



FAITH AND BEGORRAH!

These brave daffodils and jaunty shamrocks proclaim the arrival of St. Patrick's Day in front of the Fawn Hill Terrace home of Paloma Spray.



Beautiful snow-covered daffodils at the top of the page were photographed in the garden of Bob and Marilyn Hunter, Wheatcroft Court.

Windridge Resident Judy Eckerson Reflects On a Life of Amazing "Good Fortune"

Author John Passaro once wrote, "There is a club in this world that you do not join knowingly. One day you are just a member. It is the Life Changing Events Club." Many of us have experienced that one second in time - the one that sets our lives on a completely different trajectory. Windridge neighbor Judy Eckerson experienced a "life changing event" at the age of four when a tragic loss altered the course of her young life. And yet, in spite of this tragedy, Judy says "When I look back on the circumstances of my life, I'm amazed at my good fortune."

Judy's mother Lucina Ball, was born and raised in Muncie, IN. A gifted pianist, she attended Sarah Lawrence College to study music. While still in college, she met and fell in love with a surgeon on the staff of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City.

They married, intending to stay in the area. But fate intervened and, when the Pearl Harbor attack propelled the U.S. into World War II, Judy's father, Edwin Eckerson, enlisted in the army.

On April 25, 1945, just three months before the end of the war, Judy's father, Major Edwin B. Eckerson was performing surgery on the USS Comfort, a hospital ship sailing near Okinawa. A kamikaze pilot crashed his plane into the unarmed, lighted, non-combatant ship. The plane slammed into the ship's surgery. Major Eckerson and at least two dozen other medical staff and patients were killed. Judy's mother was left to raise their two little girls, Judy, then four, and her sister, Anne, two.

Perhaps optimism is a genetic thing and some souls refuse to languish in sorrow forever because after several years, Judy's mother eventually remarried, bringing Sam Mosley into Judy's life - a man she and Ann called Daddy, who raised them as his own.

Following the end of his military commitment, Judy's stepfather accepted a job opportunity that took the newlyweds to Mexico City for two years. During this hectic transition, Judy and Ann stayed in Indiana with Lucina's parents. Once the couple was settled, the girls' grandparents escorted them to their new home. During their stay in Mexico, the girls learned to speak Spanish and formed loving bonds with caregivers whose relationships with the family continued over the years.

When another job opportunity brought the family back to Indianapolis in the 1950s, both girls attended then-Tudor Hall School. Enjoying the proximity to their mother's family, the sisters

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Judy Eckerson and Lovey

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 29

Millersville Binford Cleanup: For more info, contact Diane Gardner at: 371-879-5007

FTC Update: Email Phishing Fraud Advisory And Warning of Recent Windridge Attacks



The previous issue of *Windreader* discussed phone call scams. Unfortunately, several Windridge residents have been contacted recently by Internet scammers. To help readers have a better understanding of this type of crime, the following information on email phishing is taken from a Federal Trade Commission Consumer Information advisory.

When Internet fraudsters try to trick you into giving them your personal information, it's called phishing. Don't reply to email, text, or pop-up messages that ask for your personal or financial information. Don't click on links within them - even if the message seems to be from an organization you trust. It isn't. Legitimate businesses don't ask you to send them sensitive information via email.

Here are examples of email Phishing Messages:

- We suspect an unauthorized transaction on your account. Please click here to confirm your identity.
- During a regular audit, we couldn't verify your information. Please click here to update your account.
- Our records indicate that your account was overcharged. You must call within seven days to receive your refund.

How can you deal with on-line Phishing scams?

- Delete email and texts that ask you to confirm or provide personal information (credit card, Social Security, or bank account numbers).
- The messages may appear to be from organizations you do business with, e.g., banks. *(Continue on Pg. 3)*

spent many happy summers at their grandparents' cottage on Lake Macinkuckee. Years later, these idyllic summers were chronicled in "East Shore Summers," a memoir written by Judy and illustrated by Ann.

Following high school, Judy attended Brown University in Rhode Island. Her return to the eastern seaboard triggered happy memories of her early childhood. Judy says she felt that she'd "come home." While at school, she met and fell in love with a fellow Brown student. They married in 1963, during the height of the Viet Nam War, and her husband soon began his military commitment to the U.S. Navy.

Over the next 12 years, their family - including daughter Breck and son Scott - was stationed in a half dozen seaside communities. For Judy, these moves provided opportunities to meet new people, relish the coastal lifestyle, and begin to experiment with writing, mostly memoir and poetry.

When her husband retired from the navy in 1966, the family relocated to New York City where Judy's husband attended grad school at Columbia University. In search of career advancement, he accepted a job offer in the Indianapolis area and they lived on the city's north side. The children were enrolled in Park-Tudor School.

During this time, Judy was the typical homemaker, serving as a school PTA officer, overseeing her children's activities, enjoying the nearness of family, and reconnecting with childhood friends. She also completed a bachelor's degree in journalism from Butler University. She took on freelance writing assignments, sold a number of journal projects, and discovered that she loved writing poetry - an affinity that continues to this day. In 1981, when both children were in their teens, Judy and her husband divorced and she spent the next several years focused on their needs and also honing her writing skills.

As a child, and later as a married woman, Judy's travels had been dictated by the demands of her parents' and her husband's careers. However, once the children were no longer living at home, she found herself in the unique position of being able to live wherever she liked and to travel as she pleased.

Thus began a series of moves, several of which took her back and forth between Indianapolis and her beloved Cape Cod. "I loved that part of the country and have never gotten tired of how beautiful it is," Judy says. Her sister Ann, an accomplished artist, was also divorced and they began to explore their shared passion for the open road. Together, using Ann's RV, and separately, they looked for opportunities to see a broader world. This included Judy's sojourns throughout the northern United States, western Canada, and visits to Ann who spent periods of time living in Colorado, Wisconsin, and North Carolina. The family passion for travel also included group excursions with their parents and other relatives through Europe and Russia, and a series of annual cruises.

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(One recent scammer used a Bright House logo.)

- They might threaten to close your account or take other action if you don't respond.
- Don't reply, and don't click on links or call phone numbers provided in the message. These messages direct you to spoof sites – they look real but will steal your information so a scammer can run up bills or commit crimes in your name.
- Area codes can be misleading, too. A local area code is no guarantee that the caller is local.
- To reach the companies you do business with, call *only* the phone number on your credit card or your financial statements.

Other Security Resources:

- Use trusted security software and set it to update automatically.
- Don't email personal or financial information. Email is not secure.
- Provide personal or financial information through an organization's website *only* if: 1) you

typed in the address yourself; 2) you have checked that the URL begins with the https (the "s" stands for secure); and 3) no string of additional data appears at the end of the line.

- Review credit card and bank statements as soon as you receive them.
- Be cautious about opening attachments or downloading files from emails – they can contain viruses or other types of malware.

Report Phishing Emails

- Forward phishing emails to spam@uce.gov *and* to the company that was impersonated in the email.
- File a report with the Federal Trade Commission at: www.ftc.gov/complaint
- Minimize your risk. Check out the FTC's Identify Theft website: <https://www.ftc.gov/faq/consumer-protection/report-identity-theft>

In 1997, the sisters purchased their first condos in the Windridge community. "I loved the beauty of the neighborhood," Judy says, "and at the same time, it's close to the conveniences of city living." Using Windridge as a home base, the sisters continued to travel over the next decade. Eventually, their health forced them to curtail their frequent trips. And, sadly, for her Windridge neighbors, Ann has recently moved into an independent living facility.

The sisters still see each other frequently and enjoy the proximity to other family members, including Judy's mother, who is now well into her 90s.

Currently, Judy lives on Thicket Hill Lane in her third and, she says, her "last" Windridge home. Frequently out in the neighborhood with Lovey, her black and white rat terrier, Judy uses her mobility scooter to enjoy the scenery and to stay in touch with Windridge neighbors. Her contributions to Windridge have been numerous.

She is active in at least two bridge groups. For eight years she's been a staunch member and book previewer for one of Windridge's book discussion clubs. She served on the social committee for a decade and on several Board member nominating committees. She's the organizer of the monthly Cheap Eats lunch group. And, for four years, she and Ann published *The Wind-writer*, a community newsletter. At one point Judy became involved with traffic issues affecting Windridge. "It's a bit disconcerting when on two separate occasions you have cars crashing through the fence and ambulances and fire trucks in your back yard," Judy says of her interest in finding ways to protect life and property on Emerson Way.

She continues to monitor the effects of the traffic "calming" project which reduced the four-lane road to a two-lane road with marked bicycle lanes. She hopes the result will be a reduction in traffic accidents but since both of the crashes that occurred behind her unit involved impaired drivers, Judy worries that the new plan may not be able to compensate for the bad judgement of negligent drivers. "It's important for us to be good neighbors to each other," Judy says. And she practices what she preaches!

Roaming Home

*Chunky, mobile roaming home
Clunky wheels, a rolling stone
No Moss can gather where we tether
One or two nights at the most
Before unhitching from our post.
Your urge to flee is my command.
I yield to your demand
To seize the wheel and off we reel
'Cross highways East, veer North to test
Your boxy shape, which cross winds sway
Like waves at sea. I feel unease.
A southern route seems more astute.
Where roads point straight my neck won't
ache.
Momentum wanes, head East again?
What lies ahead?
Take root we dread.
A wide U-turn, we've more to learn.
Chunky, mobile roaming home
Clunky wheels, a rolling stone.*

*By Judith Eckerson
© 1999*

Windridge Benefits from Millersville Affiliation; Community Activism Enriches All Residents

How much do you know about Millersville? Not a whole lot? Well, you're not alone. Windridge residents live smack in the middle of what was once a vibrant little town, established in 1828. At that time, there was no such thing as dashing into Indy; the city was over seven miles away, on horseback!

This mostly agricultural community benefitted from the flowing waters of Fall Creek. The construction of saw mills and grist mills ensured the availability of lumber and grain – and clean water suitable for at least two distilleries. Millersville became a stopping off point for travelers on the old Pendleton Toll Rd. Travelers could obtain meals and overnight accommodations at a local inn. Locals also benefitted from services such as a post office, a general store, and smith services (for shoeing horses and repairing carriages) which contributed to the town's viability.



Cows at the intersection of Emerson Way and E. 56th St., turning east -- heading toward site of Lincoln Square Pancake House (Photo Source: Historic Indianapolis and Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc.)

Over the next century, agricultural land gave way to housing developments, including Brendonwood Common, Ladywood Estates, and Windridge. The demand for business services grew and the town's identity faded as shops became shopping centers bearing names like "Windridge." Never having been officially incorporated, Millersville was slowly absorbed into Indianapolis' expansion. Neighborhoods matured and the city expanded. The Windridge Shopping Center thrived for over three decades as a destination-location, but when the business model changed, people

and businesses moved away. By 2007, the central business district – including businesses located within a half-mile radius of the Emerson Way-E. 56th St. intersection – had deteriorated. The demise of the shopping center where Wal-Mart now stands left that area abandoned and the entire business district was at risk of becoming a blighted crime attraction.

A group of concerned residents, led by Cac Diehr, started Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc., in 2009 to focus on rejuvenating the business area. To establish goals and guide development, from 2010 to 2012, the City led residents from over 25 neighborhoods surrounding the Village, plus its business and institutions. An early member of this group was Windridge resident Tom Eggers who said, "We were concerned that the beauty of the area was being destroyed. We wanted to strengthen the neighborhoods and enhance the business environment so that people would want to live here and come into the village rather than go elsewhere. Tom, who also serves as Windridge's treasurer, is a valuable liaison between the two organizations because he also serves as a director on the Millersville group's Board.

The Millersville team recognized the need to beautify the Village and the unmet potential of the land bordering Fall Creek. They organized and took action. Treasurer-secretary Melinda Hall recalls that they wanted to make sure that people understand Millersville's "significant heritage." "We undertook a number of projects designed to help people connect with the natural elements of the Fall Creek Greenway," she said. Annual cleanup parties saw local residents, students, and businesses clearing away invasive plants, hauling trash out of the water, and cleaning the grounds.

For several years a small pond just south of the 56th St. bridge over Fall Creek had become overgrown and filled with trash. The group cleaned it and the adjacent park. Limestone benches now adorn the parklike grounds.

Through the cooperative efforts of the Millersville group, the Arts Council of Indianapolis, and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB), a sculpture was unveiled near the pond in 2016. Named the Millersville Marker at the Millersville at Fall Creek Preserve, the work

commemorates the mill wheels that were so important to the community's growth and is graced by a life-sized bronze hawk.

The Millersville group has sponsored numerous community activities including: a mobile history tour and outdoor social meetings with music and food in the area where Dollar General now stands. They have faithfully worked with local businesses to ensure that external areas such as curbs, parking lot plantings, and the buildings themselves, are clean and attractive.

In a collaborative beautification effort, the Millersville team partnered with the City of Indianapolis and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) to replace asphalt-covered medians located east of the old Walgreen's store and at the intersection of Fall Creek and Emerson Way. Guided by a master landscape plan, volunteers transformed the barren medians into attractive mini-gardens that provide attractive gateways into the Village.

Current projects would benefit from additional volunteer participation. These include: a) continued removal of invasive plants from the Greenway; b) ongoing participation in Keep Indy Beautiful (KIB) an activity for which the group has just purchased safety vests to protect volunteers during clean-up projects; and c) outreach to welcome new volunteers who participate in a variety of activities and programs. For example, the group is currently seeking volunteers to assist educational programs in local schools; participate in the development of a real estate committee; renew the history committee; and help with event planning.

To date, the Millersville team has won over 16 civic awards for its community service. This includes over \$90,000 in funding for a variety of projects that have benefitted everyone who comes in contact with this now-vibrant area. The group has been proactive about ensuring that new businesses are good neighbors and enhance the value of the community. For example, the old Walgreen's store may soon become a dialysis center - a quiet, low-traffic business that provides a specialized health service for the community. Without the Millersville group's activism, the building was attracting much less desirable business interest.

For several years, most Windridge condos have sold quickly. Recently, several have sold shortly after their initial open house showings and some have been sold in private sales without ever being listed. Certainly the beauty of the neighborhood speaks for the value of the homes. But the surrounding business

district and parkland surely contribute to the feeling of a community that is also attractive and businesses that are useful to those who live nearby.

Millersville at Fall Creek Valley is an outstanding community resource that highlights the history of the surrounding area. This can-do group has accomplished countless beneficial services to this scenic portion of the Indianapolis community - all of which benefit Windridge residents. Hats off!



The Millersville Marker is located at the Millersville Fall Creek Preserve on East Fall Creek Parkway N. Drive. Photo courtesy of Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc.

To learn more about Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc., and to receive their newsletter, go to: <http://www.millersvillefcv.com/community-plan/4592352402>

To learn more about the history of the Millersville community, go to: <http://www.millersvillefcv.com/millersville-history-learn-mor/4590473830>

Windridge Insurer Requests Barbecue Safety Policy

Condo living assumes a sense of community. Neighbors live in closer proximity than is typical of many other types of residential properties. In addition, multiple residences, many sharing common walls, necessitate greater sensitivity to noise prevention, traffic congestion, and aesthetically appealing surroundings.

In 2015, a gas grill fire nearly destroyed the residence of a Windridge family. Fortunately, no one was hurt and the attached neighboring structure sustained no major damage. However, for the next 12 months, the owners were unable to live in their home and the ongoing repair work posted significant inconvenience to owners of adjacent units.

Windridge has paid the complete \$10,000 deductible for the cost of exterior work done on the home - and this does not include the considerable expense borne by the owners' insurer for exterior repairs.

Increasingly, insurance companies deny coverage for barbecue equipment in high density neighborhoods and many HOAs now forbid the use of charcoal and propane grills. Surprisingly, Windridge's insurer, Travelers, has not (yet?) followed this trend. Rather, they have requested that Windridge implement a

policy that will provide residents with safe use instructions.

Windridge Board member Bill Pert chaired the committee which included Elle Keppler, Mike McCracken, Eileen Scott, and Karen Shepherd. All Windridge residents are requested to read the policy (See below) and to abide by it.

Failure to adhere to this new policy could lead to increased insurance rates and higher HOA fees. Alternatively, Windridge may be forced to join the growing number of condominium associations that forbid outdoor cooking.



Failure to respect the new policy could also increase the risk that an insurance company might refuse to cover a claim. In addition, the responsible co-owner faces the possibility of liability for damage caused to the property of a third party, e.g., Windridge and/or a neighbor.

Windridge Implements Propane and Charcoal Policy; Designed to Improve Outdoor Cooking Safety

Windridge Co-owners Association requires residents to use safe practices when operating gas or charcoal grills. All residents are expected to follow these guidelines:

- **Gas and charcoal grills:** This equipment may not be operated within the living area or garage of any unit. When not in use, the grill may be stored in the garage. When in use, a grill must be operated at a safe distance from the exterior structure of the unit. A ten-foot distance is recommended. A fire extinguisher should be kept within close proximity to the grill. A grill should never be left unattended while in use.
- **Propane gas grills:** When this type of grill is not in use, the main valve on its tank must be closed. The gas cylinder hose must be checked for leaks at the beginning of the grilling season - or at least once a year. No more than two (2) 20-lb. propane tanks (including the tank connected to the grill) may be stored in any Windridge garage.

This policy was approved by the Windridge Board of Directors and implemented on January 9, 2017.