



Windreader

A Child of the “Separate but Equal” Years, Joyce Whitlock Reflects on Growing up in Indy

Neighborhood News

- **“The Great Indy Cleanup in Millersville”**
Saturday, April 14, 9:00 – Noon
Meet at White & Champagne Bldg. parking lot,
5025 E. 56th St.
Trash bags and gloves will be provided.
Rumor has it there may be goodies!
- **KIB Bridge Brigade Clean-Up,**
Saturday, April 14, 9:00 - Noon
Meet at White & Champagne Bldg. parking lot
5025 E. 56th St.

Thank you to Whisperwood Lane resident Susie McAllister for this lovely spring picture of Laurel Hall at dusk (above).

As a little girl growing up in Indianapolis, Joyce Whitlock and her older sister Dorothy experienced many positive aspects of the city. These included a good education, a cohesive neighborhood, and a strong family bond.

But, Joyce also knew that being a black child in the pre-Civil Rights years, prevented her from doing things that other children took for granted. “If my sister and I went shopping downtown with

our mother, we had to order food, stand at the end of the counter, and take the food away. We weren’t allowed to eat in the restaurant,” Joyce said.

She also recalls that blacks weren’t allowed to try on bathing suits or lingerie. They had to guess about the size and fit. Same with hats. “We would be so excited about shopping for Easter bonnets, but we couldn’t try them on unless we wore these big old plastic covers over our heads.”

Joyce’s mother came from a farming family in Kentucky but was working at RCA when she met and married Joyce’s father, an Indy native who had a good job at the Chrysler plant.

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Joyce, cont'd from pg. 1

Joyce's family lived near Northwestern (now Martin Luther King) and 28th St. Neighborhood children attended a segregated school, George Washington Carver, located at 24th and Indianapolis Ave. The girls walked home for lunch every day. Joyce says that she got a good education. "Back then, if a child needed extra help, our teachers would actually stay after school to make sure that we could do the work."

From 1927 until 1949, Indianapolis schools were segregated. In 1927, Crispus Attucks High School was founded and all black students, regardless of where they lived in Marion County, were required to attend that school - without benefit of school buses.

Joyce's parents separated before she started school, but her father remained an active participant in her life. She recalls that she and Dorothy were among the first children in their neighborhood to have bicycles. In high school, Joyce's dad even gave her a credit card - to Wm. H. Black Department Store. Not too many youngsters back in the 1950s had their own credit cards!

Unlike other children in her urban neighborhood, Joyce's childhood included summers on a family farm. Joyce's grandmother owned a 40-acre farm in Gamaliel, KY, near Thompkinsville. The property came into the family as part of the slave reparations enacted with the Emancipation Proclamation. Former slaves were to be given 40 acres and a mule.

Joyce relished the outdoor busyness of her summers. "We *worked* on that farm!" she said. "The crop was tobacco but we had vegetables and fruit. I loved to garden and my sister and I learned how to can and cook. We learned how to ride our horses - and we had a mule whose name was Sad, probably because he spent so much time walking in circles mixing the sorghum in a huge vat! We loved to eat that sweet foam when it bubbled up to the top."

Not all of the work was enjoyable. "We also had to slop the hogs," Joyce grimaced, "and even though we didn't like doing that, we sure loved going into the smoke house and bringing out those hams, or bacon, or sausages!"

Over the years, the farm land was sold but the family still loves the area. "Once a year, those of us who are left go to Gamaliel in October and we have a reunion followed by a dinner in the little church that my great, great grandfather helped build over 150 years ago. Interestingly, three separate congregations (Methodist, Church of Christ, and Baptist) have amicably shared the same building over the years.

"My mother's father must have led a blessed life. At one point, a group of men attempted to lynch him - but when he was recognized as a Mason, his life was spared. So many were not," Joyce said.

The tenacious spirit was evidently part of the family DNA. As a high school student, Joyce discovered the sport of bowling and participated in her school's bowling program. She graduated from Shortridge High School in 1958 and, following a brief stint working for RCA, she got a job at Western Electric in September 1960.

In 1961, Joyce and a childhood friend joined the Western Electric bowling league. At that time, the bowling alley where the league played was still segregated. The owner refused to allow blacks to play. Bravely, Joyce and her friend refused to drop off the team. They reported the matter to the company league which took the matter to the union and then on to the company's Labor Relations Department. These groups exerted pressure on the bowling alley and in 1962, the bowling alley became integrated.

Joyce built a successful career at Western Electric, including leadership as a union rep. She was also busy raising two sons - Jim, who is a Material Handling Team Manager for the Ford Motor Company in Sharonville, OH and Jason, who has worked as a sports writer and analyst for ESPN, the *Kansas City Star*, and who currently hosts FOX sports daily show *Speak for Yourself*, in Beverly Hills, CA.

When the plant closed in 1984, Joyce accepted a job at the company's Kansas City, MO location. She flourished with the move and would have happily completed her career there but for a challenge that so many adult children must grapple with - her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. After

cont'd on pg. 3

Windridge Planning Survey for 2018

The final 2017 issue of *Windreader* included a planning survey. Designed within the long-range strategic planning initiatives established by the Windridge Board of Directors, the survey focused on neighborhood outreach and activities that help residents to become better acquainted with each other.

The survey invited Windridge residents to share their interests in a variety of activities. Options included opportunities to participate as well as to teach. Activity categories included: education; technology; health and nutrition; elder services; field trips; games; crafts; and community service. The returns were rather slim. Of over 200 residences, only 11 returned completed surveys. The results would seem to indicate that there's currently insufficient interest to proceed with any of these activities.

Tabled, at least for now, is an arrangement in which Oasis enrichment program for seniors would have conducted certain classes for Windridge residents - *on Windridge's property*. Oasis is part of a national nonprofit educational organization designed to enhance the quality of life for adults over age 50. They have been in existence for 25 years - and have over 26,000 members. They provide a broad variety of classes, programs, and field trips. Their offerings include: arts and entertainment; living and exploration; health and wellness; computers and technology, to name a few. Their services are compatible with Windridge's strategic plan.

If there is sufficient interest at some point in the future, the discussion may be reopened.



Joyce, cont'd from pg. 2

32 years with Western Electric, Joyce took an early retirement and, in 1993, returned to Indianapolis where she and her sister became the sole care providers for their mother. Together, they lovingly took care of their mother until her death in 1999.

I do know this," Joyce says, speaking of her mother's final illness," when a family member is sick, the whole family suffers. If someone has cancer, everyone feels the pain; if somebody is on drugs, the whole family suffers." Her experience with Alzheimer's has made Joyce sensitive to the challenges families face. "This isn't like a common cold. People used to die at 65; now more people are living longer but having these kinds of problems. This is a huge challenge for the community and a source of stress for many families."

In 2014, Joyce moved to Windridge. Actually, it was her son Jason who surprised her with the gift of her Windridge home. In one of life's frustrating ironies, the year after Joyce moved back to Indianapolis, Jason's job took him to, of all places, Kansas City!

Today, Joyce keeps busy reading and she loves to play cards. An avid bowler for over 53 years, she competed in 25 national competitions but reluctantly had to give it up when her wrists became too painful.

Fiercely dedicated to her Christian faith, Joyce is an active member of Bible Study Fellowship, "an international organization that focuses on telling the good news of Jesus Christ." She chairs the Stewardship Committee at 25th St. Baptist Church, "the church where I was baptized," Joyce says.

"I've loved living in Windridge," Joyce notes. "I have wonderful neighbors and the location is accessible to anywhere in the city in 20 minutes. I love how people take pride in the appearance of their yards and how they decorate for the seasons."

Mark Twain describes Joyce best: The loving heart overflows with enough goodness that it enfolds others as well. Joyce Whitlock - another wonderful Windridge neighbor.

Spring Gardening Tips

Most of us can smell spring in the air long before Mother Nature sends out her last frost. Even though it isn't yet time to plant tomatoes or pick roses, several early spring projects will still get us out in the fresh air – and help keep us ahead of the weeds!

1. Conduct a quick survey of your foundation area. Look for fallen branches or limbs that haven't fallen but which are obviously loose and have the potential to damage siding and windows – or to harm residents or maintenance staff. If something looks dangerous, promptly complete a Work Order so that it can be addressed.

Look for signs of invasive plants spreading beyond the foundation planting area. For example, this is the ideal time to trim back English ivy or euonymus that grow in enclosed areas (e.g., bordered by foundation or driveway). It might also be time to remove ivy from areas where it will be difficult to control (e.g., remove it from trees and siding). Check the Windridge website for lists of invasive species and methods to prevent them from taking over your planting areas – and those of your neighbors! Also, check the Windridge website for tips about preferred species and non-invasive ground covers: www.windridgecondos.com



*Winter lingered this year but these pretty Siberian squills growing on Windridge Drive weren't the least dismayed. They are **READY** for warmer weather – and some sunshine too!*

2. Before undertaking any major landscaping projects, check out the Rules & Regs section of the Windridge website. This information may help you save time and money and increase the likelihood that your projects will succeed. Remember, any plantings beyond the foundation area of your unit become the common property of the Association and may, if necessary, be removed to maintain the open access needed for efficient grounds maintenance and pedestrian safety.
3. Once you review the Rules & Regs, complete a Landscape Request form for any project that falls outside the confines of the limited common area immediately adjacent to your unit (e.g., you want to plant an ornamental tree at your own expense and which you will maintain yourself). For projects you suspect fall within the purview of the Windridge staff, complete a Work Order.
4. Check mulch areas to be sure that mulch does not pile up against wooden portions of the unit or tree trunks and large shrubs. Mulch can transfer termites and other pests so it should be kept at least six inches from these elements.

When replacing old mulch, be sure to remove rotten wood and avoid mounding new mulch any deeper than three inches. Applied too deeply, mulch can damage the plants it is supposed to protect.

Use only natural mulch. Mulches that have been dyed or treated contain toxins that kill beneficial wildlife and pollute soil and water.

5. Moles are ugly and they dig holes in our lawns but from an environmental perspective, they are killing destructive grubs and enriching the soil. If you want them gone, you have to “whack your own moles.” Windridge does not remove or trap these critters. Remember too, that many toxins used to kill moles also poison birds and other valuable wildlife – including neighborhood pets!

Windridge Landscape Committee Spring 2018 Update

Have you noticed that the buds on many of our shrubs and plants have been pruned away before the plants actually bloom? As a result, we are not able to enjoy the full benefit of some of our flowering plants. In addition, many of these plants have been so severely cut back that they've lost their natural, pleasing shape. We hope to fix that, but it can't happen overnight.

One important part of the solution will be that *Windridge will not be doing any pruning or trimming in 2018*. There are two benefits to this: a) plants will have a chance to recover and b) Windridge volunteers will have time to continue the plant inventory that was begun several years ago. The goal is to aid in selective plant rejuvenation and/or replacement, and to improve pruning methods.

You may see volunteers making notes, etc., about the grounds. They are documenting plants. And, during the pruning and trimming moratorium, if any plant becomes a safety or security problem, complete a Work Order. *As always, you may trim or prune any foundation plants as you see fit.*

Please consider joining our small band of landscape volunteers. We will announce work days via email, but you don't have to get formal about your involvement.

If you work full time or are busy on the announced work day, you can still pick up blown trash when you check your mailbox or pluck that weed as you walk past a corner garden. Imagine how beautiful our wonderful neighborhood would look if each household contributed five hours per year to common area maintenance.

The Landscape Committee is grateful to those residents who submit Landscape Request Forms before undertaking beautification projects and so generously beautify the landscape at their own expense.

When we plant, weed, sweep, pick up trash, and remove tree-killing honeysuckle, we illustrate Margaret Meade's famous saying, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change [Windridge]; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Please join us.

Cheers!

Glenda McGann
Chair, Windridge Landscape Committee



Neighbors Charlene Hederick and Julie Ferguson Set up “Bridge Brigade” to Clean Trash from Emerson Way Bridge

“You can’t ride a bike over the bridge at Emerson and Fall Creek because your tires would be flat by the time you got to the other side,” according to Windridge Drive resident Charlene Hederick. The bridge is usually littered with mounds of visible trash and glistens in the sunlight because of broken glass. In addition, residents from several surrounding neighborhoods would like to exercise their dogs along the Fall Creek hiking trails but access from the south threatens the paws of any critter who walks over the bridge.

The Millersville at Fall Creek Valley Neighborhood Association works to promote common interests, preserve and promote the natural beauty, and share historical information about this fascinating and diverse area which encompasses more than 25 neighborhoods.

At the recent Millersville Annual meeting, Charlene heard about a beautification program sponsored by Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB). Charlene learned that the organization provides tools and resources to small neighborhood groups that offer to “adopt” a portion of the city, tidy it up, and keep it beautiful.

Joined by her neighbor Julie Ferguson, who also lives on Windridge Dr., the two are inviting others to join their project. They encourage Windridge residents to join them on April 14 as part of the KIB project, from 9:00 – Noon for the initial phase of the Emerson Bridge cleanup. **Volunteers should email Charlene (chederick@comcast.net) or Julie (jferguson@hotmail.com) to receive all the necessary information.**

The date of this cleanup project coincides with the Annual Spring Cleanup, sponsored by Millersville at Fall Creek Valley Neighborhood Association. This group will also be cleaning up in the same general vicinity. All volunteers, for the Millersville project and for the Bridge Brigade project will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the White & Champagne Building (next to Starbuck’s) on E. 56th St., just east of Emerson Way.



Windridge residents, Charlene Hederick and Julie Ferguson invite neighbors to participate in their initial Bridge Brigade cleanup project on Saturday, April 14, from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Dress appropriately for the weather. And wear sturdy boots – and work gloves!

When Is It Time to Stop Driving?

Americans are cursedly independent. We love the open spaces and the freedom to go where we want, when we want. Driving is an important part of that freedom and losing the ability to drive can be a sorrowful experience.

Over time, nearly all drivers recognize that their reflexes just aren't as good as they once were. And so, a conflict arises: a) If I stop driving, will I lose my independence and become an inconvenience to friends and family? Or b) If I keep on driving, am I a danger to myself and others?

According to the National Institute on Aging (NIA), more than 41 million drivers are currently over the age of 65 - up from 26 million drivers of the same age 20 years ago. Percentage-wise, a much higher number of Windridge drivers are over 65.

According to Windridge Property Manager Doug Beyers, the neighborhood has experienced more than its fair share of accidents. Within the past two years, there have been numerous fender benders on the Windridge property. These involve street signs, collisions with gates, with rocks, with parked cars, and with a fire hydrant. Two cars have actually been totaled.

No one intentionally causes an auto crash. Yet, according to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), every driver, regardless of age, needs to periodically review their driving habits to determine if risky behaviors or physical challenges are hampering their driving skills.

Following is a brief self-check compiled from AARP and NIA sources. Drivers who answer yes to more than three of these risk assessment questions should consider discussing their concerns with their physician, or with a family member. The Lawrence branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) can be reached at (888) 692-6841 and can provide information about elder driver testing and education resources.



True/False

1. I have difficulty driving after dark or in bright sunlight.
2. I have difficulty reading street signs or road directions.
3. I have difficulty changing lanes or staying in the correct lane.
4. I have difficulty merging into traffic.
5. Lately, other drivers have been angry with me.
6. I have had problems running stop signs or red lights.
7. I seem to be easily distracted while driving. I get lost easily.
8. I have caused several scrapes or dents to cars, mailboxes, etc. I've had several close calls.
9. My neck/shoulders are so stiff; it's difficult for me to look over my shoulder properly when I back up.
10. Sometimes I fail to yield the right of way.

Drivers who answer True to more than three of these questions should talk with their doctors. The solution may be as simple as a new glasses prescription. But sometimes the answer may be that it is time to consider seriously limiting driving activity or gracefully hanging up those keys.

Architectural Committee Update: 2018 Spring Tips

By Bill Pert

Checking for winter damage

After winter weather, it's important to check the exterior of each unit to identify repairs that may be urgently needed or to plan for preventative maintenance. In a neighborhood like Windridge, where many of the units are over 25 years old, window repair/replacement may rise to the top of the home maintenance To Do List.

Window replacement

Windows are subject to regular wear and tear which may be intensified by UV sun damage. In addition, caulking deteriorates over time, and generally at a faster rate than the windows themselves. This is also true of the wooden frames surrounding the glass.

If you have to replace some (or all) of your windows, and find it too expensive to tackle the project all at once, the south-facing windows are probably the best place to start.

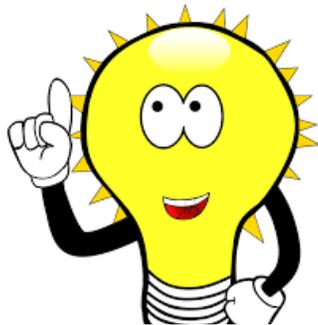
2018 would be a good year in which to start a window replacement plan because this is a "skip" year in Windridge's ongoing painting program. A number of units are painted every year. It takes seven years to complete the entire process. The eighth year (2018) is a year in which no units will

be painted. Knowing how the schedule works can help owners plan and phase window replacement over a two-to-six year span, also spreading out the expense as well.

Checkup suggestions

Other items that might be in need of attention include:

1. Check your outside water spigots, especially if they weren't protected from the freezing temperatures over winter. Be certain to have quick access to the water shut-off valve. If you detect a leak, you'll want to shut the water off quickly. This will save you from having a major clean-up project on your hands, not to mention the possibility of damage repair and restoration if the pipes leaked inside the walls.
2. Examine wooden decks for possible damage such as loose boards or cracked steps. Also check for weather damage to boards; this type of deterioration can also cause splinters.
3. Take action if you see that mulch has piled up against the siding boards or around your foundation. Simply rake the mulch back into the planting bed. It should be at least six inches away from the foundation. This will help ensure that no moisture damages the wood causing it to deteriorate. See *Spring Gardening Tips* on pg. six for mulch management tips as they relate to landscaping.



HAVING PROBLEMS WITH SECURITY LIGHTING?

**WOULD YOU LIKE OUTDOOR LIGHTBULBS THAT
TURN THEMSELVES ON AT DUSK AND OFF AT
DAWN?**

**WE WILL SELL THOSE BULBS AT THE OFFICE SHORTLY.
STAY TUNED!**

Hail and Fairwell! Windridge Loses Darcy But Renee Hits the Ground Running

Windridge wishes the best of luck to departing Office Manager Darcy Heyerdahl as she changes jobs due to her husband's new employment assignment.

Stepping up is new Office Manager Renee Michael who brings with her many years of business experience and a strong background in office and facilities management. A native of Marion, IN, Renee lives in Greenfield with her husband Brian, four Yorkies – Gidget, GusGus, Gretta, and Gigi – and Bogie the Great Dane!

Renee and Brian's three children are grown and married and the couple is proud of their nine grandchildren – all under the age of ten!

When not working, Renee enjoys the outdoors – camping, boating, water sports, and motorcycle riding.

She also has a creative knack and her hobby is basket weaving. For the past 20 years Renee has run a successful business producing handcrafted baskets. Renee also enjoys teaching her craft to others.



Without missing a step, new Office Manager Renee Michael works with outgoing office manager Darcy Heyerdahl to ensure a seamless transition. The Windridge staff and residents benefitted from this cooperative effort!

Millersville and Windridge Prevail As Development Commission Rules That Walgreen's Building Cannot Be a Dollar Tree Store

About 30 Millersville-area residents and about a dozen Windridge residents, joined forces at a March 7 meeting of the Metropolitan Development Commission which ultimately ruled that the vacant Walgreen's pharmacy building, located just northeast of the intersection of East 56th St., and Emerson Way, cannot be leased for use as a Dollar Tree store. Presentations by Millersville leadership to the commission stressed several reasons for this concern:

1. The building's visual impact on the entryway to the village proper was such a concern at the time of its original zoning, that current regulations prevent its use as anything other than a Walgreen's. The citizens groups complained that removal of this restriction would open the site up to unacceptable hours of operation and less-than-attractive businesses. "We want to attract family-type shoppers to the area; we don't want massage parlors, bars, or other businesses that might increase the risk of violence or crime," said Cac Diehr, president of the Millersville at Fall Creek Neighborhood Association.
2. The immediate shopping area already includes a Dollar General store as well as a liquor store.
3. Millersville has repeatedly stated that it would work with the owner of the building in order to help attract an acceptable tenant.
4. City Councilor Christine Scales and Indiana State Senator Jean Breaux both testified on behalf of Millersville's concerns, each citing the potential for crime, litter, and neighborhood deterioration if unacceptable businesses get a foothold in the village's business area.
5. Commission members were convinced. They voted 6 to 1 in favor of refusing the owner's appeal.