



EHCO Voice

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Residents report problem houses

The July EHCO meeting focused on problem houses. Residents were encouraged to attend and to bring a list problem houses. And many residents did just that, reporting on fourteen houses. The houses were scattered throughout EH. Most of the complaints dealt with tall grass and weeds.

A list of the houses was compiled and an EHCO officer visited each house to document the problems reported at the meeting. The houses found to be in violation of code was turned into the City. EHCO will be following up with the City.

Problem houses are houses in violation of City Code. Code violations include (but are not limited to): tall grass (taller than 12”), buildings (occupied or not) with issues such as falling or inoperable gutters, access available to critters, junk vehicles, rubbish, and garbage.

Once the houses are turned into the City, they will send an inspector out to look at the property. If the property is found to be in violation, the City sends the property owner a letter advising them of the violation and gives the owner a deadline (typically two weeks) to correct the problem. After the deadline has passed, the City again inspects the property. If the violation has been corrected, the violation is closed. However, if the property is still in violation, the City cleans it up (mowing, collecting trash, etc.) and send the owner an invoice for the work. The minimum charge for this is around \$300.

EHCO will take reports on problem houses at each meeting. Updates on the houses reported in July will be given at the August 16th meeting.

A change in policy could benefit neighborhood groups

Houses with tall grass and weeds and debris are not only in the EH neighborhood. They are all over the city. The problem is much more a factor in some neighborhoods. Complaining to the City can be a frustrating experience because it seems that nothing is being done. The process, from the time of the complaint to the time of the correction, can take three to four weeks or more. EHCO believes this is too long of a process which relies on being reactive instead of proactive.

EHCO has approached our City-County Councilman Duke Oliver and suggested that the City allow neighborhood groups to become an active part of solving this problem. This could be done by allowing registered neighborhood groups to monitor the houses in their neighborhood. Houses in violation would receive letters from the group, with the City’s backing, and would be monitored by the group. If a violation still exists after the deadline passes, the neighborhood group would be responsible for cleaning the property, instead of the City hiring contrac-

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A change in policy

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tors or using their own employees. The City would send the owner an invoice for the work and would give the neighborhood group part of the monies received.

One of the advantages of this change in policy is that problem houses could be dealt with immediately instead of waiting for a resident to complain about a property (and in some neighborhoods, residents do not care enough to complain) before action is taken. EHCO believes with this change in policy, the City could both save money and give neighborhood groups a chance to make money with an end result of these problem properties taken care of a little faster.


Oliver seemed open to the suggestion and is willing to sit down with EHCO to discuss the details. Watch for updates in the coming months. In the meantime, if you agree with us and think this is a good idea for neighborhoods willing to participate, call Duke Oliver at 546-7467 or e-mail him at woliver@indygov.org and let him know.

EHCO Health & Safety Fair - Saturday, September 29

EHCO is pleased to announce plans for a Health & Safety Fair on Saturday, September 29th from 10am-3pm. The fair will be held in the parking lot of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints (southwest corner of 10th Street and Wallace Street).

While still in the initial planning stages, we are working with a cancer center to give **free** non-invasive prostate screenings and other basic health screenings. We are currently talking with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Indianapolis Fire Department to have them set up displays at the fair. Childrens activities are also being planned.

The EHCO Health & Safety Fair is free to everyone, whether they live in EH or not. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Look in the August issue of EHCO Voice for more details.

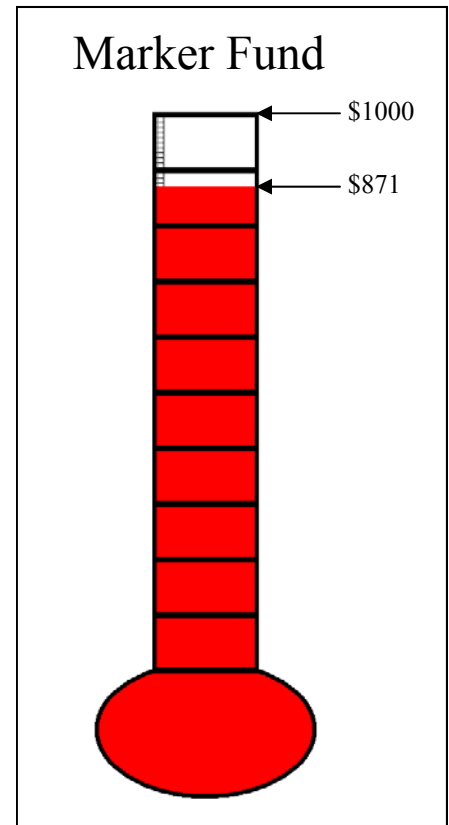
 <p>Oval Office Words from Don Bailey EHCO President</p>	<h3>Bring Your Neighbors</h3> <p>Our July meeting was very well attended. Our main topic was problem houses in the neighborhood. This brought out people who really are concerned about the few houses which are in need of attention, have trash in their yards or have activities which are not acceptable around children.</p> <p>We plan to work on these issues and continue to monitor these houses working for improvements while recognizing our neighbors who are keeping up their property.</p> <p>The strength in our neighborhood is our committed neighbors who care about Emerson Heights so come and be a part of this movement and add your voice to this growing chorus of commitment.</p> <p>We challenge everyone who has attended any of our meetings to come to the August meeting on Thursday, 16th at 6:30 pm and</p> <p><u>Please, bring a neighbor or neighborhood friend.</u></p>
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Marker Fund donations

EHCO would like to thank the following people for their donation to the Marker Fund. Want to see your name here? Donate today by completing the form above and either mail it to EHCO or give it to an EHCO officer.

\$100.00 *

Don Bailey - \$20.00
Patricia Heberden - \$25.00
Pauline, Jim & Ralph Schrum - \$100.00
Ann Sombun & Frederic Withrow - \$10.00
Grace Taddeo - \$20.00
Heather Nieman - \$25.00
Jackie McGovern - \$5.00
Joe Wade - \$100.00
Anonymous Donation from Wallace Street - \$20.00
Randy Deane - \$20.00
Gary & Janet Spencer - \$25.00
John & Carolyn Kanouse - \$26.00
W.E. Freitag - \$25.00
Jodi Lepper & Donna Moore - \$25.00
Ball Park Pizza - \$20.00
David & Stephanie Mink - \$25.00
Roland & Marjorie Hiles - \$25.00
John & Ann Rouse - \$25.00
Martin & Eva Schrum (Millersville MD) - \$150.00
Ian & Erin Colgan - \$30.00
Tommy Tabor - \$25.00
Richard & Shirley Aichele - \$25.00



* Awarded to EHCO after Don Bailey's completion of an INRC leadership course and designated to this fund by the residents in attendance at the January 2007 meeting.

I want to help! Here's my donation of \$_____ to help with the marker fund.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Make check or money order payable to:
Emerson Heights Community Organization

Mail form and donation to:
Emerson Heights Community Organization
PO Box 11686
Indianapolis IN 46201



Do the easy stuff first

So, you know you need to do some things to tighten up your house and reduce your utility bills. Making your house more comfortable would be nice and reducing the impact on the environment is also important. The great thing is that you don't need to give up any one of these things to get the others. Going green doesn't mean shivering in a dark house with your coat on!

Getting started on reducing home energy use and environmental impact can seem overwhelming—there are so many things to consider. However, before you start the big projects, try doing these four simple things that are inexpensive and have a quick payback.

Install a water heater blanket: This is a cheap, effective way to save energy and money. It is an easy “do-it-yourself” project. The cost is less than \$20 and will pay for itself in a year or less. Also, insulate at least the first ten feet of water line (both hot and cold) from the heater with self-sealing foam pipe insulation.

Enroll in “Cool Cents”: This is a free program from Indianapolis Power and Light that lets IPL cycle your air conditioner compressor off for short periods of time. This allows them to reduce peak load in the summer when demand is high. In exchange, they credit your bill \$5 a month in June, July, August, and September.

The way it works is that IPL will install a box outside, near your central air-conditioner's compressor. When they need to reduce peak electrical demand during the day, they send a signal that will turn off your compressor for a short period of time. They generally only do this during the weekday and **not** after 6:00pm. It would likely go completely unnoticed if you did happen to be home.

This program saves money and the environment because IPL doesn't need to build as many “peaking generators” that are only used during peak electrical usage, plus they pay you \$20 a year. You must have an owner-occupied home and have central air-conditioning to participate. Call 800-305-0982 to sign-up.

Install compact fluorescent (CF) replacement light bulbs: Most of us have seen these fluorescent bulbs that screw into a standard light socket. They use a fraction of the electricity of a regular bulb and they last much longer. In addition, they throw off much less heat—heat that doesn't need to be removed by the air-conditioner. A 15-watt CF bulb will put out about the same light as a 60-watt standard incandescent bulb. CF bulbs cost less than \$2 for a 60-watt replacement and less than \$3.50 for a 100-watt replacement. They typically pay for themselves in less than six months. They are available at local hardware stores or online.

The best places to install these are in fixtures that are usually turned on for a while. The front porch light is a perfect candidate - as well as any other outdoor lights that use a standard bulb. The fact that the CF bulbs last for a long time is a great reason to use them for hard to change bulbs. Inside, use them anywhere that you don't have the light on a dimmer. CF bulbs are great for lamps, overhead lights and basement lights. They are particularly good for lights that you normally leave on at night or while you are away. CF bulbs also come in reflector bulbs for recessed lighting fixtures. The CF bulbs come in warm white, cool white and daylight (full spectrum).

Something to be aware of is that these bulbs take almost a minute to come up to full brightness. So when you first turn one on, don't get discouraged because they aren't bright enough...wait a full minute for them to become bright.

Install a Setback (Programmable) Thermostat: You can program these thermostats to help you save energy and money by turning your heat down during the day while you are at work and at night while you are asleep. You program them to raise the temperature an hour or so before you get home or get up in the morning. These thermostats also save energy in the summer with the air-conditioning. Setback thermostats are available for around \$50 and most are easy to use.

Doing these four things are a low-cost and easy way to get the ball rolling, start saving energy and money and also be kind to the environment. All of these things have a payback of a year or less. Anything that saves electricity is particularly helpful to the environment because most of the electricity generated in the mid-west comes from coal. Although it is cheap, coal is a particularly polluting source of energy.

More energy saving information is on our website, www.emersonheights.org, under “Resources”.

Upcoming events

August

- 25th - Feast of Lanterns, Spades Park, 1800 Nowland Avenue, Noon-11pm, free. A celebration featuring art, live music, food, and kids activities. Again this year, Jennie DeVoe is the featured musical artist.
- 25th-26th - The 11th Annual Indianapolis Airshow, Mt. Comfort Airport, Mt. Comfort IN, gates open at 8:00am and the show starts at 11:00am, advance sale tickets are \$17 (adult) and \$8 (children 6-12) or \$20 and \$10 at the gate. This year's show features the aerial acrobatics of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. In addition to the Blue Angels, the Air Show will feature additional military demonstration teams, local and national stunt fliers and pyrotechnicians, celebrities, classic cars and planes, and the NASA Space Camp.
- 29th-September 3rd - NHRA Mac Tools U.S. Nationals, O'Reilly Raceway Park, 10267 U.S. Highway 136, admission varies by day. The biggest, oldest, richest, and most prestigious drag race in the world and the site of many of drag racing's greatest moments.

September

- 8th - The 41st Annual Penrod Arts Fair, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 Michigan Road. The Fair features art works from more than 300 artists and galleries, outstanding live entertainment, children's activities and great food from local restaurants. The fair attracts more than 30,000 people and all proceeds provide grants to be allocated to area arts organizations.
- 22nd - The EHCO Fall Clean-up, meet at the dumpster at the corner of Walnut Street and Dequincy Street, 9:00am-Noon. Join your neighbors and walk the streets of EH picking up trash.
- 29th - The EHCO Health & Safety Fair. See story on page 2 and look for details in next month's EHCO Voice.

EHCO Clean-up to be held on Saturday, September 22nd

The EHCO Fall Clean-up will be held on Saturday, September 22nd. The rain date will be Sunday, September 23rd. The clean-up is an important event for EH as it allows residents to meet other residents and help make a difference in their neighborhood. There will be a cookout afterwards for participants.

Volunteers should meet at the dumpster at the corner of Walnut Street and Dequincy Street at 9:00am. Gloves and bags will be provided (if you have a trash grabber, bring it). Volunteers will be divided into groups and assigned streets. No one will have to clean a street alone. In the past, many participants were done by noon.

If you are unable to participate, but would still like to help, keep your yard and the sidewalk and street in front of your house clean. It takes less than ten minutes a day to pick-up trash in these areas and the effect is wonderful. Thieves and drug dealers target trashy neighborhoods because they believe people don't care about their neighborhood. If everyone kept their area clean, it would send a message to those thieves and drug dealers that we do care and we don't want them here. Plus, it would make our neighborhood look nicer.

Join us on Saturday, September 22nd and help us in our fight to keep our neighborhood clean.

Wanted: a few good people

Ever wonder why some EH streets look cleaner and less trashy than others? Its because of a few residents who walk the streets at least once a week picking up trash. These residents keep EH looking clean between the EHCO sponsored clean-ups.

However, help is particularly needed on Bosart, Drexel and Linwood Avenues. If you have time to spare during the week and would like to be a part of this trash brigade, contact EHCO (contact info on front page). By giving two hours or less a week, you **can** make a difference.

S a f e t y

5 ways to protect yourself in a car-jacking

Five tips for reducing your risk of being carjacked, from Annie Kern, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department-Crime Watch coordinator of the Northeast District:

- Leave enough space between you and the car in front of you at stoplights so you can drive away if the need arises.
- Lock your car doors at all times.
- Don't roll down your windows to answer a question from a stranger.
- Don't roll down your passenger window far enough that someone can reach in and unlock the door.
- Be alert at intersections and retail store parking lots.

Source: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department

What can I do to protect myself from scams?

Nine tips to help protect yourself, your identity and your property.

- **Never** give your personal information, checking account or credit card information out over the phone unless you initiate the call.
- **Always** verify anyone who calls or comes to your house uninvited to provide any service. Check the phone book or call information for the business numbers and call the company.
- **Never** contract with or allow unsolicited door-to-door sales or repair people inside your home without independent verification of who they are and for whom they work. Always get a written contract.
- **Shred** all personal and financial information before discarding, and mail this kind of correspondence in a postal drop box.
- **Remember...** it is illegal for a legitimate sweepstakes to require any money up front before paying out winnings.
- **Lock** all doors and secure windows, even when you are at home or outside working in the yard.
- **Real Friends** are not after your money or your credit.
- **Trust Your Instincts...** take time to investigate and do not be pressured into a quick decision.
- **Remember...** if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Source: http://www.ci.greenville.tx.us/announcements/protect_yourself_from_scams.aspx

ICE - In Case of Emergency

A campaign encouraging people to enter an emergency contact number in their mobile phone's memory under the heading ICE (In Case of Emergency), has rapidly spread throughout the world. Originally established as a nationwide campaign in the UK, ICE allows paramedics or police to contact a designated relative or friend in an emergency situation.

The idea is the brainchild of East Anglian Ambulance Service paramedic Bob Brotchie. Bob, 41, who has been a paramedic for 13 years, said: "I was reflecting on some of the calls I've attended at the roadside where I had to look through the mobile phone contacts struggling for information on a shocked or injured person. Almost everyone carries a mobile phone now, and with ICE we'd know immediately who to contact and what number to ring. The person may even know of their medical history."

By adopting the ICE advice, your mobile will help the rescue services quickly contact a friend or relative -which could be vital in a life or death situation. It only takes a few seconds to do, and it could easily help save your life. Why not put ICE in your phone now? Simply select your person to contact in case of emergency, and enter their name and phone number under the word 'ICE'.

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Tips

Personal safety tips from IMPD

Walk Assertively. Street criminals often choose their victims at random, preying on people who appear easily intimidated and vulnerable. Assertive body language can help prevent assault. Look as though you may cause an uproar if bothered.

Walk with a Companion. The old "safety in numbers" cliché is as accurate as ever. When you walk at night with a companion, continue to be AWARE AND ALERT.

Stick to Well-Lighted Walkways. Avoid sidewalks where shrubs, alleys and dark doorways can hide attackers.

Protect Yourself in a Crowd. In a crowd, wear your purse over your shoulder with the opening toward your body. If someone grabs it, let go. Put wallets in a front pocket or your jacket. If you feel that you are being followed, cross the street and change directions a few times. Walk or run quickly to a well-lighted shop or where crowds of people can help if needed. DO NOT GO HOME. You don't want to let an attacker know where you live.

Using an Elevator. When using an elevator, be with friends or family. Stand close to the door and near the controls with your back against a wall. If a situation arises press the alarm button and press as many floor buttons as possible, this will afford more opportunities for escape.

Information on the Telephone. Avoid giving out personal information on the telephone. Never say you are alone. Discourage obscene callers by using the "No Reaction" tactic and hang up immediately. If you receive additional calls, report the incident to the police.

Street safety tips from IMPD

On Foot

- Stay in well-lighted, busy areas. Avoid walking alone and avoid known trouble spots.
- When you carry a purse, hold it close to your body rather than by the handles. Do not wrap purse straps around your wrist, because you can get hurt in a struggle.
- Carry only what you need in a purse or wallet, not everything you have.
- Avoid using shortcuts through dark alleys, fields, or vacant lots.
- If you think you're being followed, cross the street and change directions a few times. Go quickly to a well-lighted place with lots of people. Do not go home. You don't want an attacker to know where you live.

On Wheels

- Keep your car in good running condition.
- Always roll up the windows and lock car doors.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas. Be especially alert in lots and underground parking garages.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers.
- If you think someone is following you, don't head home. Drive to the nearest police or fire station, gas station, or other open business to get help.

Source: <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/IMPD/Involved/Prevention/street.htm>

ICE

(Continued from page 6)

It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest. For more than one contact name, use ICE1, ICE2, ICE3 etc.

EHCO

*Serving the Emerson Heights
Community*

Meetings begin at 6:30pm on the third Thursday of each month and are held in the basement of the Wallace Street Presbyterian Church (on the southeast corner of Wallace Street and 10th Street).

Meetings are open to all homeowners, tenants, landlords, and business owners in the Emerson Heights neighborhood and surrounding area.

Please come!



EHCO Voice

Emerson Heights Community Organization
PO Box 11686
Indianapolis IN 46201

The mission of the Emerson Heights Community Organization
Is to preserve and protect the historic, cultural
And economic value of our community
Through organization, education,
Empowerment and action.

Dates to remember in 2007

EHCO Meeting Schedule

August 16
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20

Heavy Trash Pick-up

September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14

Next Meeting...

The agenda for the August 16th meeting is:

- Call to order and introductions
- Reports from the City Neighborhood Liaison*, the Prosecutor's Office*, and the Indianapolis Police Department*

*Provided when information is available

The deadline for newsletter article submissions is 11:00pm on the evening of our monthly meeting. You can submit an article or an idea for an article by e-mail to dmoore1220@sbcglobal.net. EHCO reserves the right to decline to print any article submitted and to edit article as necessary.