

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

FALL 2019



thomas park
avondale

As the breeze that greets us each day in our neighborhood becomes cooler, we realize that Fall is finally here. We have been lucky so far to still have nice warm days in which we can get out and not feel cold, our kids can play, and many flowers are still blooming around us. As the leaves begin to turn yellow and red, then brown, and fall gently on our grass and our streets, we see the end of one season and the beginning of the next. And so it is in life. We end one chapter and begin the next one in our lives, striving to move forward, with hope that our lives will grow in joy.

As you look around your neighborhood today, do you see any changes? Do you see any cleaner lots, any homes that have been repaired in some way, maybe alleyways that have been cleaned, yards that are no longer overgrown? Do you see neighbors greeting each other more? Do you feel that you can begin to feel prouder of your neighborhood? Think about it. Look around you. It is happening, and you are part of this change, whether you realize it or not. Every time you smile at someone in passing, every time you stop and greet someone, you are making a connection with him or her. Every time you clean your yard, or help someone else keep their yard clean, you are strengthening that connection. Every time you share a meal with a neighbor, every time you help a neighbor out, that bond between you grows even stronger. You are building community together with your small gestures of kindness and friendship – and you may not even realize it. So feel good about yourselves today as you continue your kindness! Thomas Park/Avondale neighbors; you are making our community a better place to live, work, and play. With each new season comes new opportunity to do better than we have before. Let's make this a wonderful season of kindness and friendship together!



8TWELVE HOSTS 'TRUNK OR TREAT' HALLOWEEN ALTERNATIVE

This year, the 8twelve Coalition is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Neighborhood Trunk or Treat in 3 locations this year- Urban Light Community Church, Ross Community Center, & Avondale UMC! This event will take place on Thursday, October 31st from 5:00-7:30pm. It is a fun night of connecting with families, friends, and kids in the neighborhood. Our goal is to have 45 cars lined up on 10th street between Avondale United Methodist Church and the Ross Community Center. Last year, we had over 500 kids (and families) participate!

There will be hot apple cider and a bonfire at the Avondale neighborhood community garden at the corner of 10th and Sampson. We will be passing out free hotdogs, chips, and popcorn in the lawn in front of Avondale UMC . The Ross Center will also have some fun activities going on as well-- a haunted house, Halloween crafts, and a book walk! Another neighborhood partner will provide a coffee stand and a bounce house for kids.

We'd love to see residents come out for this event—please join us!



GATHERING AND ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Thomas Park Avondale has a regular neighborhood gathering on the third Wednesday of every month, 6 pm at the Ross Community Center. Residents have been meeting for almost a year, hosting non-for profits, organizations, and elected officials as well as those running for office. The group assembles and invites policy makers to discuss and try to brainstorm solutions to systemic obstacles and problems faced in our neighborhood. Through meeting and talking with these entities, we believe that we can create the neighborhood we dream of!

We are continuing to grow as a group and welcome any Thomas Park Avondale neighbors to join our gathering! Every neighbor has special gifts and talents that they can bring to our discussion as we explore the future of our neighborhood.



OPEN DOOR: IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OTHERS

Open Door Health Services is a nearby partner in health for those in the Thomas Park Avondale neighborhood. Everyone is welcome at Open Door, regardless of income or health coverage. In fact, if you don't have health insurance, Open Door has staff available at your visit to help you learn about options for insurance, Medicaid, and assistance programs. Visit fees are based on household size and income, and no one is turned away for inability to pay.

Providing expert care in a friendly, judgment-free setting is a priority at Open Door. Whether it's been 10 months or 10 years since your last doctor's visit, an Open Door provider is ready to listen to you and walk alongside you in your health needs.

Los hispanohablantes son bienvenidos y siempre tenemos traductores disponibles. Spanish-speakers welcome! Translation is always available.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE NEAR TPA?

MUNCIE PRIMARY CARE - 333 S. Madison St.

- Adult and pediatric care, including immunizations
- Women's health and prenatal care
- Dental care
- Behavioral health care
- WIC assistance
- Health coverage enrollment
- Social assistance – housing, employment, utilities, etc.

FAMILY PLANNING – 905 S. Walnut St.

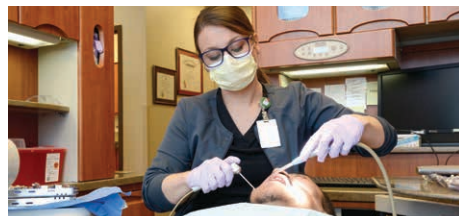
- Low- to no-cost birth control
- STD testing
- Women's health exams

URGENT CARE - 1615 E. 29th St. (by South Walmart)

- Walk-in care

MOBILE UNIT – locations vary; includes South View Elementary

- 8:30-11:30 a.m. on Thursdays (through Dec. 20)
- Adult and pediatric care, including immunizations
- Walk-in care and appointments



Appointments can be scheduled at (765) 286-7000. Questions? Call or visit www.opendoorhs.org.

UNION CHAPEL SERVES SIDE-BY-SIDE NEIGHBORS



Thomas Park-Avondale neighbors welcomed in a large group of volunteers from Union Chapel ministries this summer to collaborate together and participate in home and yard repairs. On September 13th, twenty-six locations were worked on in tandem with neighbors and volunteers. Some of the projects included gutter repair, landscaping, exterior painting, etc.

Linda Hisle, a long time resident of the Thomas Park-Avondale neighborhood, was one of the many neighbors who worked alongside a crew from Union Chapel to do landscaping work around her yard. Volunteers showed up early and worked late into the afternoon pulling weeds, mowing the grass, and

helping with some work that needed many hands to finish. Her favorite part of the experience was working with and getting to know the folks from Union Chapel who helped her. Linda was most excited about coming home later that day to see that the volunteers gifted her some flowers and a pumpkin for the fall season and shared, "I'm very proud of my yard and how great it looked after we finished, even my neighbors are proud of the work done!"

The neighborhood workday provided an avenue for residents to work on home projects which needed more hands. There were some really great projects done this summer towards beautifying the neighborhood. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the day!

SPARKING INNOVATION AND CHANGE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

“What would you do if you received \$500 for neighborhood development?” This question spurred the imagination of 8twelve coalition members, and out of that, the Small Sparks Project was created. For the second year, residents from the area applied and were awarded small grants to carry out projects within the community. This year, a portion of those grants were awarded to children in the area as well. These projects included planting fruit trees for neighbors to enjoy, hosting film nights, building a lending library for friends to read and exchange books with, and a few others geared towards creating relationship within our neighborhood. Below are a couple projects from this summer!

KIDS BIKE CLUB

Neil Kring, along with a couple other residents, began spreading the word to kids in early September about a bike club that would be starting in the neighborhood. Thanks to a \$500 Small Sparks grant from the 8twelve Coalition, a bike club for kids was hosted on Sunday evenings during the month of September. About 8-12 kids consistently participated in the club and would gather each week to learn about bike repairs and eventually build a bike that they would be able to take home at the end of the month.

On the first evening, a few neighbors from 10th street and a few other volunteers showed up and the kids began coming. The 4th and 5th grade kids put together and fixed up a variety of bikes- hybrids, mountain bikes road and box bikes. The kids learned how to do all the work on the bikes themselves each week. On the last day of the club, the group decorated the assembled bikes and everyone went on a ride to Honeycutts Dairy Bar.

This project has given both kids and neighbors something productive to do. It also helped build relationships among residents who didn't know each other. The kids had the opportunity to be around positive adults and older teens who were a part of their lives on Sunday evenings. Kring stated that he is most excited about continuing to build relationships with the kids in his neighborhood as they continue to spend time together on Sunday evenings.



SOUTHSIDE MURAL WALKWAY

There is movement on the Southside. It's tackling narratives and stigmas of hopelessness. A major component of this change has been the development of bonds, experiences, and relationships amongst neighbors. As voices are beginning to be heard, dreams are starting to be understood.

Brian Carless led an art day for his small sparks project in August. Residents and local artists were invited to paint murals that were hung on the 8th street fence that once served as a parking lot to the Chevy plant that once employed most of the neighborhood. Since the factory has been closed for many years, the lots have sat barren and served as a reminder of what once was. “Now, these fences can serve as an easel for inspiring artwork that provokes hope and connectivity amongst neighbors.”

From inspirational quotes to a field of corn at dusk, there's an assortment of art down the mural walkway. The fence stretches for hundreds of feet around the old parking lot with room for lots of art to still be hung. Brian and the Ross Community Center will conduct another paint day in the future.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

Our neighborhood is full of friendly faces and helping hands, but one in particular is Syed Uzzama. Sy, as he's known by neighbors, has a gift for not only feeding friends, but caring for them as well. On any given day you can walk into the Memorial Food Mart and Gas Station and in a matter of minutes, Sy has helped several customers, taken a few phone calls, advised some neighbors, assisted a very large dog in need of chicken, and watched about 30 seconds of a movie (his "downtime"). One of his specialties is fried green tomatoes, delicate but flavorful, and served best with ranch!



Spearheaded by Bryan Preston, the Ross Community Center hosted their District 3 City Council Candidate Forum. It was great to hear neighbors stand and speak about what the biggest assets in the community are, along with opportunities for newly elected officials to tackle. Thank you to everyone who showed up and organized this even and to those candidates who were able to engage in meaningful conversations towards revitalizing our neighborhoods!

Between fishing trips, Sherri Smith and her father, Jim spend time enjoying the view from their breezy porch on Gharkey. "As long as you don't put a stake in the ground, you can camp anywhere," Sherri explained a tip she received from a DNR officer years ago. "I brought my kids up canoeing and camping along the river, fishing, hunting and trapping. They never got into any trouble with drugs or anything like that because they'd be out in the woods instead. They're adults now, but they still love it. They go camping and hunting anytime they can get away." Smith and her girlfriend moved into the neighborhood from Marion to be closer to a daughter attending Ball State. They feel at home and that the Thomas ark Avondale Neighborhood is a good place for them now! Especially while enjoying a porkchop dinner cooked over a backyard fire.



Saturday morning ukulele jam session in the Community Garden Pavillion, Maring-Hunt Public Library Ukulele Jam Sessions are free and open to the public. All are welcome to come listen, sing, or bring other instruments to play. For more info, visit [tinyurl/munciesings](http://tinyurl.com/munciesings).

WHEN HOUSES BECOME HOMES

Results from surveys that were completed in the spring and early fall by over 200 neighbors are in! The 8twelve Coalition wishes to thank all of you who took the survey and worked to administer the survey. Here are a few highlights we learned from the survey. This is only a few of our favorite highlights from the data we have and hope to share more with you soon. Thanks again for your participation!

86.96%

of those who took the survey feel at home in this neighborhood.

81.16%

believe that this neighborhood is a good place to live.

70.53%

stated that they care about what their neighbors think of their actions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, 6PM:

Neighborhood Gathering at the Ross Center.
Dinner and childcare are provided.

FRIDAYS, 5 - 6:30PM: FREE Community Market at the Ross Center

OCTOBER 31, 4 - 8PM: Trunk or Treat

Locations:

Maring-Hunt Library @ 4 pm,

Avondale UMC & Ross Community Center @ 5 pm,

Urban Light @ 5 pm

DECEMBER 14, 4 - 6PM: Ross Community Center
Annual Christmas Party



Thomas Park Avondale Neighborhood Gathering  gtwelvecollition@gmail.com 


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thomas park
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1923 S. Hoyt Avenue
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