels on the market as well as purchasing info. There's also a host of helpful articles about catchment systems and even a rain barrel blog and place to get your questions answered. Check out www.rainbarrel-guide.com/where-to-buy-rain-barrels/.

In addition to all the environmental and cost benefits, a rain barrel will have another very specific advantage for me. One side of my front porch has a grouping of small shade plants. I've had trouble sustaining them, however, because of their distance from my outside water tap. Call it laziness, but it is a hassle for me to drag that hose all the way around from the other side of my house just to water this small area. And even with the hose extended to its fullest, it will barely reach. You can guess where I'm planning to install my first



This faux whiskey rain barrel has a clever design. It can hold up to 50 gallons of rainwater, and since it has a flat back, it can easily be placed up against any home or building.

rain barrel. And who knows, next summer I may be ready to add a system for my backyard. I figure this is one good way for me to try it out.

I'm not sure what kind of

rain catchment system my neighbor will eventually try. However, you'll be able to follow our progress as we update you on our successes in the next issue of the newsletter.

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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.

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 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Love of Books Led Neighbor to Write for Children

NICOLE JAMES
BTNA BOARD MEMBER

Books are important in the Matthies household. The entire family, Janna, husband Jim, and children Isabelle age 12, Nathan age 8, and Ben age 5, are avid readers and library visitors. As Janna says, "Books help us become who we want to be." A lifelong love of books and a desire to create stories led Janna to pursue writing for children after her youngest child was born. She did what she recommends to other aspiring writers: joined a critique group, attended conferences and joined the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

In addition to writing, Janna teaches music at the Meridian Street Preschool Cooperative. Jim is the pastor of Spiritual Formation at Common Ground Christian Church, at 46th and Illinois.

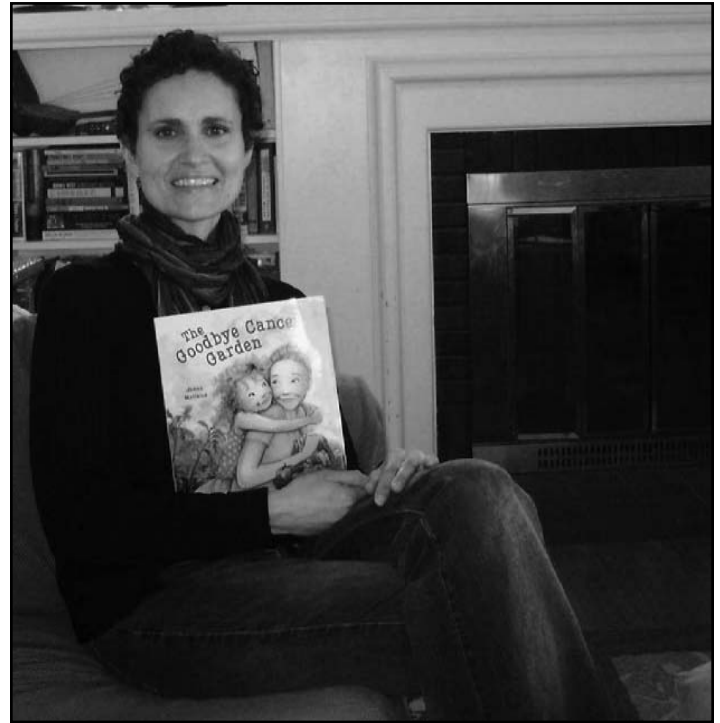
Janna and her husband moved to Indianapolis 14 years ago from the Chicago area, first living on the far north side, but soon realizing the Butler neighborhood was where they wanted to live. They were drawn to the historic houses, local shops, ethnic diversity and proximity to the canal. In 2002 they purchased their 1920 home in

the 100 block of Buckingham and, says Janna, "Have loved being here ever since."

They restored the original hardwood floors, put in period windows and redid the red brick driveway with period brick from the early 1900s. They removed the old garage and driveway to make a play space and garden in the back yard. It was this garden that helped inspire Janna's new book, *The Goodbye Cancer Garden*, that was published this year to excellent reviews and is based on Janna's own bout with breast cancer.

In this story the family plants and tends a vegetable garden while the mother goes through cancer treatment, culminating in a bountiful healthy harvest and a cancer-free healthy mother. Janna wants the book to help and encourage others. The strong plot and good writing make the subject accessible to children as well as a comforting and enjoyable read, as is true of *Peter, the Knight with Asthma*, her first picture book that was published in 2009.

Janna is working on new manuscripts. In addition to planting their own back yard garden again this year, the Matthies family will again help with the Shared Harvest Project (SHARP) community



NICOLE JAMES

Janna Matthies just celebrated the publication of her third children's book, *The Goodbye Cancer Garden*, based on her own experiences with breast cancer.

garden at the southeast corner of 46th and Illinois, a joint endeavor by Common Ground Christian Church and St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

- The Goodbye Cancer Garden
- Peter, the Knight with Asthma

Visit www.jannamatthies.com for more information.

Books by Janna Matthies: www.jannamatthies.com for more information.

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The Scott Farm Became Known as Fairview Park

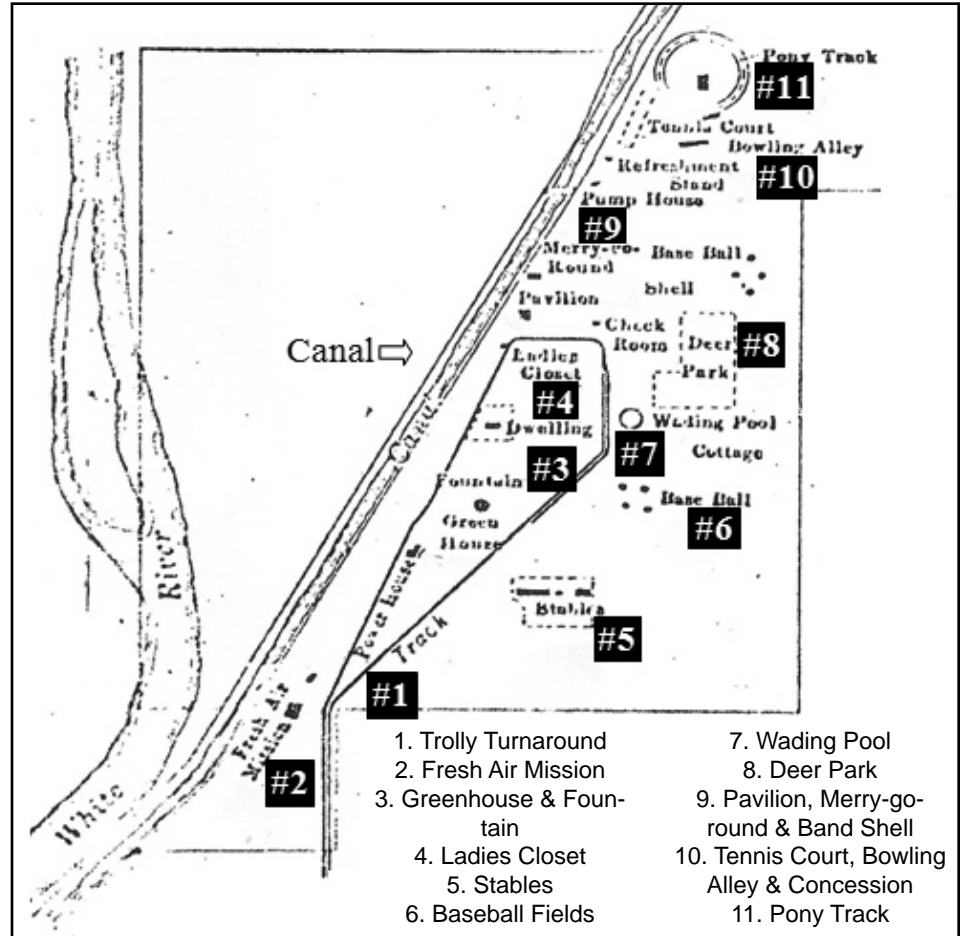
DEVELOPMENT FROM PAGE 1

The *Indianapolis News* later reported that Schaffer's children had no park in which to play and he quickly realized the need and money-making possibilities of recreational space. Shaffer and his partners turned the Scott Farm into a suburban park at the terminus of one of its streetcar lines. The new owners named the park Fairview, for the view up river from the bluffs above was certainly "fair."

Fairview Park opened on June 18, 1890, the same day that the Indianapolis streetcar system converted to electricity. Following numerous breakdowns along the route and the electrocution of at least one dog on the rail line, the streetcar arrived at Fairview, carrying no less than Cyrus H. McCormick and other Chicago capitalists. It took more than an hour for it to travel from the corner of Illinois and Washington Streets to the park's entrance.

Some years earlier in 1839, the first section of the Central Canal from downtown to Broad Ripple had opened. Boat excursions began running daily, leaving downtown at 10 am and returning at 6 p.m. Fare \$1.00.

The canal did not prove to be the great inland waterway the Indiana legislature had envisioned. The moss and grass growing at the bottom stopped the water flow at times, a major problem for boats. Once the canal was turned over to the Indianapolis Water Company,



that problem continued to plague the water source, even to this day.

Then as now, the canal's towpath was popular with cyclists. Picture these, however, as the high wheel bicycles fashionable at the time. This same long stretch of the canal was a hit with ice skaters when the water froze.

Although the boat excursions from Downtown to Broad Ripple didn't

prove profitable and soon ended, the idea of hiring a boat to tow Sunday Schools and private picnic parties up the canal continued in popularity. With arrival of the electric rail line, excursions to Fairview became even more of a favored afternoon outing.

A visitor standing at what is now the southern edge of the Butler cam-

SEE DEVELOPMENT | 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.

Fairview Park Replaced by Butler

DEVELOPMENT FROM PAGE 12

pus looking north encountered a choice of amusements from those installed at Fairview Park. See map for details. The upkeep of the park depended on streetcar fares and a paid fare was the only admission charge.

The main part of the park was in an area now occupied by Butler's Robinson Hall. Near the waterfalls and garden road was the concert area. Pony rides were given where Holcomb Gardens is now, and summertime food concessions occupied the land on which the Observatory now stands.

Afternoons at the park could be spent strolling the paths or possibly exploring on horseback, remarking on the deer, peacocks and Chinese geese roaming the property. Then one might pause for refreshments and a concert at the bandshell.

Performances by the Indianapolis Military Band were well-known among park goers, as were those by "Pink" Hall, who sang his special version of *The Preacher and the Bear* every night for almost four years. One of the most popular events that came along later was *Hianvatha*. A visiting group of Ojibwas dramatized Longfellow's story on the canal towpath, while the enchanted audience sat on the banks of the canal near the old bridge (area now at the bottom of the hill in the gardens).

The new president of the streetcar line, Missourian Hugh McGowan, consolidated the street railway company and the interurban lines that connected downtown to Greenwood and Franklin, Warfleigh, Fairview and Broad Ripple. McGowan also had some ideas for further development of Fairview Park.

Management also added a "switch-back" roller coaster ride powered by gravity. Thrill seekers at Fairview entered the cars at the top of a manmade hill, rolled down one slope and up another. Then two "husky employees" pushed the car to the end of the track.

In 1902 McGowan added a "star" attraction: King and Queen, the diving

horses. These snow white horses performed daily leaps from a platform high in the air into a special tank of water. *The Indianapolis Star* described the horses ascending "the chute as if eager to take the leap. After adjusting their feet, carefully they half drop and half leap. When they strike the water below, they sink beyond view for a moment, then come to the surface and swim out."

The fame of this feat was so widespread that Prince Pu Lun, son of the Chinese Emperor, took time out of his tour of the US to visit Fairview and watch the horses dive from their tower.

The day the prince and his party visited in "their flabby silk garments of every color," the *Indianapolis Star* also reported that more than 10,000 residents crowded the park to catch a glimpse of real royalty. Not King & Queen, but the possible future ruler of the Chinese Empire.

Cholera infantum, or infantile diarrhea, was the leading cause of death among young children at the time. Doctors believed the unhealthy living conditions of the poor contributed to its high incidence. Once Fairview had opened, the Summer Mission for Sick Children was set up in a section of the park. It provided day outings to the park designed to relieve the suffering of these children. The mission, organized by an early predecessor of the Children's Bureau, also drew attention to child and maternal health care among the poorer segments of the city's population.

The thrills provided by Fairview's amusements, however, were no match for the electrically powered and mechanized rides installed at Riverside City Park, Wonderland on West Washington and White City in Broad Ripple—all amusement parks that opened in this same period. Fairview Park, whose principal attraction was its natural beauty, eventually began to wane in popularity.

In the next issue: Residential development and the coming of Butler University to Fairview Park.

ILLINOIS STREET FOOD EMPORIUM: MORE THAN A BAKERY

LARRY FITZGERALD
BTNA BOARD MEMBER

Ernie and Sue Kobets are the proud owners of The Illinois Street Food Emporium. They have been in business for the past 31 years replacing a Huddle Restaurant that previously occupied the space at 5550 N. Illinois. The Emporium also supports the neighborhood by being a BTNA retail member.

While the Emporium's bakery items are real treats, there is much more within this restaurant. The menu includes everything from breakfast items for breakfast, lunch or dinner; sandwiches, snacks, deserts; and a nice selection of wine to accompany your meal. Carry-out is also available. All items are made from scratch to ensure the highest quality ingredients are used. The menu is a cornucopia of several selections and individual customized combinations meant to please the customer.

On a recent visit I sampled the Greek Salad which was loaded with cheese and olives. My dining partner had a broccoli and cheese quiche which was equally tasty. The bakery case was loaded with pastries for anyone with a sweet tooth. My favorite is their fried apple fritters. They also have an excellent selection of breads, pies, and cakes.



MKNA Home & Garden Tour Ready to Celebrate "Real Homes. Real Neighbors. Real Ideas."

The Meridian-Kessler Neighborhood Association (MKNA) celebrates its 38th annual Home and Garden Tour, Saturday and Sunday, June 18th and 19th, 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The tour is one of the oldest tours of vintage homes in Indiana, offering a view of unique architecture, innovative interior design and recent renovations.

The tour features homes and gardens in one of the city's oldest neighborhoods. Tour homes are selected for their interior and exterior design as well as their distinguishing architectural elements.

The theme for this year's tour honors the authentic character of this historic neighborhood.

"Real Homes" celebrates

what makes this tour unique and features how people actually live.

"Real Neighbors" emphasizes the personal connectedness neighbors enjoy in Meridian-Kessler. Walking to dinner, to school, to shop, or to play are just a few of the reasons people love being a part of this neighborhood.

"Real Ideas" highlights one or two original ideas featured in each home. The ideas may relate to décor, renovation, storage, or some creative use of space. Home tour attendees may find ideas that are inspiring, creative and practical.

Tickets can be purchased the day of the event for \$15 at any tour home. Presale tickets are available for \$12 online at www.mkhometour.com.

You are also invited to participate in the Twilight Tour and Silent Auction Friday, June 17th, from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. Your ticket purchase gives you the exclusive opportunity to tour two stunning homes not featured on the Home & Garden Day Tour. This year's Twilight Tour homes belong to Betsy and Michael Bosway (5580 Washington Blvd.) and Tom Linebarger and Mi-

chele Janin (5555 Washington Blvd.). After the tour, you'll also enjoy a delicious dinner, live entertainment, and a fun and fabulous silent auction, all under a beautiful white tent on the grounds of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church & School.

Twilight Tour tickets are \$50 per individual or by table and are available online at www.MKHomeTour.com.

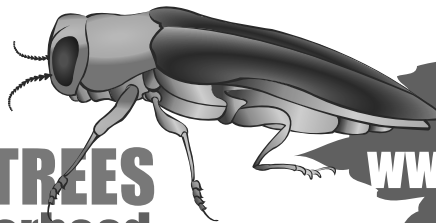
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TREE REMOVAL

New 460-Seat Theater to Be Built at Butler

The new \$13 million theater has been considered for 30 years.

CHRIS W. COTTERILL
BTNA BOARD MEMBER

Later this Spring, Butler will break ground on a new theater to be located east of Clowes Memorial Hall. The new \$13 million theater will be called the Howard L. Schrott Center for the Performing and Visual Arts, and will be used as a primary venue for Butler Theatre, Ballet and School of Music performances, as well as for exhibition space for visual arts. The theater will open in the Fall of 2012.

Marc Allan, Butler's Associate Director of Public Relations, explained that the new theater has been considered for about 30 years. Only recently was the theater made possible by a \$6.5 million commitment from Schrott, a 1976 alumnus and

member of the University's Board of Trustees.

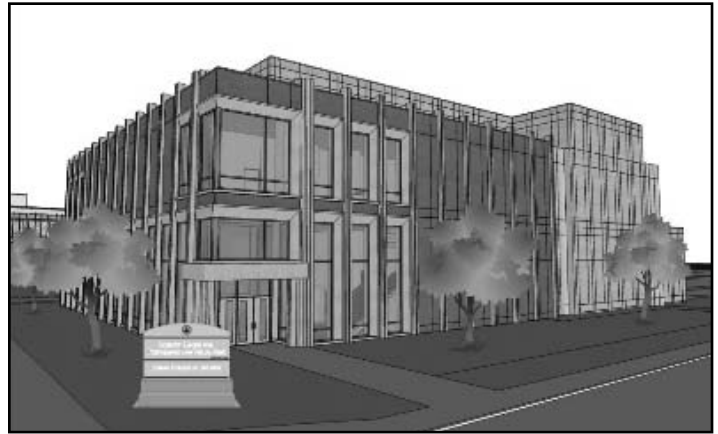
The 460-seat Schrott Center will complement 2100-seat Clowes, which was built in 1963, and Butler's 100 seat "black box" theater which is a small room for small productions.

"For many years, we have held a number of events at Clowes where there were 300 people in the audience. With the new Schrott Center, performers will be closer to the audience and have a more intimate experience than could be had at Clowes," Allan said. "Many of the events that you see now at Clowes, from Midwinter Dance Festival to music performances, will be shifted to the new theater. Other art exhibits and lecturers will likely be hosted there as well. This will be a busy, well-used venue."

The \$6.5 million gift is the latest of many generous gifts Schrott has made to Butler



SCHROTT



BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Butler's new 460-seat theater is slated to open in fall 2012.

University over the years, including the endowment of the Howard Schrott Lecture Series for the College of Communications and the Master Control Room in the Fairbanks Center.

"My first 'gift' to Butler was a \$10 check in 1979," Schrott said, laughing. "For whatever success I've had in my career and life, Butler set the trajectory," he said. "I feel real fortunate to have come to Butler."

Schrott came to Butler as a student in 1972. Born in Alexandria, Va., he graduated from T.C. Williams High School, the school depicted

in the movie "Remember the Titans," where he met a Butler recruiter. Schrott hoped to study radio/TV and Butler proved to be a perfect fit. Now president of San Francisco-based Schrott Consulting, he has previously served as chief financial officer for Indianapolis-based Emmis Communications.

"We appreciate Howard Schrott's generosity and devotion to Butler University," Butler President Bobby Fong said. "We thank him for reaching out with a gift that will benefit both Jordan College of Fine Arts and the University."

Easy Steps to Gardening from Master Gardener

LARRY FITZGERALD
BTNA BOARD MEMBER

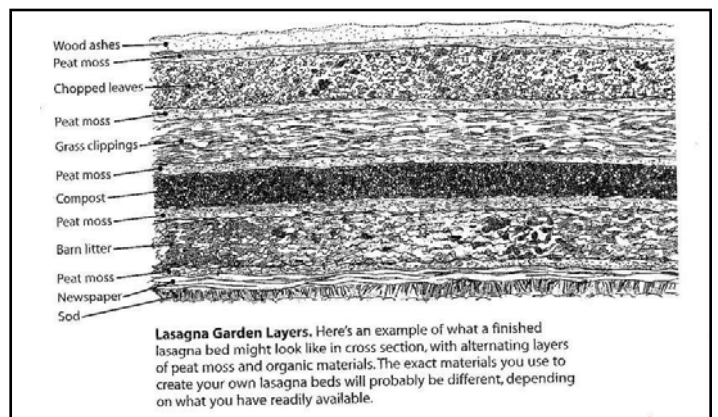
As you know, one of the key elements for vegetable gardening is to plant seeds in good soil. What you might not know is that an easy method to use is the "lasagna gardening" technique. It does not require digging into the existing soil but rather layering on top of your designated garden spot.

The attached diagram shows the technique to grow-

ing plants in a raised bed. You can build the bed with or without a frame. If some of the items such as barn litter or wood ash are not readily available, simply skip that layer and go to the next one. You can build your garden and plant the same day.

If you buy plant starts from the store, simply punch a hole into the top layer of the garden and insert the plant. Cover the roots with peat moss and water.

Keep a layer of peat moss



on top of the garden to maintain adequate moisture. If planting seeds, wet the peat moss and then lightly cover

with dry peat moss. This is an easy technique to grow vegetables. Good luck and good gardening!

Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association

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The Riviera Club: Another Great Advantage of Living in Butler-Tarkington/Midtown

ANN FOSTER
CONTRIBUTOR

Living in the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood has many advantages. A significant one is the 27-acre Riviera Club at 5640 North Illinois just north of the Canal. Soon you may hear gleeful sounds of children in the pool area that has four pools, including the main one outdoors (one of the largest in the US, larger than a football field and holds 1,290,000 gallons of water). Other facilities on the property include 14 tennis courts, two indoor pools, a children's craft room, large gym, fitness center, two studios for a wide variety of

classes, a large area for meetings and dining, an enclosed beach stand/picnic house and an outdoor picnic/playground area

The "Rivi" was founded in 1933 and through the years has evolved into a great place for families, couples and singles of all ages from a wide variety of backgrounds. The Riviera Club is an active community partner to BTNA; a recent example is the Flood Plan Community meeting held there in February.

For seniors there are several special activities including bridge, senior luncheons and three types of senior fitness classes. Adults of all

ages can enjoy the fitness facilities, pools, tennis courts, and participate in classes ranging from ballroom dancing to yoga to aerobics to several bootcamps. Personal coaches are available to work one-on-one. Dining opportunities, provided by Special Occasions Catering, are available Thursday evenings, special occasions like Mothers' Day, and during other social events like Casino Night. Children's organized activities this spring and summer include a variety of summer camps, tennis and swimming.

The Riviera Club invites Butler Tarkington residents to a special BTNA Day at the RIVI on Saturday, June

4th. At other times free passes are available to attend a fitness class (check schedule on website). Throughout the year some children's camps, events and activities are open to non-members. One activity group that especially welcomes non-members is the Rivi Rider group. Thursday evening dinners are also open to the public. Just call the Rivi office at 255-5471 to make reservations.

You are invited to stop in to visit and learn more about the "Rivi" offerings....remember the Riviera Club is one of our BTNA community partners. Also you can learn more about the Riviera Club at www.rivi.org.