

Transforming Old Town Greenwood



Paul Jacquin turned this spacious and unique 1904 home into *Vino Villa*, a popular wine destination. (Photo by Frank Espich)

Expect Greenwood's downtown to change significantly in the coming years.



Jan. 28, 2016
By Brent Glasgow
@BGlasgow37

Brent Glasgow covers a variety of home improvement topics for Angie's List.

Mention Greenwood to most Indianapolis residents, and they immediately think of the Greenwood Park Mall. But just like there's more than corn in Indiana, there's more to Indy's southern suburb than its ever-popular shopping mecca.

A new era is underway in the city of 54,000, with a downtown transformation aimed at introducing the often passed-by area to visitors both near and far.

Well traveled in other occupations, Mark Myers eventually followed in his father's footsteps in becoming Greenwood's mayor.

Renaissance mayor

You'd be hard-pressed to find a mayor with a more unique community tie than Greenwood's Mark Myers, who was elected in 2011.

Myers' father, Larry, was Greenwood's mayor in the late 1970s. Before that, in 1967, the family started Myers Ambulance Service, which served Greenwood and Johnson County for 29 years. The business initially ran out of the Myers' house.

"We had a deal with funeral homes for their after-hours pick-ups, so I was out picking up dead bodies with my dad at 10 years old," Myers says. "I started riding the ambulance and worked my first cardiac arrest when I was 14."



Well traveled in other occupations, Mark Myers eventually followed in his father's footsteps in becoming Greenwood's Mayor. (Photo by Frank Espich)

Myers, who's been a police officer, missionary, head of security at a U.S. embassy and construction safety contractor, wants to reinvent Downtown Greenwood. Thanks to a grant and redevelopment commission and local business commitments, a \$1.2 million façade renovation of 22 storefronts will begin this winter. Also, a school demolition will soon open 19 acres for further commercial and residential development.

Asked what he envisions five years from now, Myers says, "I see a whole different playing field."