

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

FALL 2018



thomas park  
avondale

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Did you know there is a group of residents, non-profits, businesses and other citizens working to improve quality of life in the Thomas Park/Avondale neighborhood? Did you know there is place for you to be involved? The 8twelve Coalition formed a couple of years ago to focus on the good things here-committed neighbors, churches, leaders, and organizations-and bring them together to help improve the neighborhood.

There are teams of people working together to improve housing, education & family engagement, beautification, and business/job development. But first of all, they are working to build a stronger sense of community through activities like neighborhood events, and then, they work together on projects in the neighborhood.

Who are 'they'? They are your neighbors. It's Jacquie and the staff & volunteers at the Ross Community Center, Jeff who tends the garden at the corner of 10th & Sampson, Bryan & Lindsey down by the Maring-Hunt Library. And they want you to join them. This is your neighborhood, too, and what you dream about matters.

Join us on Monday, October 1st from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at South View Elementary. Learn about what has been happening, how you can be a part of it, and share your dreams as we keep making plans to improve quality of life right here in Thomas Park/Avondale. There will be dinner and childcare.

Check out all of the other upcoming dates listed on the back of this newsletter, too!



# MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



## OUR NEIGHBOR DEBBIE

Debbie and Robert “Buck” Smith have lived in the Thomas Park Avondale neighborhood for 28 years. They purchased their home the same year they were married, 1995. Now retired, Debbie worked 30 years as an LPN, beginning her career with a degree from Ivy Tech Richmond.

A quiet, peaceful backyard is what Debbie values greatly. “Relaxing in the pool, in the sun with friends” is where you’ll find her most summer days. Sammy Joe, a 2-year old pit bull rescue mix, is her constant companion.

Debbie is a member of Avondale United Methodist Church, a block from her home, where she is Treasurer. Her church and her family are her two biggest investments. Buck is in the Laborers International Local 1112, and you’ll see him working on the house or scrapping metal in his free time. They have two adult children, Brandon and Cassie.

When you see the Smith Family, say “hello!”

## NEIGHBORHOOD MEAL CREATES CAMARADERIE AND CONNECTION



On Thursday evenings, the smell of meat on the grill and the sound of laughter fills the Avondale neighborhood, specifically on the corner of 10th Street and Sampson Ave. The sight of volunteers setting up tables, cutting fruit and vegetables, and walking the streets provokes questions and interest. Yet, for over a year now, the folks at Avondale United Methodist Church have opened up their doors and prepared a hot meal that is served to over 75 guests each week. The simple act of sharing food has led to neighbors trusting each other, openly sharing their thoughts and ideas, building new relationships, and serving together in the neighborhood.

While the meal was initially established to feed hungry stomachs, the servers and the guests have found that the event also fills social and spiritual needs too. The meal has become a way for neighborhood people to get to know one another. After all, food is powerful. It brings people together, shapes memories, and empowers our communities. Though easy to forget while we’re rushing through our day, sharing a meal is an intimate experience, and those who sit beside us at the table can feel this intimacy. Bonds with loved ones become stronger, and strangers feel like strangers no more.

Thursday nights have become an established place of food, peace, and friendship in the neighborhood. Dinner is served at 5:00pm but the coffee pot is normally on by 4:00 for those who like to come early to socialize. You’re invited to join.

# AVONDALE NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN



The Avondale Neighborhood Garden was built by Lowe's in 2016 as a way for neighbors to connect and grow produce together.

Right now there are numerous tomatoes and peppers ready for eating! Please feel free to come by and introduce yourself to Jeff Brubaker, garden caretaker, and pick some fresh veggies for your family! All neighbors are welcome!

Jeff graciously took on the job of organizing the garden this year, and he is looking for neighbors and friends to join in planning and organizing for 2019. Muncie Habitat and Jeff invite you to join the Beautification Committee to help organize and plan for an even more successful year next year! Please call Lindsey at 765-286-5739 if you are interested.



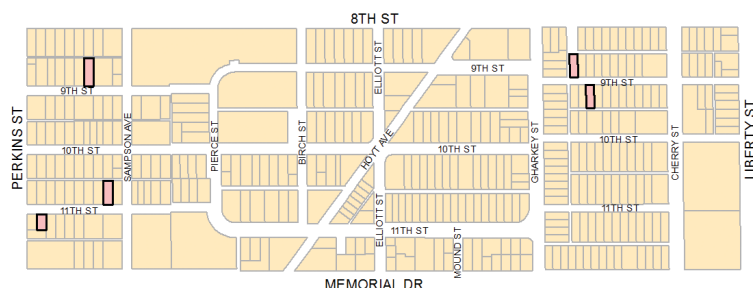
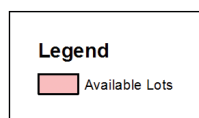
**DO YOU NEED  
REPAIRS ON  
YOUR HOME?**

Habitat for Humanity  
would LOVE to help!

Call us today at  
(765) 286-5739.

## WANT TO HELP BEAUTIFY YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Residents are already helping to mow properties, but we have 5 more that could use some TLC. We will provide the gas and have \$25 gift cards as a thank you. Give us a call at 765-286-5739.



Shapefiles provided by Delaware County, Indiana, GIS Department & the United States Census Bureau  
Projected in the East Indiana, State Plane NAD 83 (2011) Feet Projection.

# EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER 15, 7:45AM - 12NOON:

Neighborhood Clean-up (breakfast and lunch provided)

**SEPTEMBER 12 - 19:** First-ever Dumpster Days - **free**, labeled dumpsters located around neighborhood

**SEPTEMBER 22, 1 - 5PM:** Scarecrow Festival (everyone welcome) - featuring hot cider, popcorn, hotdogs, music, games, and of course prizes for the best Scarecrow!

**OCTOBER 1, 5:30 - 8:00PM:** 8twelve Coalition Resident Meeting @ South View School (dinner and childcare provided)


**OCTOBER 17 & 18, 9AM - 3PM:** Lowe's Days

**OCTOBER 31:** Trunk or Treat events throughout the neighborhood



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