

Mark Your Calendar

The Foster Park Neighborhood Association Social Committee is excited to host our second Chili Cook-Off event on **Thursday, January 15, 2026 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 kodytunnel@gmail.com if you want to join the chili competition by cooking a pot of chili to share.**

We look forward to another great event and hope to see you there!

Now Collecting Annual Dues

We are now collecting dues for the 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026). The modest \$50 per household dues support a range of investments into the neighborhood, including tree plantings, light pole banners, website, printed newsletters, and social events, among others. **Include with this newsletter is a slip indicating your dues payment status for the current fiscal year.**

You can easily submit your membership dues online at **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 15, 2026
Sears Pavilion



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SHOP LOCAL

This holiday season, please consider supporting local businesses in our area, including:

- The Friendly Fox
- Health Hut
- 07 Pub
- Bravas
- Packard Taphouse
- Chance Bar
- Sharing Peace Cafe
- Hainan House
- La Fogata
- Antonuccio's
- The Club Room / Crescendo
- Rune
- Union Street Market
- Mad Anthony's



neighborhood news

Recent Social Events

The Association was very social over the past few months.

In August, we hosted our first 'Summer's Not Over Yet' block party. Dozens of neighbors came out to enjoy root beer floats, play games, and soak in the summer weather before back-to-school season kicked into full gear.



In October, we held another great annual Cider & Donuts block party. We again lucked out with perfect weather. The pumpkin painting activity was a huge hit yet again and this year we offered a fall themed photo wall area for residents to take family photos.

On Thanksgiving morning, a group of residents met to take a brisk morning walk together around Foster Park.

Thanks to the social committee volunteers who plan and implement these opportunities for neighbors to connect!

Bluffton Road Bridge

It seems every area resident was excited to see the return of simultaneous two-way traffic on the Bluffton Road Bridge starting in November. The project continues to be in Phase II of the construction process, which includes reconstruction of the north half of the bridge. This phase is expected to be completed by spring 2026.

Phase III of the project includes reconstructing the trail underneath the bridge. That work will take place in 2026 and should be completed by summer 2026.

Update Your Contact Information

Though we send three printed newsletters each year, there are sometimes updates that make more sense for email communication due to their timeliness or importance. If you would like to stay up-to-date via email, please send your name, address, and preferred email address to fosterparkneighborhood@gmail.com so we can add you to the list.

Following the association Facebook page is also a great way to stay informed, though we do not share information about resident-only events or programs to social media.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors will meet on the following dates:

Tuesday, **January 27, 2026**

Tuesday, **April 28, 2026**

Meetings begin at 6:00pm and are typically held at the home of Becky Allegrini, 1147 Sheridan Court. Board meetings are open to all residents and feel free to contact the board if you ever have a topic that should be considered or discussed.

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.



SNOW REMOVAL HELP

Winter weather is upon us and some experts suggest we are in for a wetter than normal season.

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!

Foster Park

Future Entrance Changes

Back in October, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation hosted a public presentation to showcase preliminary plans for future changes to the Foster Park entrance. Several Foster Park Neighborhood residents were in attendance and we know this is a hot topic given our close connection to the park.

Below are some of the key highlights of the plan. Many more details are available on the Engage Fort Wayne website at: engage.cityoffortwayne.org/foster-park-public-input-meetings

Key updates:

- The vehicular entrance will move south to Branning Avenue. A four-way stop will be added at this intersection. This alleviates congestion that exists between all modes of transit at the current entrance.
- The portion of Lexington Avenue between Old Mill and Hartman will be closed off to decrease safety issues at that intersection.
- The bridal glen will be slightly relocated and will be redesigned to better serve those renting the space.
- A new maintenance building will be constructed as far away from the gardens as possible while being located outside the floodway. This building will allow efficiencies for the maintenance team.
- A public restroom will be included with the maintenance building to provide closer facilities to the garden and bridal glen.
- Parking spaces and locations will be changed to improve safety and provide closer parking to park amenities.
- New paved paths will be installed throughout the space to provide greater accessibility and traffic flow.
- An irrigation system will be installed throughout the gardens to allow maintenance staff to focus on other tasks.
- This plan would preserve as many existing trees as possible while also planting many new trees.
- The timeline of next steps is to be determined at this time.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS July 2025 – June 2026

Amy Kelly | *President*
1305 Sheridan Ct.
amy.kelly01@icloud.com

Oscar Matter | *Vice President*
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Ken Sorg | *Treasurer*
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Becky Allegrini | *Secretary*
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Emily Ewing
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emilyewing0318@gmail.com

Connie Hazelrigg
1322 W. Foster Pkwy
hazelrigg@comcast.net

Leaira Houghton
1210 W. Foster Pkwy
leairahoughton@gmail.com

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.

STREET LIGHTS

If you see a street light out in our neighborhood, please report it to the city via 311 (via phone or online). It is helpful to write down the pole number, which starts with a 'K' and is listed on yellow tags on the pole itself.

Thanks for doing your part to keep our lights on!

community resources

Holiday Season Recycling Tips

As the holiday season approaches, our beautiful historic neighborhood transforms with festive lights and decorations. It's a time for warmth, celebration, and community. It's also a time when household waste tends to peak. Fort Wayne offers robust recycling options, but the holidays bring unique items that can cause confusion. Here are some quick tips to ensure your festive waste gets properly processed.

Cardboard Boxes | Break them down and add them to your curbside recycling cart.

Paper Gift Wrap | Only plain paper wrapping (the kind that tears easily) is recyclable. Avoid foil, glitter, or laminated paper. To minimize waste, consider reusable gift bags or cloth wrapping material, in place of traditional paper gift wrap.



Food Containers | Certain plastic containers (look for the number) and tin/aluminum containers can be recycled in the curbside carts but make sure they are cleaned of food/liquid.

Styrofoam | NOT permitted in the curbside recycling carts.

Tinsel | Should be thrown in the trash. It is NOT recyclable.

Ribbons/Bows | Reuse/donate them next year or dispose of them in the trash. Not recyclable.

String Lights | Keep an eye out for local light bulb recycling opportunities through area businesses. DO NOT place in trash or recycling curbside bins.



Batteries | DO NOT place in the trash or recycling bins. These should be properly stored until they can be dropped off to an appropriate organization for safe recycling.

Live Christmas Trees | Keep an eye out for local tree recycling programs. In the past few years, a local high school group offered this service in the month of December. Be sure live trees are free from all decorations and lights.

For more detailed information about recycling and safe disposal options, visit www.acwastewatcher.org.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

FPNA Board President

Amy Kelly

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

Marty Bender

At-Large City Council
martin.bender@cityoffortwayne.org

Michelle Chambers

At-Large City Council
michelle.chambers@cityoffortwayne.org

Tom Freistroffer

At-Large City Council
freistrofferatlarge@gmail.com

Phil GiaQuinta

District 80 State Representative
h80@iga.in.gov

Travis Holdman

District 19 State Senator
senator.holdman@iga.in.gov

NEWS & UPDATES

We strive to keep our residents informed on a range of topics and updates from in and around our neighborhood. Be sure to check us out online to stay informed!

Website | www.fosterpark.org

Facebook

@FosterParkNeighborhoodAssociation

Email | Make sure we have your current email on file by sending an email to the association president at the address above.