

### Mark Your Calendar

The Foster Park Neighborhood Association Social Committee is excited to host the first ever Chili Cook-Off event on **Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6pm.**

Residents are invited to come enjoy some chili and catch up with friends and neighbors. Children will also get to enjoy a cookie decorating activity!

#### CALLING ALL COOKS

We need a handful of residents with culinary skills to bring a pot of their best chili to share in exchange for smiles, warm fuzzy feelings, and a friendly competition. The winner will get bragging rights, a prize, and the satisfaction that comes from helping your neighbors not have to cook on a weeknight in January. **Please email [fosterparkneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:fosterparkneighborhood@gmail.com) if you want to join the chili competition by cooking a pot of chili to share.**

We look forward to a great first-time event and hope to see you there!

### Now Collecting Annual Dues

We are now collecting dues for the 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025). The modest \$50 per household dues support a range of investments into the neighborhood, including tree plantings, light pole banners, website, social events, and membership in the Southwest Area Partnership and the Packard Area Planning Alliance, among others.

You can easily submit your membership dues online at [www.fosterpark.org/dues](http://www.fosterpark.org/dues) or by scanning the QR code to the right. Payment by check (made payable to FPNA) can be mailed to:

*Ken Sorg | FPNA Treasurer*  
*1231 W. Branning Ave.*  
*Fort Wayne, IN 46807*



**Thanks for your support!**

### Foster Park Neighborhood Chili Cook-Off



**Thursday, January 16, 2025**  
**Sears Pavilion**

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### HAVE YOU HEARD

■ The Packard Taphouse, located at 3401 Fairfield Avenue is now open! Stop by for beer, wine, or non-alcoholic beverages to support this locally owned business. They don't have a menu yet, but carry-in food is welcomed.

■ Right next door, construction work begins soon on the Packard Park renovation, which includes new landscaping, new playground equipment, a new multi-purpose event plaza space, pedestrian safety improvements, a walking loop, and areas for potential future public art installations.

# around the neighborhood

## Sheridan Park Strip Upgrades

After months of planning and preparation, the landscaping upgrades to the Sheridan Court center park strip were recently completed.

Using funds awarded through a successful application into the city's Neighborhood Improvement Grant program, a professional design and landscape crew from Laura Stine Gardens recut planting beds and installed a variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, and boulders. A group of resident volunteers tackled the final step of laying fresh mulch and another resident has been volunteering his time to keep the new plants watered until they are fully established.

Moving forward, we will put out a call for volunteers each spring for a volunteer mulch day and we now have a new landscape person to mow and maintain the Sheridan park strip so it will stay looking great.

### Special thanks:

To Cory, Carl, Deborah, Frederic, Connie, Becky, and Mike for laying mulch and to Cory and Kody for donating the mulch.

To Steve for drawing up the concept for the new landscaping.

To Kody for writing the successful grant application.

To Joe for keeping the new plants watered.

And to Amy for connecting all the dots.



## Lead Service Line Notifications

At least some (and likely most or all) residents in our neighborhood recently received information in the mail about lead water service lines, their negative effects, and options for replacing them, potentially at a reduced cost.

Visit <https://utilities.cityoffortwayne.org/remove-lead> to learn more.



## SNOW REMOVAL HELP

Winter weather is just around the corner. If you would like snow removal help this winter or if you are willing and able to help a neighbor with snow removal, please contact the board via email.

Board members will then help connect neighbors in need with those willing to assist. This is our way of facilitating the kind of neighborly help that our streets are known for.

Thanks in advance to anyone willing to offer their help to neighbors this winter!

## NEWS & UPDATES

We strive to keep our residents informed on a range of topics and updates from in and around our area. We typically send out three mailed newsletters each year but also have an online presence.

**Website** | [www.fosterpark.org](http://www.fosterpark.org)

### Facebook

@FosterParkNeighborhoodAssociation

**Email** | Make sure we have your current email on file so you can stay up to date

## BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors will meet on the following dates:

Tuesday, **January 28**, 2025

Tuesday, **April 22**, 2025

Meetings begin at 6:00pm and are held at the home of Becky Allegrini, 1147 Sheridan Court.



# staying informed

## Engage Fort Wayne Website

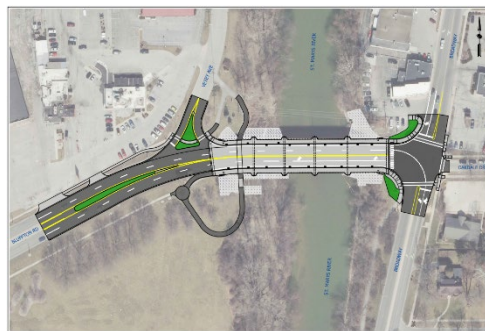
The City of Fort Wayne recently launched a new online platform to make information about public projects readily available for all residents to easily access online. The Engage Fort Wayne site features important project details, including contact information, timelines, renderings, photos, and more. Below are highlights on some of the projects most relevant to our neighborhood.

### Foster Park Restoration

The city hosted two public input sessions to begin generating ideas and aspirations for the newly designed Foster Park main entrance and garden area. Construction within Foster Park is slated to end sometime in 2025 with restoration work to follow, though an exact timeline has not been announced. Design work will take place over the coming months and the association will share any updates and future opportunities for further public engagement.

### Bluffton Road Bridge

Construction is set to begin in late 2024 or early 2025 and is expected to end in the spring or summer of 2026. This project includes a variety of updates, including a new superstructure for the bridge, intersection improvements, ornamental lighting, new trail under bridge with lighting, and improved and ADA compliant crosswalks. During the construction process, they intend to keep at least one lane of vehicular traffic open in each direction at all times, except for very limited full closures at certain points in the process.



### Paulding Road Improvements

Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2025 to reconstruct Paulding Road from Fairfield to Calhoun, including substantial improvements at both of those key intersections. Changes include reducing vehicular travel lanes from two in each direction to one in each direction with a center turn lane, new sidewalks, traffic signal upgrades, lighting improvements, landscaping improvements, and public art. Construction is expected to conclude by winter 2025.



Visit [www.engage.cityoffortwayne.org](http://www.engage.cityoffortwayne.org) to learn more!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 2024 – June 2025

### Amy Kelly | *President*

1305 Sheridan Ct.

amy.kelly01@icloud.com

### Oscar Matter | *Vice President*

1302 W. Branning Ave.

o.w.matter@protonmail.com

### Ken Sorg | *Treasurer*

1231 W. Branning Ave.

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### Becky Allegrini | *Secretary*

1147 Sheridan Ct.

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### Cory Allen

1310 W. Foster Pkwy

allencory@hotmail.com

### Caroline Britt

3929 Old Mill Rd.

acbritt16@gmail.com

### Emily Ewing

1230 W. Lexington Ave.

emilyewing0318@gmail.com

### Connie Hazelrigg

1322 W. Foster Pkwy

chazelrigg@comcast.net

### Andrea Thomas

4001 Old Mill Rd.

dortchthomas@gmail.com

## FEEDBACK

Have an idea? A question? A concern? Feel free to contact the association board to share your thoughts and feedback. We are eager to hear from residents about any and all topics regarding the neighborhood or surrounding areas.

## RENTAL RESTRICTION

Renting is prohibited within the Foster Park Neighborhood Association boundaries without board approval (per our Restrictive Covenants, as amended in 2005). If you are renting or have questions, please contact the board president to initiate the review process.

# community news

## Another Successful Cider & Donuts Event



This past October, the association hosted the fourth annual Cider & Donuts fall block party. We had a great turnout and incorporated a new pumpkin painting activity for the children that proved to be a hit. Thanks to the Social Committee for their efforts to plan and execute another great event!

## The Refuge

A group of local investors is requesting a use variance for the building at 3901 South Wayne Avenue, previously known as the Welty Education Building (or WEB), to use the building for a combination of multi-family residential housing and light professional services, in line with the existing setup and previous use of the building. More specifically, they plan to serve immigrant and/or refugee populations seeking market rate housing while also providing office space for related social service organizations in the same building, hence the name 'The Refuge' for this project.

At the November 21, 2024 Board of Zoning Appeals public hearing, this topic (formally called UVAR-2024-0052) invited a range of different opinions in favor of and against this proposed use variance, with many undecided and requesting more time to understand and work through the request. The BZA voted unanimously to delay a final decision until the January meeting and requested neighborhood associations and investors collaborate to seek better understanding and work toward a potential compromise. **If you wish to share your perspective on this topic, please email the board of directors at [fosterparkneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:fosterparkneighborhood@gmail.com).**

## Candid Corner

*Top* | Welcome back home to Pete, who recently served a tour for the Air Force Reserves in the Middle East. Thanks for your service. Pete is pictured with his wife Lindsay and their children Arie and Gentry.



*Bottom* | Congratulations to newlyweds Amanda and Mitch, whose decorative lions joined in the celebration.



## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

### FPNA Board President

**Amy Kelly**

[fosterparkneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:fosterparkneighborhood@gmail.com)  
260.414.8554

### Fort Wayne Police Department Non-Emergency Desk

260.427.1222

### City Government Services

311

### Essential Community Services

211

### Graffiti Hotline

260.449.4747

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Geoff Paddock

District 5 City Council  
[geoffreypaddock@aol.com](mailto:geoffreypaddock@aol.com)

### Marty Bender

At-Large City Council  
[martin.bender@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:martin.bender@cityoffortwayne.org)

### Michelle Chambers

At-Large City Council  
[michelle.chambers@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:michelle.chambers@cityoffortwayne.org)

### Tom Freistroffer

At-Large City Council  
[freistrofferatlarge@gmail.com](mailto:freistrofferatlarge@gmail.com)

### Phil GiaQuinta

District 80 State Representative  
[h80@iga.in.gov](mailto:h80@iga.in.gov)

### Travis Holdman

District 19 State Senator  
[senator.holdman@iga.in.gov](mailto:senator.holdman@iga.in.gov)

## HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Looking for a fun holiday activity that supports a nearby neighborhood? The Williams Woodland Park Neighborhood is hosting its 2024 Holiday Home Tour on December 7<sup>th</sup> (5pm-9pm) and December 8<sup>th</sup> (1pm-5pm). This annual event features seven historic homes and one apartment decked out for the holiday season.

Presale tickets are \$13 or can be purchased day of for \$15. You can purchase tickets online at [williamswoodlandpark.com](http://williamswoodlandpark.com).