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BUTLER-TARKINGTON NEWS

WINTER 2020 // WWW.BUTLERTARKINGTON.ORG // VOL. 65, NO. 4



DOING ESSENTIAL WORK DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

MLK Center stepping up and in to serve the Butler-Tarkington community

BROOKLYN LOWERY | BTNA Board Member

“Essential workers” feels like one of those phrases you’ve always known, but that has quietly existed in the back of your mind as a vague and comforting concept, like gravity or buoyancy or time. You’re aware of these things but their very reliability means you really haven’t given them that much thought. You may know who essential worker are – doctors, nurses, delivery persons, grocery store clerks, firefighters and so many more – but had you ever really named them before March 2020?

As we reflect on the year that was and dig deeper into the idea of essential workers and all they have meant of late, let’s take a moment to talk about one group of essential workers, and their essential work, that you may still have overlooked during this tumultuous year even though you likely drive past them often.

Since long before the pandemic and now during its continued

threat, the MLK Center here in the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood has served people young and old, wealthy and poor, black and white, gay and straight and every other way we unnecessarily categorize our neighbors, with compassion, determination, kindness and, when needed, even tough love.

This has not been an easy year for anyone, including those workers at the MLK Center. But to the people they’ve served through this pandemic, they have no doubt been essential, helping navigate the ins and outs of e-learning, providing meals for hungry neighbors, assisting with rent and utility payments and just overall meeting the needs of the community – particularly the children and families of nearby IPS School #43.

“The students from School #43 are very resilient and amazing,”

MLK | continued on page 4

BUTLER BRIEFS

CLASSES TO RESUME ON JANUARY 25

The spring semester will begin on January 25, 2021, and at this time, the University is planning to hold classes in person. Therefore, all students will again be tested on campus for COVID-19 upon arrival, between January 12 and January 24. Sorority and fraternity recruitment will be held virtually this year January 20-24.

As was practice for the fall semester, the spring session will be void of breaks to minimize the number of times students come and go from campus. After starting classes on January 25, the last day of instruction will be April 27, with exams ending on May 4.

Following the spring semester, Commencements for May, August, and December 2020 graduates—along with May 2021 graduates—are planned to occur in a series of ceremonies that will take place on May 8 and 9, 2021.

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON SCIENCES PROJECT

Primary construction efforts on campus are centered around Butler's \$100M investment into the sciences with a renovation and expansion, involving Gallahue Hall and Holcomb Building on the northwest corner of the academic quad. Phase I is taking shape in the form of a 44,000 square foot central complex and atrium connecting the two academic buildings and changing the campus skyline. Meanwhile, the Phase II renovation of the Holcomb Building continues with a host of interior and exterior installations and improvements to repurpose the facility. Phases I and II are nearing the end of their 18-month timeline and will segue to the third phase, a complete renovation of Gallahue Hall, the first since its construction in 1973.

The Sciences Expansion and Renovation Project is the largest infrastructure investment in University history and is a key funding priority of the Butler Beyond comprehensive fundraising campaign. The initiative is an early step in Butler's new strategic direction, centered on expanding the University's impact beyond its current students and beyond the borders of campus by serving the needs of the broader Central Indiana community, particularly in the area of workforce development.

REMINDER: HOMESTEAD AND MORTGAGE EXEMPTIONS

KELLY LAVENGOOD | BTNA Board Member

If you own the home you live in, you are eligible for a homestead exemption on your property taxes. The homestead deduction means that your property taxes will be roughly 1% of the property's assessed value, plus any additional amounts due to voter approved tax referenda, such as the IPS referendum that was approved in 2018. Investment properties or second homes are taxed at roughly 2% of the property's assessed value.

Typically, the homestead deduction is filed by the title company when you purchase your property, however it is still your responsibility to check and make sure the deduction was recorded with the county. If you refinance, file a quit claim deed, or any other action resulting in a new deed being recorded, you will need to file again for a homestead deduction.

“If you have a mortgage on a property, whether it is your primary home, you are also eligible to file for a mortgage exemption, which should result in a slight deduction to your property taxes.”

If you have owned your home for a long period of time, it is a good idea to review your property tax statement or check with the auditor's office to make sure your homestead exemption is on file. A few years ago the state required each homeowner to fill out and return a pink info sheet to keep their homestead deduction in place. The intention was to remove falsely filed homestead exemptions from investment properties. If you failed to fill out and send back the pink sheet, your homestead exemption may have been removed causing a large increase to your property tax bill. Instructions to file are included below.

If you have a mortgage on a property, whether it is your primary home, you are also eligible to file for a mortgage exemption, which should result in a slight deduction to your property taxes. This is often not filed by a title company at closing. To check that your exemption is in place, you can call the Marion County Auditor at 317.327.4646 and press 1. Let them know you are calling to verify your property tax deductions are in place. You can also check the auditor's website www.indy.gov/agency/marion-county-auditors-office. From this website you can apply for homestead and mortgage exemptions or search current deductions for your property. Please double check that your exemptions are in place before the end of the year.

If you need any assistance, the Lavengood Team at Plat Collective would be happy to assist. You can reach us at info@goodlivingindy.com or 317.517.0980 to reach Kelly directly.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2021 IS ALSO GOING TO SEE SOME EXCITING NEW INITIATIVES FROM BTNA

Happy holidays Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood! I hope our final newsletter of 2020 finds you and your family safe and well as we can conclude what has been a very trying year for the neighborhood and our city. With the unfortunate reality of the pandemic during the past nine months, BTNA has been unable to hold many of our traditional public meetings at the MLK Center, and other events and outreach has been curtailed. As we head into 2021, we anticipate that we may still need to conduct some remote meetings, but we hope that we can get back to our normal in-person meetings and other activities soon. Whether remote or in-person, I encourage our neighbors to join us for our meetings. Keep an eye on the website and social media for information about the meetings, and most importantly, look out for each other.

On a public safety front, there have been a few instances of criminal activities in the neighborhood over the past few months. BTNA stays in contact with the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Office of Code Enforcement, Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate, and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department to ensure we are working towards public safety on different

levels within the neighborhood. But neighborhood safety also starts at the block level, where neighbors know each other, keep an eye on their block, and contact the authorities if suspicious or criminal behavior is spotted. I, and the BTNA, will continue to be in close contact with law enforcement, but I encourage neighbors to be aware and speak up if they have concerns on their block.

2021 is also going to see some exciting new initiatives from BTNA. First, our new website will be launching soon. Additionally, we will be launching a new committee structure which we hope will allow board members and residents to engage in more effective community outreach. These new committees will consist of members of the BTNA board and residents of Butler-Tarkington. The standing committees include land-use, outreach, and communications, while additional, ad hoc committees, will be created as needed to address certain issues. Descriptions of these committees will be posted to our website soon and we encourage residents interested in participating to reach out via social media or bt-napresident@gmail.com.

Wishing you a safe and healthy end to the year and the same as we start 2021!

DO YOU LIKE TO WRITE?

Do you have an issue or subject you care about that you think your neighbors would be interested in? We welcome contributions of articles, short prose, or poetry. We would also welcome anyone who would be interested in becoming a part of our newsletter team, or part of the communications committee.

Please email andra.liepa@gmail.com with questions or to volunteer!

MLK | *continued from page 1*

said Allison Luthe, executive director of the MLK Center. “It took a few weeks to get everyone set with technology and internet access that could accommodate multiple students at home, but everyone is on track now.”

Luthe said that one of the biggest problems the center has seen emerge from the disruption to school is a decline in student reading levels resulting from less in-person instruction. But the center, with its deep relationships and successful programs already in place, is adapting to meet that need by matching more students with tutors and providing books for reading at home with parents and siblings. It’s just one example of how this existing organization, with its strong programs and relationships in the neighborhood, has pivoted quickly to meet needs during this time.

Even as needs have increased throughout this bizarre year, Luthe said the outpouring of support and new donors and volunteers from the neighborhood has been amazing and humbling. “I have been pleasantly surprised by the dramatic increase in new donors to the organization, mostly from the neighborhood, as well as all of the volunteer inquires during such uncertain and challenging times,” she said. “We met our fundraising goal for programming despite the pandemic and got more new donors from March to August 2020 than we had in all of 2019. Neighbors have gotten so creative in the ways they’re giving back.”



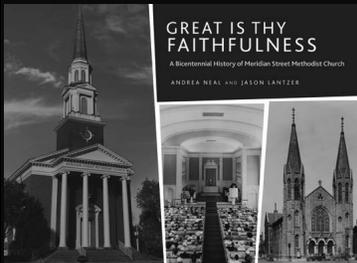
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But even with all the support, there are some things that simply can't avoid a pandemic roadblock.

Projects delayed but not forgotten

Think back to the hopeful early days of 2020 – you know, 2020 BC (before coronavirus). At that time, the MLK Center had launched into a more than \$2 million capital campaign several years in the planning. A successful campaign would allow the center to complete necessary building and infrastructure updates including a complete HVAC replacement (\$611,000); window replacement/curtain wall (\$300,000); electrical replacement (\$445,000); and first floor interior improvements (\$350,000) as well as fund the additional soft costs and design and construction costs (\$518,000) for a total project cost of just over \$2.2 million.

The United Way of Central Indiana capital fund committee has committed \$1 million in the form of a matching grant, but that means the MLK Center needs to raise an additional \$1.2 million. Things were going well after the center managed to secure two grants totaling 40% of what they need to raise. But then COVID-19 struck.

“Unfortunately, we had two large grants pending to support our building remodel project,” Luthe said. “Those grants have been tabled to 2021 because the foundations have decided to provide emergency support during the pandemic... so we’ve had to extend

the timeline while we raise more money.”

Luthe remains hopeful that the support will come even as the reality of the need looms over the work the center does. “We’re not sure how many more seasons the building infrastructure can last since the system and the windows are original to the 1962 building,” Luthe explained. “We can’t provide programming if the heat and air don’t work.”

Bright days ahead

Still, in the midst of uncertainty and a pandemic, the MLK Center is forging ahead with a cadre of eager (and essential) workers and volunteers as well as big plans for 2021 and beyond.

“We’ve hired Davis Associates as our general construction manager and are excited with all of the potential improvements and changes that will make the building more energy efficient and less expensive to run programming,” Luthe said.

She pointed out, though, that the work the center does is possible only with the attention and support of the community. The pandemic is keeping volunteers from physically visiting the center, but Luthe said neighbors shouldn’t let out of sight become out of mind.

She asked neighbors to keep the center in mind as you consider year-end and holiday giving and to stay in touch via the MLK Center social media pages and or by signing up for the e-newsletter. Old-fashioned phone and email are also options if you have questions or ideas, Luthe said. “We need everyone to be a champion for our mission,” Luthe said. “Tell everyone you know about the important work we’re doing to make sure children and youth have the best opportunity they can possibly have to learn, play, grow and find peace.”

You can learn more about the MLK Center’s capital campaign at mlkcenterindy.org/building/

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(317) 283-6516 | CARSON.HOUSE.GOV

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GOVERNOR ERIC HOLCOMB

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STATE SENATOR GREG TAYLOR

(317) 232-9432 | S33@IN.GOV

STATE SENATOR JOHN RUCKLESHAUS

(317) 232-9400 | SENATOR.RUCKELSHAUS@IGA.IN.GOV

STATE REPRESENTATIVE GREG PORTER

1-800-382-9842 | IN.GOV/H96

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ED DELANEY

1-800-382-9842 | IN.GOV/H86

MAYOR JOE HOGSETT

(317) 327-3601 | INDY.GOV/MAYOR

NATALIE VANDONGEN, MAYOR'S N'HOOD ADVOCATE

(317) 327-5121 | NATALIE.VANDONGEN@INDY.GOV

MAYOR'S ACTION CENTER/REQUEST INDY

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT: DARYL MASON GIVES BACK TO HIS ROOTS

BRENDA VANCE PASCHAL | *BTNA Board Member*

Darryl Mason recently presented School #43 Principal Lauren Johnson with a \$500 donation. The donation was from a 50's-60' Golden Era reunion of Indianapolis high school basketball players. Darryl is a graduate of James Whitcomb Riley School #43 and Broad Ripple High School and Butler University Hall of Fame inductee.



Darryl's family has lived in the Butler-Tarkington community since 1954. Darryl's parents, Joe and Dr. Evelyn Mason, Ph.D. were active in the community. They both served on the BTNA board of directors, where they were responsible for getting new sidewalks for the southern area of the neighborhood.

“Darryl Mason recently presented School #43 Principal Lauren Johnson with a \$500 donation.”

Both Joe and Dr. Evelyn Mason were educators. Dr. Evelyn Mason began teaching at school #43 in 1956 as a fourth-grade teacher. Dr. Mason continued her tenure at School #43 until 1970 when she was named the first reading supervisor for the Indianapolis Public Schools. While serving IPS in a supervisory position, she was an adjunct professor at Butler University.

Mr. Mason was employed at IPS, where he was a teacher and guidance counselor. The youth were Mr. Mason's passion. Mr. Mason was the recreation director at School #43 and he oversaw the after school recreational programs three nights a week. Mr. Mason also coached little league baseball at Tarkington Park.

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT: KURLYKOILS

Address: 4151 Boulevard Pl

Established: 2015 (Moved to BT in 2019)

Website: www.kurlykoils.com

Social Media Handles:

Instagram: @kurlykoils317

Twitter: @kurlykoils

Facebook: Kurlykoils

Email: bri@kurlykoils.com

Owner: Britteny Davidson

Hours:

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How did your business get started?

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KURLYKOILS | continued on page 9



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Neighbors, when you work with or visit these organizations, please remember to tell them you saw their ad in our newsletter so they know their advertising works!

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KURLYKOILS | continued from page 7





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What made Butler-Tarkington an appealing neighborhood for your business?

Butler-Tarkington was close to Broad Ripple and we needed to expand to a bigger space, but not too far from where we were. A big thank you to Michael McKillip at Midtown for telling me about the space that now houses Kurlykoils. My aunt lives on Rockwood so I visited BT often as a child. My grand-

mother also lived on Kenwood and served on the BTNA board while she was with us.

What would you want the residents of Butler-Tarkington to know about your business?

I am extremely grateful that my business survived 3 months of being closed due to COVID-19. We have an amazing and friendly staff and we are all looking forward to being in Butler-Tarkington and building a great client base here.

Do you have any events/promotions coming up in the near future?

We are doing a food drive for Boulevard Place Food Pantry. Bring 2 food items to get \$1 off, up to \$20 off. More details on our Instagram!



BTNA ADOPT-A-BLOCK DRIVE A SUCCESS

Thank you to all the BTNA neighbors who joined us on Saturday, October 10 at Ramsey Park to sign up to adopt their blocks through the Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Adopt-A-Block program. Those who volunteered to keep their blocks litter free were presented with free tools and supplies, and future access to programming (hopefully in-person in 2021).

It also means access to funding that can help expand community relations and strengthen neighborhood ties. The Adopt-A-Block program encourages neighborhood volunteers to participate in community activities. Street by street, neighbors inspire each other by setting an example of environmental and community stewardship, dramatically improving their quality of life.

Studies show that neighborhoods with high Adopt-A-Block participation are leaders in developing pocket parks, community tree plantings, and vibrant greenspace projects throughout the city. Some form neighborhood watch groups and improve their safety.

If you weren't able to attend the October event you can still sign-up to on the Keep Indianapolis Beautiful website at www.kibi.org/adopt-block.

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NEIGHBORHOOD IMAGES: SCENES FROM OUR STREETS, OUR BLOCKS AND OUR NEIGHBORS ACROSS BUTLER-TARKINGTON



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About the Newsletter

Butler-Tarkington News is the official newsletter of the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association (BTNA) and is funded with donations 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 newsletter, please contact the editor. For information about advertising, please contact the advertising manager. Letters to the Editor are encouraged and should be sent to the editor.

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