



The Millersville at Fall Creek Valley Newsletter

January, 2019



An Exciting New Year in Our Millersville Community!

The holidays are over and the winter weather sets in. As the calendar page flips, we can take thoughtful stock in all that we accomplished together in 2018 and what amazing things we can do in 2019!

Front-most on many minds is the Dollar Tree store. So many concerned residents came together to champion a different path for that prominent corner of our Millersville business triangle. And we were initially successful in this campaign because of your involvement! But legalities sometimes intervene and we find ourselves surprised by an unexpected course of events and await the outcome of the appeals process.

For a full summary of these recent events, visit our website and see the [Dollar Tree Update](#) and read President Amy Schau Hammes' [letter to the community](#)

A legal argument is still being made by the city on our behalf and you can still raise your voice. You can email the Millersville Board to add your name to a list of concerned residents who are in opposition to the Dollar Tree (millersvilleboard@gmail.com). You can also contact Business and Neighborhood Services (BNS) at 317.327.8700 to provide feedback on how businesses are maintaining their properties. It is important to stand up for your neighborhood!

But it is also time to look ahead and ask the new tenants to be the best business neighbor and community partner they can be as well. An important part of Millersville's future success is based on the positive relationships we as Millersville residents develop with our Millersville businesses. As residents and business owners, we have a mutual need to see a flourishing business climate that is vibrant, clean and inviting.



New resolutions accompany new years. And all resolutions are made for positive reasons. In 2019, let's resolve to move forward in a collaborative and cheerful manner in supporting all our local businesses, putting whatever past differences aside when they are no longer constructive. And as we support them, we in turn ask all our business partners to engage in making our Millersville community a more wonderful place to live and visit!

Looking past any contentiousness, there are so many positive happenings in Millersville! Without question, there are two ongoing resident-driven campaigns that brightened our days in 2018! First, the ongoing maintenance of the spectacular flowers in the village. These pots and plantings add wonderful warmth and natural color to our community and provide our residents and visitors with a grand welcome. We must thank **Diane**

and **Keith Gardner** and all the volunteers who planted, watered and weeded these spectacular mini-gardens! If you would like to volunteer to help this year, please visit the [Beautification](#) section of our webpage!



Second, the anti-litter campaign expanded in 2018 and looks to be even more active in 2019! Our "[Keep Millersville Beautiful!](#)" focus combined business outreach, city government help, and good old-fashioned volunteerism to neaten up our neighborhood. The "[Great Indy Clean-up](#)", the new partnership with District 3 City-County Councillor **Christine Scales** and the Duvall



Center along the Binford corridor, and our own volunteers led by **Matt Benson** made a marked difference in keeping our community tidier.

And this year, **Phyllis Starks** wants to make litter pick-up a more regular social event in the village and along the Fall Creek Preserve! If you have about 30 minutes on any weekend or Friday evening, email Phyllis at starkspHYLLIS@yahoo.com and she will keep you posted on when and where to meet. By chipping in a little when you can, a little each week, we all can enjoy the natural beauty of our slice of Fall Creek year-round!



Also in 2018, several Millersville community outreach initiatives continued to showcase our values. In the Spring, there was a fun and informative Art & Science Adventure put on by ROW (Reconnecting to our Waterways) in our Fall Creek Preserve. From our local schools, [children drafted anti-litter letters](#), then hand-delivered them to Mayor Hogsett. The Millersville Board, using a wonderful intern from IUPUI, revitalized the [Facebook](#) page and started a [Twitter](#) account to better connect with our residents. And a unique Millersville signage program is ongoing to better identify our special corner of Indianapolis to all our visitors.

All this amazing activity was proudly put on by volunteers who care deeply about their Millersville home. And the commitment to keeping the good going was clearly evident in the Fall 'Visioning' meeting last October.



The Millersville Community Comes Together To Chart Our Future

Last October, members of the Millersville FCV Board met with residents to refresh the vision of our community.

Held October 18th at the historic Masonic Lodge, the site of the original Millersville organizational meeting in

2009, Board members and residents brain-stormed ideas to keep improving our neighborhood and build upon the successes of the past several years. Six focus groups discussed Community Event Planning, the Gateway Signage project, School Interaction Programs, Village Beautification, Village Commercial Businesses, and the Anti-Litter Campaign.

Each focus group explored many new ideas and developed several priorities. Since then, the chairs have been charged with developing some realistic actionable plans. You can see the complete minutes of the meeting [here](#) or visit the [News](#) section of our Millersville webpage. If you find an idea that inspires you, don't hesitate to contact us to volunteer!

The highlights of the actionable plans will be presented at the Annual Meeting sometime in late March or early March. The date, time and place are still to be determined, but be sure to check the website or social media for more information!

Besides the tangible excitement for ideas shared, this meeting also marked a change in leadership for the Millersville Board. Our one and only president for these past nine years, Cac Diehr, is stepping down from that role and is being succeeded by Dr. Amy Schau Hammes. To call this a seismic event is no understatement to those who have followed Millersville events.

Cac is the genial energetic visionary who brought Millersville to life. Without her infectious enthusiasm and stubborn optimism, much of what has been accomplished these past nine years would have never happened. It would be silly to attempt to list the myriad of accomplishments the community has achieved under her stewardship. And she is still sticking around to help all of us keep the good going. But her dedication to her community and her exceptional leadership skills that have brought 30 different neighborhoods and 48 different businesses together as one common community is irreplaceable. She leaves her leadership role having inspired all who have met her that anything is possible as long as you have your heart in it and hands to work on it. Thank You, Cac!



Dr. Amy Schau Hammes steps up as the new President

Fearless, diligent and inspired, Amy is ready to carry the torch for Millersville. Joining the Millersville Board in 2017 as the Schools Chair, Amy dove in and collaborated with programs in our local schools about our native ecology and got kids involved in the community. Most notably was last year's letter writing campaign about litter. The mayor was duly impressed and invited invited the kids downtown to personally listen to their concerns.

David, Amy's husband, is a lifelong Millersville resident and is currently renovating his childhood home on 56th Street. Amy and David share two beautiful daughters, Olivia at 10 months, and Marian, 3 years.



Amy is originally from Valparaiso. She attended The University of Chicago and The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, earning her doctorate in clinical psychology. She was a college counselor in Chicago and Richmond, Va. before deciding to stay home with her daughters. Before joining the Millersville board, Amy served as a volunteer at Women for Change Indiana and as a grief counselor at Brookes Place for Grieving Young People.

Amy brings new vibrancy and determination to her role. Her task is to take Millersville to its next better future. The Millersville Board is excited to support her and roll up their sleeves to keep Millersville the special place it has become.

Spotlight on Local Business: Garrett's Smokehouse BBQ



Don't we all want to make a living doing what we love? Lee Garrett lives it as his second career! [Garrett's Smokehouse BBQ](#), at 5502 N. Emerson Way, across the street from CVS, is the tasty realization of Lee's entrepreneurial dream. Well, sort of...

Actually, his beautiful wife, Krisma, told him he couldn't stay home and do nothing in his early retirement! So Lee, a veteran Army cook of 24 years who loves BBQ, took a hobby and some friend's advice and started **Garrett's Smokehouse BBQ**. For eight years now, Lee and Krisma have been wow-ing their customers with authentic slow-cooked, smoked delights from pulled pork to BBQ chicken and meaty ribs to savory beef brisket. Lee already has a cult following. One customer, who relocated from North Carolina, ventures in twice a week. When Lee noticed this, the man said, "This is the most authentic BBQ in Indianapolis! Tastes like they make it back in Carolina!". With an expanded eat-in menu and lots of new space, you can sit and savor or pick it up to go.

Lee and Krisma both hail from right here in Indy. Lee grew up on Arlington and Krisma called 50th and Allisonville home. Lee's Army service took him from Korea to Colorado and Alabama. He says the military was at first, his worst decision...but then, his best decision. He supports today's veterans by providing lunches to [Operation Job Ready Veterans](#), an organization helping returning vets find employment. Lee is also a Mason and volunteer at CR Richardson Lodge #69.

He and Krisma enjoy a little binge-watching of "New Amsterdam" and "911". Lee loves to fish too! For seven years, he owned a boat and took it up to Geist...like 5 times...in 7years! Needless to say, his busy schedule didn't allow him too much extra time so the boat has since gone. "But those 5 trips were great days!", he says.

I asked Lee why he picked this spot in our Millersville community. He admits it wasn't him. Krisma reminded him that this used to be the home of the 56th Street Fish Market when they were kids. A little nostalgia called them to set up shop right here.

Here in Millersville, we want you to get acquainted with our [local businesses](#). Many, like Lee and Krisma, are homegrown specialists whose roots and passions kept them here or brought them back. That is the best testimonial to just how wonderful this part of Indianapolis really is.

Stop in and taste some of the best BBQ in Indy right here in Millersville!



So What Can You Do Right Now To Help In Your Millersville Community?

Volunteers are the essence of 'Us'!

And if you want to see the other areas we need your help, check out our [Volunteer](#) page on our Millersville website!

Please plan on attending our Millersville Annual Meeting! Time, place and date are still to be determined, but check-in on our [News](#) section of the website for details.

Be The Squeaky Wheel!

While we do our best to take care of our lovely community ourselves, sometimes a problem is just too big for us to tackle alone.

We want to inspire you to make a phone call that can make a difference. If you see something like excess trash, gaping potholes, graffiti, or unmaintained city property, take the time to report it. The more of us that do that, the better the city will respond!



So call the Mayor! Everyone! Take 5 minutes to phone in any complaint on the **Mayor's Action Center line at 317.327.4622**. Or visit <http://maps.indy.gov/RequestIndy/> to create an online request. We can let the Mayor's office know this is a priority to us and get that grease we need to make our city beautiful!

Make Indianapolis as beautiful as the people who live and work here are!



Donations to Millersville FCV Make Things Happen!

Everything we accomplish in our Millersville home is the result of generous contributions in time and money from our communities! Since 2009, so many cash [contributors](#) have helped us remake this exceptional part of Indianapolis. That need continues as we work to maintain our plantings and park, battle litter, improve our signage, and many other projects.

Millersville FCV relies on grants and these donations to elevate our community's quality of life. As a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation, donations are not currently tax-

deductible under Federal Income Tax Law. But they are always sorely needed and so much appreciated as we work to keep the good going!

Please consider asking your neighborhood homeowners' associations to give to our shared community. And if you can personally, please consider supporting us with any modest [donation](#) you could afford. My two favorite expressions that sum up the success we see in our community; "Many hands make light work", "Be the change you hope to see in the world!"



Use Your Neighborhood Advocates and All Your City Resources!

Mo McReynolds and Greg Garrett are our Mayor's Neighborhood Advocates! The Mayor's office has been supportive of many of our Millersville initiatives because of the tireless work of our advocates on our behalf.

If you want to reach out to our advocates or our City-County Councillors, don't hesitate to contact them! Their information can be found on the [Resources](#) page of our website!



Welcome to the
Millersville at Fall Creek Preserve



You're standing in the heart of Millersville, a town named for the busy grist mills clustered around the pure waters of Fall Creek in the early 1800s. Here, we celebrate the town's fascinating history and the remarkable natural beauty of the Fall Creek Valley.

This round plaza is scored with etchings like that of an old mill grindstone. The sculpture, crafted by Indiana artists, also recalls Millersville's unique history, reminiscent of mill stones, the wheat that was ground by those stones, the flowing creek waters that powered the mills near here, and birds who have long watched over this scenic valley.

Millersville's colorful past also includes horse- and wagon-trail toll houses in the early 1800s, a multi-millionaire's magnificent estate, complete with stables and a horse racetrack in the early 1900s and, since then, historically notable neighborhoods in what had been one of Indianapolis' first suburbs. Today, the village of Millersville encompasses more than 25 neighborhoods and is one of the City's most unique and wonderful communities.

Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc. 2016

There is so much good going on around us, all of it because of people who care about the community they call home. From how the community looks, to engaging the kids in school, from planning for the future, to promoting a vibrant business district, from creating fun social opportunities to preserving our beautiful Fall Creek shorelines, Millersville is a community of imaginative and involved neighbors committed to making our corner of Indianapolis the best place to live!

It all comes from the hearts of volunteers who are doing their small part. Please join us in making Millersville even better! Please stay informed by following us on social media. When you see something that piques your interest, get involved! [Volunteer](#). [Donate](#). Or just help spread the word!

Our newsletter's purpose is to continue to build on the Millersville link with you. And we will always connect to our website where **Mollie Benson** has done amazing creative work that gives you a central source for information about your community association and its initiatives. Visit www.millersvillefcv.com anytime you want to catch up or learn more about our community!

Let's all have some fun together!

Follow Millersville at Fall Creek Valley on Social Media!

Click on the links below, then hit the follow buttons, and stay up to date on the goings-on in our evermore beautiful Millersville community!



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Millersville at Fall Creek Valley

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