

# CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

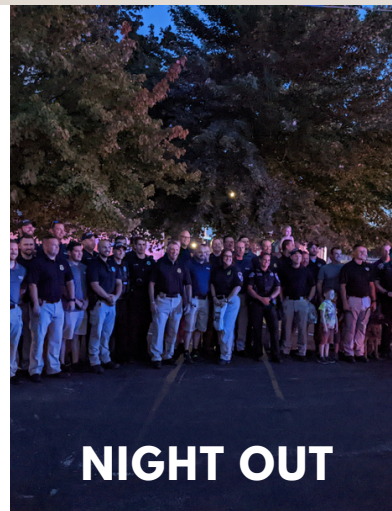
DECEMBER 2022



**HALLOWEEN**



**BLOCK PARTY**



**NIGHT OUT**



**GOthic REVIVAL**

## What is Central Neighborhood Association?

The Central Neighborhood Association (CNA) of Valparaiso exists to (1) preserve, protect, and promote the integrity and character of our historic neighborhood, and (2) create a safe, inclusive, and supportive neighborhood for all our residents. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization.

Our volunteers have organized for the neighbors' common good since 1976. Neighbors came together in 1975 to protect the Central School from being transformed into a police station.

CNA meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7pm in Trinity Lutheran's Fellowship Hall.

## Central Neighborhood Foundation

In May of 2021, the CNA board organized a new, sister corporation called Central Neighborhood Foundation, Inc. (CNF). CNF is an Indiana public charity nonprofit whose purpose is to create a fund which may be used to improve the Central Neighborhood in the City of Valparaiso, Indiana. According to IRS rules, and as confirmed recently by receipt of an IRS determination letter, CNF is a 501c3 organization. Its board members are appointed by the board of directors of CNA.

Among its accomplishments, CNF raised money to assist housing needs for a family displaced by fire in 2021.

To make a tax deductible donation to the Central Neighborhood Foundation, visit our website or scan the QR code.



## Events of 2022

Neighbors celebrated the Easter holiday with an Easter Egg Hunt at Tower Park.

For Earth Day, neighbors came together to clean up litter around the community.

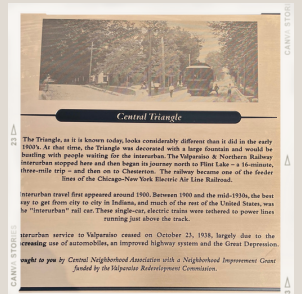
In June, we had our first neighborhood-wide garage sale. On a beautiful day, over 20 families hosted a sale! It was a great day to walk the neighborhood and speak with hosts.

Around 100 people attended this year's block party in September! Neighbors brought in their favorite dishes to share and enjoyed fried chicken- thank you Town and Country for the donation!

In October, the CNA hosted the first 'Historic Walk Down Washington' with 52 participants! With support from Porter County Museum, Indiana Landmarks, and our residential expert Steve, we were able to lead this group down Washington to speak about the architecture and significance of these homes. Participants learned key styles- Italianate, Queen Anne, Gothic, Colonial and Four Square. Mrs. Crowder shared stories of her home. Thank you for the lovely treats, coffee, and hot chocolate following the walk, Blackbird Café!

During the spooky season, neighbors had a friendly decorating competition. Congrats to our friends on Calumet for winning the coveted award- the Golden Pumpkin.

This holiday season, the Central Neighborhood Association sponsored five children through the Valparaiso Community School Assistance Program. With the generous donations of neighbors, we will be able to provide an awesome holiday for these families.



## Updates in the Neighborhood

The neighborhood saw a lot of sidewalk repaving this year. These projects were funded through the Neighborhood Improvement Grant from 2020 and bolstered City funding for sidewalk and roadway improvements. A handful of streets were repaved. Two signs about historically significant areas were installed thanks to the 2022 Neighborhood Grant.

A traffic calming measure was installed at the intersection of Washington and Chicago Streets. This project extends the cross walk and minimizes the roadway.





# CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022



## 2023 Neighborhood Grant

The Valparaiso Neighborhood Improvement Grant program provides residents the opportunity to have direct input and influence into the improvement of our neighborhoods. The funds (up to \$15,000) provide for small neighborhood-based projects with community-wide benefit. The goal of community input of these positive improvement projects is to bring neighborhoods together in partnership with the city.

Central Neighborhood Association Officers are looking for your feedback! Visit our website and click the link on our homepage. This will take you to a Google Form where you can submit your ideas on spending \$15,000 in our neighborhood.

## Board of Directors

Robert Cotton

Bill Durnell

Jim Harper

Gary Hicks

Steve Ingram

Ellen Kapitan

Kristin Lewis

Michael Pancini

Paul Parsons



John and his daughter

## Neighbor Spotlight

When John Poertner moved to Valparaiso from Lawrence, Kansas, he was on the lookout for a walkable neighborhood with a vibrant neighborhood association. The Central neighborhood has proved to be a perfect fit! John is originally from Wisconsin, and, as a teacher and university professor, he has lived all around the Midwest. John has served as a Professor of Social Work at the University of Kansas and, most recently, the University of Illinois. After his retirement, he and his wife moved back to Lawrence.

In 2021, John moved to Valparaiso to be closer to his daughter. He now lives in St. Paul Square, and he appreciates Central neighborhood's walkability and neighborhood feel. John enjoys getting to know people and, shortly after moving to Valpo, he participated in the City's City Government Academy. John had enjoyed being active in neighborhood associations in Lawrence, so it was natural for him to become involved in the Central Neighborhood Association. John has attended CNA meetings and been an active supporter of CNA causes, including the holiday angel tree program.

In his spare time, John is an avid reader who enjoys all types of literature. He has traveled extensively, and London and Mexico City are among his favorite destinations. John is also active in a local Quaker Friends meeting, and he loves checking out new spots in downtown Valpo. If you see John at a CNA event or walking around town, be sure to say hello!

Save  
the  
Dates

## CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS 2023

April  
8

Easter Egg Hunt

June  
10

Garage Sale

August  
26

Block Party