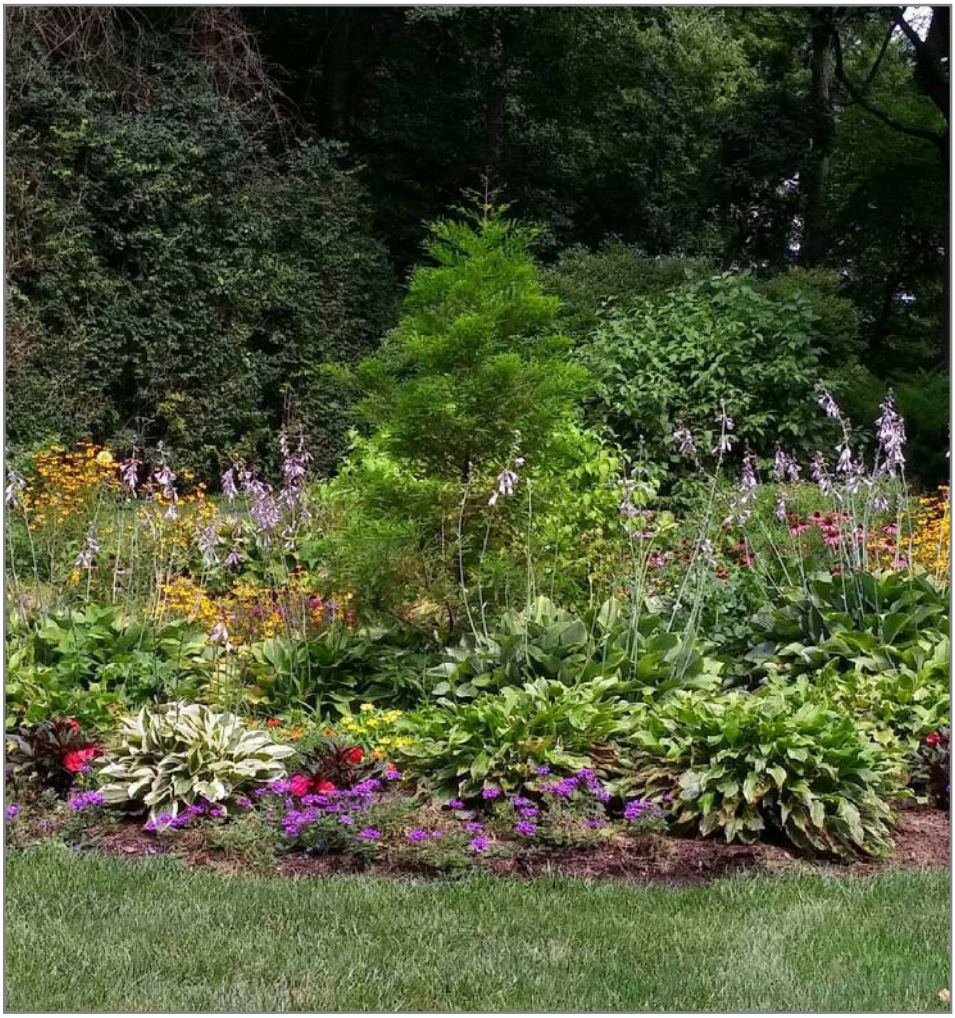
FALL 2017

Wynnedale News



Fall Garden on Roland Road.

Wynnedale Upcoming Events

Wynnedale Chili Cook-off

Hosted by Eddie and Libby Goodknight, 4222 Cold Spring Road on October 21st, 6 pm. *Look for informational flyer in your mailbox.*

Wynnedale Holiday Ladies Tea

Hosted by Farideh Peacock, 4230 Roland Road on Sunday December 10. This is always a fun event for the ladies in Wynnedale to get to know each other better. *Details will follow in a mailbox flyer closer to the event.*

Holiday/Caroling Party

Hosted by Robin Reagan and Frank Messina, 4230 Roland Road on Sunday December 16, 6-10 pm. This is always a fun event for the families in Wynnedale to get to know each other better. *Details will follow in a mailbox flyer closer to the event.*

A New Town Directory

Work on a new Town of Wynnedale Directory has begun.

The current print directory was published in October 2014 and is in need of updating.

Jim Purcell, who has printed previous directories at no cost to the town, has volunteered his services again.

Bruce Ranger has stepped forward to assure that we have an accurate and complete listing of all who live in the incorporated Town of Wynnedale.

Send your complete correct information to BDRanger1947@gmail.com. If all your contact information in the current directory is complete and correct, please confirm that via email to Bruce.

The most common items in need of updating are email address and phone numbers.

Be sure to include: The address; the landline phone number if you have one; the names of each adult at your address with the cell phone and email for each adult, being sure to indicate which cell is for which person. You may also add children's names if you wish.

No deadline has been set, but we hope all Wynnedale residents respond. The sooner the contact information has been confirmed, the sooner the directory can be published.

Thank you for your promptness.

Address additions and updates/corrections

Cabell - Dax A (replaces Todd E. Warweg)
2002 Wilshire Road
317.414.9143 | DaxCabell@Gmail.com

Ranger - Bruce D & Linda J
2284 Wynnedale Road
B - 317.293.8299 L - 317.414.8299
BDRanger1947@Gmail.com
LJRanger@Gmail.com

From Wynnedale To Le Mans

by Sue Rice

When Chip Ganassi Racing decided to compete in the famed 24 Hours of Le Mans car race in France, it couldn't have made it to the starting line without the work of Wynnedale resident Mel Harder.

Harder, who has lived for about two years at 2115 Wilshire Road with his wife Robyn and dogs Nico and Bianca, manages "off the track" issues for the Ford Chip Ganassi Racing IMSA Team (International Motor Sports Association). He is team manager, responsibility administrator and in charge of logistics and operations. In 2016 and 2017 he has been responsible for transporting two cars and 13 tons of equipment to France for the Le Mans endurance race. Some equipment including spare car chassis, wheel sets, car parts, a golf cart, a fabrication unit and various supplies were loaded in a container and sea-freighted months before the June race.

In mid May, the two Ford GT cars, mechanics tools, uniforms, driver gear, spare parts, spare engines, wheels and spare body work was sent by air freight from Chicago to London and then trucked down to Le Mans in four trailers. The trip took seven-and-a-half hours. There, they joined two other identical cars on the U.K. Ford Chip Ganassi team. These two U.K. cars mainly stay and race in Europe.

"Last year, the team's first Le Mans, was like packing for a camping trip and we were just taking everything that we could from home," Harder said. "This year, we are more organized and our setup has gone a lot quicker and is more efficient."

"One challenge," he added, "was power. Power (in France) last year was kind of comical because we were Googling things to try and figure out how to convert power."

The crew of 24 full-time staff arrive for 20 days and later the 6 drivers arrive. The European side of the team takes care of their own drivers and equipment. Most of the crew are there for three weeks. Housing, luggage, and cars big enough to transport it, and food must all be planned for.

"We've been able to rent houses and the families treat us like we are part of their family," Harder said. "I think that went a long way to make it a good experience for the guys last year, and they were actually looking forward to coming back this year."

The Le Mans is a multi-class racing series of 60 total cars. Three drivers share the duty of driving each of the cars during the 24 hours. The route over both permanent track and public roads is about 8.5 miles. They travel in the 24 hours about 3,200 miles doing 375 laps around the track with the top speed being approximately 200 mph.

There are four classes of cars and each has its own winner and podium. Actually, it is four separate races even though an overall winner is celebrated. The overall winner (usually from the class that is equipped to go the fastest) is the one that gets the most attention. A car in a lower class has won the overall due to better reliability.

The Ford Chip Ganassi cars are in the LMGTE Pro class (Le Mans Grand Touring Endurance Professional driver). This is the class where manufacturers bring their latest and greatest production-based race cars.

In 2016, Mel's first trip to Le Mans as manager, the U.S. Ford Chip Ganassi team placed first and third in their class. With this victory as team owner, Chip Ganassi became the only owner in history to win the Indianapolis 500, Daytona 500, Brickyard 400, Rolex 24 at Daytona, 12 hours of Sebring and Le Mans 24 Hours. In 2017, the U.K. Ford Chip Ganassi team placed second and the U.S. Ford Chip Ganassi team placed sixth. The GT cars travel next to races in Virginia, Atlanta, and Monterey, California.

Harder said each of the Ford GT race cars cost $600,000 and the cost of the trip to France and back was over one million dollars. Ford financially supports the project and the team will be racing at Le Mans through 2019. Ford has not made a Ford GT production car since 2006 but this year Ford is delivering a version to the public for $450,000 to $500,000 depending on the options chosen. So far 50 cars have been sold and are on the road while others have been ordered and are waiting for delivery.

Fifty years ago in their Ford GT40, the Le Mans race winners were rookie driver A.J. Foyt and his partner Dan Gurney. The Ford family invited Foyt to attend the Le Mans race this year and spend time with his fans. Foyt, making his first return to Le Mans since his victory 50 years ago, was genuinely taken aback by the reception from fans and the Ford team during his visit. He signed over 300 autographs! The Ford team had a golf cart painted like the car that Foyt and Gurney had driven in the race and Ford had a beautiful hospitality center. There were only two drivers per car in 1967 for the 24 hour race. Foyt said there were no crash walls or guardrails then, only trees with whitewash painted on them and no air conditioning.

Harder has been in the business of racing for many years. He worked planning major motor sports events while working for 22 years at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and two years for the Circuit of the Americas in Texas.

"Today I am fortunate to work from another side of the event, the team side," Harder said. "It was interesting planning events centered around racing but a race team has the goal of winning and winning is the ultimate reward for effort, preparation, strategy and luck."

Race Car Driver Turns Business Man

by Sue Rice

Jan Frank was a successful Formula 3 race car driver in Europe, and turned that expertise into a thriving auto business after moving to Indiana.

Frank and his wife Margaret came to the United States from Poland in 1975, and in May 1980 bought their Wynnedale home at 2219 Paul Lane South Drive.

Within a few years, he opened J. Frank Motors which soon became one of the largest and most successful private Mercedes-Benz dealerships in Indiana.

Frank's story was recounted in the Indianapolis Business Journal in January 1986. Frank, they wrote, was a top Formula 3 driver, winning one international race and placing second or third in many others, to say nothing of the many races in which he won or placed to reach this international level of success. During this time there were no Formula 1 cars in that part of Europe.

He started racing go-karts at 17 years old.

And at age 20, he now said, "you are bravo! You are not afraid. I was winning if it was rainy, if it was foggy. I knew I could drive blind for 15 or 20 seconds."

His wife Margaret says he was a dare-devil, a fearless driver daunted by nothing.

His father, Ksawery Frank, had a Mercedes-Porsche dealership in Poland and was also one of the most successful race car drivers in the country. He was the outstanding winner of over 100 trophies.

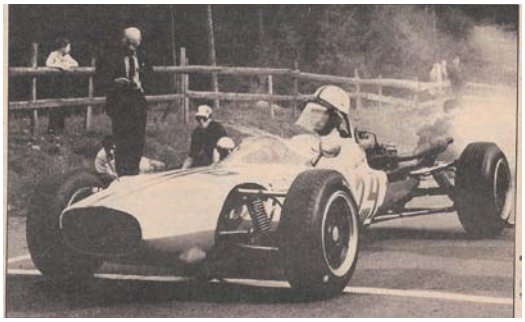
The Frank name in Poland was comparable to the Foyt name in the United States. "The name obligated me that I had to be a race car driver," Jan says. "I was the youngest Formula 3 driver in Poland."

The Franks also were a titled family in Poland, prior to the Communist takeover, thanks to a 16th-century ancestor who saved the king's life and sacrificed his own by intercepting an arrow with his chest.

"You cannot be proud of this when you live under a communist system," Frank says. "You have to hide this."

Soviet communist dominance imposed over Poland lasted from 1945, when Jan was born, until 1989.

Frank came to the U.S. because he wanted an opportunity to race against the world's best drivers. With a partner in 1975, he purchased a 1970 Lola, hoping to enter it in the Indianapolis 500, but the economic reality of racing in the U.S. crushed that dream when the car wouldn't qualify for a prior race, let alone for the "greatest spectacle in racing."



Frank says that "the racing teams in the U.S. began to work with the effects of wind so the chassis and suspension were more important whereas before, it was more important to have power."

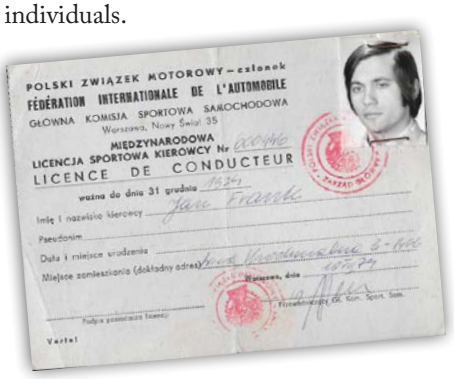
After one year of preparing to race and not accomplishing this goal, Jan changed direction. His greatest success came with his business, J. Frank Motors.

He implemented an innovative process of selling cars. The Indianapolis Business Journal and The Indianapolis Star wrote articles about his unique business model. J. Frank Motors was a "direct import" Mercedes dealer, or one that purchases its cars in Germany and ships them to the U.S. independently. In five years, Frank says, his company had become one of the largest Mercedes dealerships in the state.

The reason is savings. By cutting away the fat that otherwise would go into the pockets of franchise owners and salesmen, not to mention the huge profits that are sent back to Mercedes headquarters in Stuttgart, West Germany, Frank could offer a Mercedes at substantial savings over authorized dealership prices."

Frank spent 7 years as president of the Mercedes-Benz Club 500 section, and served as judge for the Star Fest Mercedes-Benz Concours D'elegance event. He has purchased over 2,500 Mercedes-Benz cars both in Europe and the United States. Since 1969 he has prepared Mercedes-Benz appraisals for insurance adjusters, lawyers and private individuals.

Even though his desire to have a racing career in the U.S. did not come to fruition he became a very successful business man and has no regrets. He retired in 2011 and he and his wife Margaret are happily living in Wynnedale.



A Historic Wynnedale Lamp is Rekindled

by Sue Rice

Light again is shining on the southern corner of Roland Road

The Wynndale street light fixture at 4220 Roland Road had suffered an electrical failure in February 2017. Instead of just replacing the historic fixture with a modern substitute, the fixture was removed from the pole for restoration, thanks to the combined efforts of John Kincaid, Tony Bulcher, Craig Rice and Charlie Fehrman.

This was no easy task, as the fixture was rather unique.

Sue Rice spent two or three weeks researching old lights on the internet, finally finding a book -- "Chicago's Changing Scene" -- that contained an article on old street lights. This article was illustrated with a photograph of the exact light fixture that had just been taken down in Wynnedale.

A paragraph from the book states that "Different parts of the city had different types of street lights. In Portage Park we had harp lights. At least that's what the older people called them, referring to the distinctive curved metal arms that held the lamp fixture at the top. Our neighborhood was settled in the 1920's, the era when this style became popular."

Now the lamp style had a name: A harp light.

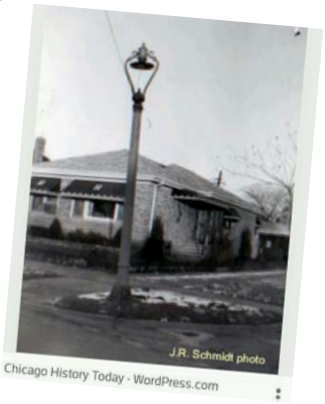
Next, Sue got a box of old Wynnedale invoices from John Kincaid and digging through it found the original invoice for the Wynnedale lamp.

It read: "Invoice from T.W. Ayton (a former Wynnedale resident) for one Line Material Company cast aluminum harp type street lighting fixture complete with shade and special adapter ring. This cast iron ring required a pattern made by the supplier and casting by local foundry. The complete assembly was installed by others in C.I. Ornamental on November 22, 1976 at a total cost of $30.00."

The fixture was turned over to Craig Rice for restoration. First came sandblasting, then the difficult job of repairing the ceramic electrical parts and adding new wiring. The dents were removed from the large flat shade followed by layers of primer and paint. Lastly came the assembly. A small brass tag attached to the adapter at the base of the fixture and the top of the pole was removed and restored by a local jewelry store as it had damage from years of exposure. It reads." Novalux" CAT 246438 "General Electric Co, Schenectady, NY. USA."

Charlie Fehrman arranged for the pole to be sandblasted where it stood as it is set in the ground in concrete. Craig Rice applied layers of primer and paint to protect the pole for years to come. Finding a light bulb that would produce the best light was the final act before installing the fixture.

The restoration was complete and the fixture was mounted on the pole on July 22, 2017. Last of all, the wiring was connected and that evening when the photo cell turned on the power to illuminated the street lights at dusk, this new light was one of the brightest.



Wynnedale Garden Angels

By Robin Reagan

Walking through Wynnedale offers the opportunity to enjoy our many beautifully designed and maintained gardens. But what if you need a little help?

Lisa Clarke, Sue Rice and Robin Reagan met recently to discuss whether they could make a difference through gardening together and perhaps get to know their Wynnedale neighbors even better.

Whether you call them Guerrilla Gardeners (Robin's term) or just neighborhood angels, they're available to help (with advance notice) on small garden projects you might have requiring 3 hours or less work. If you can pitch in, too, the project can be even bigger!

So far they've cleaned up the esplanade in several places which was fun doing together. In addition, Janet Gibson pitched in recently by spraying weed killer all around the curbs.

Interested in joining them, have a small project or see something that needs doing in Wynnedale's public spaces? Just let one of them know!

Welcome Our New Neighbors

By Mary Beth Schneider

After the birth of their daughter Madeleine, Mike and Caroline Bryan felt they'd outgrown their Downtown apartment.

After living in Downtown Indianapolis for five years, the couple was looking for somewhere family friendly, Mike said, but also "trying not to go too far away."

They found Wynnedale.

The young family moved in to 2135 Wynnedale Road this summer, filling the completely renovated home with warmth and laughter after that property had sat empty for a couple years as work to turn the one-time ranch home into a two-story home continued.

Mike Bryan, who works in marketing for Eli Lilly & Co., said he first heard of Wynnedale from another Wynnedale resident who works at Lilly, Chase Wilson of 2138 Wynnedale Road.

"It sounded like a good fit," he said.

Now you can often see Caroline with daughter Maddie playing in the front yard where Maddie loves to fearlessly climb her small slide, chase birds or walk laps around her house.

Caroline, 29, is a former teacher of theology and art at Cathedral High School. She and Mike, also 29, are both 2010 graduates of the University of Notre Dame, meeting while graduate students in the university's Alliance for Catholic Education program to bring Catholic education to underserved communities. As part of that program, Caroline taught Tohono O'odham Native Americans at the San Xavier Mission School in Tucson, AZ. Mike taught math to children in the sixth through eighth grades at an inner city school in New Orleans.

After fulfilling their desire to, as Mike puts it, "do something to give back," the couple moved to Indiana. Mike, from Marietta, Ga., knew Caroline -- a South Bend native -- wanted to live closer to home.

"I saw an opening at Eli Lilly and the rest is history," Mike said.

In addition to caring for Maddie who was born in February 2016, Caroline began a calligraphy business and is available for beautifully hand-drawn lettering for weddings or other events and gifts. She loves, she said, "DIY things. I love to paint, water colors, anything crafty."

Mike can't wait to get his BBQ smoker going, bringing a bit of Georgia to Indiana.

And, he said, his other hobby is sports -- especially rooting for the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

To contact the Bryans: Call Caroline at 574-323-1654; call Mike at 404-630-6590. Email is caromurphy1@gmail.com and mbryan06@gmail.com

Meet Paul Vitali and David Vass

By Sandy Hudson

For a good time, meet our new neighbors Paul Vitali and David Vass. I've never had so much fun with total strangers as I did the evening I went to their home at 4248 Cold Spring Road. Funny, receptive, funny, friendly, funny, hospitable, funny, generous, and did I mention funny? David and Paul made me feel right at home. After three hours {and that many large glasses of wine), I felt as if I'd known these two forever, or at least wished I had.

The couple moved to Indianapolis from Miami this summer because Paul accepted the position as Associate Director of Indianapolis Ballet. He and the director, Victoria Lyras, have been professional colleagues and dance partners for years, and Paul has been coming to town for 12 years to teach at the Indianapolis School of Ballet. He will reprise his role as Herr Drosselmeyer in the company's production of The Nutcracker, December 21-23.

David is Senior Vice President of Worldwide Cruise Business and Operations for Abercrombie and Kent, a luxury travel company. He works from home, wherever that may be. He and Paul, who have been together for 40 years and were married in 2008, have moved 17 times in 13 years but plan to stay here as long as possible.

David says when their realtor showed them this part of the city, "it felt like an energy vortex." Wynnedale conjured up a peaceful childhood existence they had experienced only vicariously through television shows such as "Father Knows Best" and "Leave It to Beaver." Having lived in Miami for 17 years, David explains, "Rough to us is someone pulling a razor blade out of a wig."

Their mid-century modern home had been remodeled and suited their tastes, but they've decided that much of their furniture from Miami doesn't work. Even though the house is larger than their previous home, they've chosen to part with many of their possessions and will be having a garage sale in mid-October. Even if you don't need a thing or loathe garage sales, GO! Meeting David and Paul will make your day.

Wynnedale News Tidbits

By Linda Ranger

Found Valentine from at least 65 years ago.

Karen and Dan Fell of 2125 Wilshire Road remodeled their kitchen earlier this year. Behind one of the original cabinets they found a Valentine card. The first owners of the home were John and Irene Hare. Their son Ken married Mary in 1941 and they sent a card and handkerchief to his mother Irene. The Hare family sold the house in 1952 so the card was at least 65 to 75 years old.

The Best Soiree This Side of Paris: Thanks to **Robin Reagan and Frank Messina** for their June 29 soiree which included use of their swimming pool, great food and an extensive selection of beverages. All new and old residents of Wynnedale were invited, and many old plus two new neighbor families attended. Robin posted her invitation on www.Nextdoor.com. We hope all Wynnedale residents have joined this site.

Megan McCormick (first person on the left)

Megan McCormick and Kelly Renie of 2285 Wynnedale Road will be leaving Wynnedale because of an exciting opportunity offered to Megan. She has been chosen as one of a team of nine technical advisors to lead 69 clubs in the first year of U.S. Soccer Girls Development Academy. The region where she will work will require a move to the Oakland, Calif., area. We will miss them both and wish them well.

The Fourth of July Celebration at the corner of Wynnedale Road and Knollton Road was a great success again this year. Bigger and better than ever provided by Eddie Goodknight, 4222 Cold Spring Road. What an easy way to enjoy the fireworks without having to drive anywhere! Just bring your own chair and enjoy!

Eddie Goodnight

Matthew & Jena Schneider

Rich and Mary Beth Schneider of 2137 Wynnedale Road traveled to June Lake, Calif., in September for the wedding of their son Matthew to Jena Eiden. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon in Tulum, Mexico, and will make their home in Austin, Texas.

The 2017 Labor Day Picnic was well attended again this year. The food was great as usual. Thank you to the neighbors who brought tables. It is the one time of the year when parents, kids and neighbors can get together and visit. We had a few new neighbors come and we hope they enjoyed the event. This was our 42nd year for the picnic. There was a red plastic tray and two serving spoons left at the picnic. To claim them, contact Sue Rice at 317-291-6881

Janet Gibson

Jack Clarke

Candace & Josh Darring

If anyone wants additional copies of the current or past issues of the **Wynnedale News** go to the online repository at https://www.wynnedale.org/newsletter/ and select the issue or issues to view and/or print or email a pdf copy to family or friends.

Massive Yard Sale

Paul Vatali and David Vass of 4248 Cold Spring Road invite all their Wynnedale neighbors to drop by beginning 8:30 a.m. October 14 and 15 for some hot apple cider, donuts and a chance to walk through our renovated home and shop for 'treasures' before the garage sale is opened to everyone at 9 a.m.

The couple said the sale is "17 years in the making." Their new home, built in 1956, has been completely refurbished with an eye toward the original mid-century look, and while still a work in progress, who doesn't like to look at a neighbor's house?

The garage sale will include furniture, a riding lawn mower, Fiesta, Hall and Russell Wright, collectibles. Plus vintage material, cool knick-knacks, cookbooks, lighting, kitchenware, small appliances, men's suits and casual wear ranging in size from 32" – 40" / 42 – 48 jackets,. Also included will be a double-sink countertop, chairs, stools, dressers, side tables, wigs, TV, printer/scanner, CDs & DVDs, mirrors, deco and modern artwork and much more!

"We really have been saving all this stuff for 17 years and there really is something for everyone."

Ten percent of the sales will be donated to Wynnedale by Paul and David to put towards a worthy project.

The pre-sale open house and sale will take place rain or shine, and please tell your friends!

No Ifs Ands or Butts *By Robin Reagan…AKA "The Litter Lady"*

News Alert: Cigarette butts do not break down and quickly disappear.

Butts can take weeks to months to up 10 years to decompose because of the cellulose acetate in the filter.

And here's another News Alert: Plastic dog poop bags do not decompose! It's considerate of walkers to pick up after their pet, but when they throw carefully tied poop bags into the bushes along our streets they both negate picking up the poop and make our neighborhood worse for everyone.

Yes, I'm that person you see with multiple bulging plastic bags out walking our noisy schnauzer, Ruby. You may have thought, "Could that little dog really poop that much?!" No, she didn't. I've been picking up litter.

Evidently, the most common littered objects are fast food trash, paper, aluminum, glass and plastic. So much of it can be recycled. This litter is offensive, but unfortunately another source of litter is debris that's scattered during garbage and recycling pick up. Please tie your rubbish bags before tossing it in your garbage bin. I've found prescription labels, financial information and other personal items I suspect you don't want on the ground in front of your home. And please don't make the mistake I did once by tossing shredded office paper loose into my recycling bin. It went everywhere. Now I either bag or box it in something recyclable and then recycle.

Littering can cause accidents (think dodging cars), lower property values and harm both flora and fauna, not to mention damaging our streams and White River. If you see someone littering, please say something! Sometimes just backing your car up is enough to cause someone to stop which happened to me once when I drove past a man illegally dumping on 42nd street. If you witness illegal dumping, please call the Mayor's Action Center (MAC) at 327-4MAC or visit online at indy.gov to report the incident.

Equally important: If you catch someone doing something right, give them an Attaboy or thank you! I try to pick up 3 pieces of litter every day. Can you make it harder for me by joining me with a one-piece-of-litter per day goal? It can be in Wynnedale, while you're out and about, or walking in to work through a parking lot or garage. Reducing litter is a simple three-step process: stop littering, pick up litter, and report it if you find someone littering illegally. Let's keep our neighborhood and our city cleaner and healthier.

Magoo's California Pizza

By Jack Clarke

In my previous contributions to The Wynnedale News, I've written about old trees, our historic seclusion and walking in the woods. Now I'm writing about something we Clarkes know something about: FOOD!

This is the initial article of the Wynnedale Carnivore's Dining Guide. Vegans can fast forward to the business report.

About five years ago, The New York Times' dining section had a series about culinary areas in cities across the United States. A food writer travelled the country finding interesting restaurants in various cities. (That's a JOB?) In Naptown, the writer focused on the 38th Street and Lafayette Road area. YIKES! All the restaurants were various ethnic eateries: Ethiopian, Peruvian, Mexican and Asian.

One stood out: Magoo's California Pizza.

Magoo's is located in Georgetown Plaza at 4919 W. 38th St. among Chinese and Halal restaurants and markets, beauty parlors and nail shops.

Magoo's was founded by a Pakistani family who immigrated to the U.S. through California -- hence, the California reference. The Magoo part I couldn't figure out. Maybe they're fans of American cartoons or Jim Backus, I don't know.

Magoo's was established here in 2006 and now has another location in Avon. It is a classic pizza joint with a few twists. First, all ingredients are pork free, Halal. The meats are beef, poultry or lamb. The sausage and pepperoni are excellent beef products. The veggies are always fresh and the crusts are never soggy. The cheese and vegetarian pies are probably very good; the meat pizzas rock!

What really makes Magoo's special is their specialties. Magoo's Chicken Tikka Pizza and Chappli Kabob Pizza are unique. Chicken Tikka Pizza is white sauced pizza with chicken and veggies. Unfortunately, the gentleman I spoke with could not explain what Tikka Sauce is but I can tell you it's good. Chappli is a savory Asian spice mix for ground meat. Among other things it has red pepper, ginger, cumin, coriander, garlic and who knows what else.

Magoo's Chappli Kabob Pizza is the Clarke favorite. The ground lamb and chappli kabob make great pizzas and sandwiches. The sides, including fries and potato wedges, onion rings and garlic breads, are excellent. The chicken wings are spicy and not greasy. They also make Chappli hamburgers. Watch out! Magoo's also makes Magzones, a Magoo's version of the Calzone with all their pizza ingredients. They also sell Chappli Kabob in bulk.

At Magoo's, I suggest carryout. It's kind of a stark place with limited beverage selections. There is no alcohol and limited soft drinks.

Magoo's is closed on Mondays, and opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 10 p.m. during the week and 11 p.m. on weekends. The website is: www.Magooscalpizza.com and their phone is 317-293-4411.

Do yourself a favor. Give Magoo's a try!

A Wynnedale Poet's Ties to Carl Sandburg

by Sue Rice, Wynnedale Historian

Ruth Allison Coates loved reading and writing poetry.

And it was a visit to the home of another poet, the famed Carl Sandburg, that led not only to a poem in tribute to him but to an enduring long-distance friendship and correspondence.

Ruth and her husband Robert built their home at 4340 Knollton Road in 1952. Robert had been a lieutenant colonel in the Army Air Forces in World War II. He came home to become a successful attorney in Indianapolis and was instrumental in helping Wynnedale keep Knollton Road closed to traffic. Their son Steve is the current owner of the family home.

Ruth was a well-known poet, having written several books and works for magazines. She sold her first story when she was only 15. In addition, she was a fine artist and exhibited her works in the Hoosier Salon, a juried exhibition.

In 1956, she took her four children to the birthplace home of Carl Sandburg in Galesburg, Ill. It inspired her to write a beautiful and moving poem, which made her admiration of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Sandburg obvious.

She mailed it to Sandburg, and he responded.

"There can be no thanking you for that poem. It came from you as a flowing, inevitable music with flowers and promises. You may know it will go far and be cherished," he wrote.

He requested through the president of the Galesburg museum that the poem be sent to the Chicago Sunday Tribune to be printed in the Magazine of Books section. It appeared in the Feb. 10, 1957, issue.

Over the years correspondence continued between her and Sandburg, who died in 1967.

"He sent me a picture of himself with his brother-in-law and whenever a book of his came out he would send me a copy," Ruth, who died in 2003, once said. "I never met Carl Sandburg but I always felt like I knew him."

Visiting Carl Sandburg's Birthplace

by Ruth Allison Coates

These have made me cry:
The pains of birth,
The death of a loved one,
A tattered flag,
A web of divinity from a violin
A lonliness,
A sunset,
A kiss.

And now, this day, I add another –
A small, brown house on Third street
In Galesburg, Illinois.

Why do I weep?
I am not sure.
The sounds of children in the neighboring lots,
And the wail of the train,
And the warm, purple twilight, breeze-blessed,
And the small college square,
Are the same as a hundred other places I have touched.

Why do I weep?
I think I know
It is because my four young children
Stand stalwart and wide-eyed and un-awed
And ask: "Who's Carl Sandburg?"
And I, aching to tear apart the snail-pace of their learning hearts
And cram the awful rent
With the unearthly balm of ache and joy
And visions,
And sounds and patterns of words
And shapes of beauty,
And the majestic awe of the divinity and kinship of the Souls of man –
I stand defeated before I speak.

I weep because
My own cannot fathom the tears
In my small answer:
"He is a poet."
And I weep because I will be gone
When someday they will weep,
Revisiting the small brown house on Third Street
As their children, standing stalwart,
Will ask:
"Who is Carl Sandburg?"

And the sounds of children in the neighborhing lots,
And the wail of a train,
And the warm purple twilight,
And the small college square,
Will be the same forever
And ever
And ever.