



EHCO Voice

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Problem properties to be focus of meeting

The July EHCO meeting will focus on properties that are in violation of Marion County Health and Hospital Code and abandoned houses. Code violations include (but are not limited to) tall grass and buildings (occupied or not) with issues such as falling or inoperable gutters, access available to critters, junk vehicles, rubbish, and garbage. Abandoned houses must be properly secured to prevent animals and people from entering the property.

Every resident is encouraged to contact the Mayor's Action Center to report violations. However, at times, it can seem as if nothing is being done. EHCO has contacts in various City agencies and in the past, we have been able to contact those agencies directly and have seen results much faster.

For example, one Friday evening in June, two EHCO officers were told of a problem property on north Bancroft Avenue. The complaint was that the occupants of the property had not cut the grass for two years and that the house had openings which allowed access to raccoons and other undesirable critters. Neighbors had been cutting the grass in the front yard, but the back yard looked like a jungle. When asked if the City had been called regarding this property, the officers were told that the City had been called numerous times in the past two years and nothing had ever been done about the problems.

The following Monday, the property was turned in and the City immediately sent an inspector out to the house. The inspector found that the occupants had been living in the property without the owner's knowledge and without utilities. The occupants have been removed and the owner has received a letter concerning the violations with a timeline for completion. Failure to correct the violations will result in the City taking further action against the owner.

While this is an isolated case, it shows the power that we, as a neighborhood, have when complaining to the City. In less than one week, we were able to do what neighbors had been trying to do in two years. We have had similar success with other properties that we have turned in.

We are asking any and all residents who know of problem properties or abandoned houses to attend the July meeting. You will need to know the address of the property. We will then turn in the properties and follow up with the City. An old saying states, "the squeaky wheel gets the oil." EHCO has no problem "squeaking" to the City when it comes to keeping our neighborhood a nice place to live.

Neighborhood Sale update

The Emerson Heights Neighborhood Sale was held Saturday, June 16th. Despite ads in both the Indianapolis Star (Friday and Saturday) and the Eastside Herald, attendance seemed to be down this year from last. Participation in the sale was also down, with approximately 35 houses participating.

Proceeds from this year's sale was \$64. The total monies collected was \$73 in participant fees and \$73 from the sale of items at the EHCO booth (manned by the Schrum family), for a total of \$146. The cost of the ads was \$82.

This annual event is good for our neighborhood. It not only helps residents to make a few dollars on things they no longer want or need, but it gets people into our neighborhood and lets them see that Emerson Heights is a good neighborhood.

Kids are walking to school this year

School will be starting soon and EHCO wants to remind all parents with children attending Indianapolis Public Schools that their children will **not** be riding the bus this year but will instead be walking to neighborhood schools. Earlier this year, the School Board voted unanimously to stop busing our children out of our neighborhood. This decision was the result of months of discussion between EHCO, concerned parents, members of the School Board, and ultimately Dr. Eugene White, the IPS Superintendent.

Effective with the 2007-2008 school year, elementary school children will attend IPS #58, Ralph Waldo Emerson, 321 North Linwood Avenue. Middle and high school children will attend T.C. Howe, 4900 Julian Avenue.



THIS IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Do you care about your neighborhood? Do you want other people making decisions for you? Emerson Heights Community Organization is for **ALL** residents who care about our neighborhood.

WE ARE A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION **NOT** A HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION.

We are an association of neighbors who care about where we live. If you live in Emerson Heights and care about where you live, we want you to be involved. We are a community of Black, White and Latino families who want to live and raise our children in a safe, comfortable community. Whether we rent or own our home, we all have the same interest in our neighborhood and we want **ALL** points of view included.

So if you care about where you live, would like to get to know your neighbors and help make a difference, please come on down to the Wallace Street Presbyterian Church on Thursday evening at 6:30 pm.

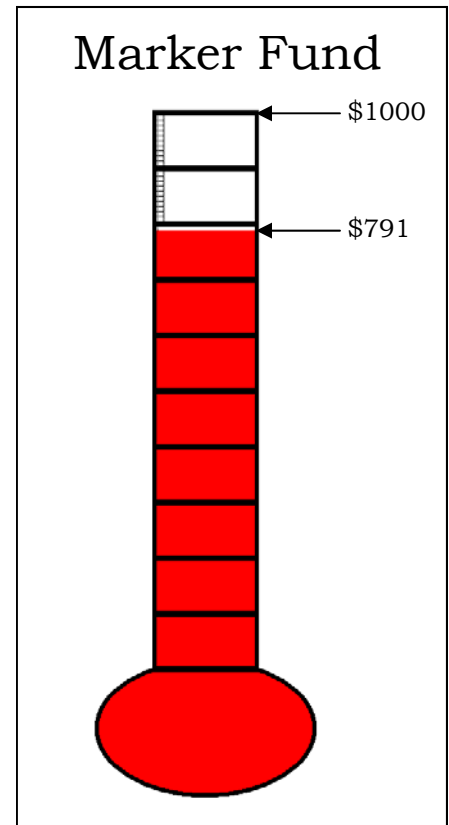
We would like to see **ALL** residents of Emerson Heights. We will make sure that you are made to feel welcome and we will do our best to help you to enjoy your meeting.

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



* 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



It's the Law — Animal ordinances

The following is a summary of frequently cited local ordinances. This summary is not meant to serve as a substitute for the City code. For an unabridged copy of Indianapolis/Marion County animal ordinances, contact the City-County Council offices at 327-4242, log on to ACCD.IndyGov.org or stop by your local library.

Animals “at Large” Prohibited (Revised Code, Section 531 - 102)

It is unlawful for the owner or keeper of an animal to allow that animal to be “at large” within the city. “At large” means not confined without means of escape within a secure enclosure, unless on a leash and under the control of a competent human being.

Permanent Identification of Dogs and Cats (Revised Code, Section 531 - 202)

Dogs and cats over three (3) months old must wear permanent identification at all times. Permanent identification includes: a permanent tag attached to a durable collar that bears the owner’s current name, address and telephone number, or an implanted microchip that bears a registered identification number. Indianapolis Animal Care & Control offers microchips for \$10 during regular business hours.

Continuous Tethering Prohibited (Revised Code, Section 531 - 401)

It is unlawful for any animal to be tethered between the hours of 11pm and 6am, or to tether any unsterilized dog for any period of time unless it is monitored by a competent adult for the duration of such tethering. Further, animals shall not be tethered by the use of a choke collar or any collar too small for the animal’s size and age; nor by rope, chain or cord attached to the animal’s neck. Tethers must be at least twelve (12) feet in length and have swivels on both ends.

Animals Causing Nuisance Prohibited (Revised Code, Section 531 - 204)

Frequent or habitual howling, yelping, barking, screeching, or other vocalization causing serious annoyance or disturbance to persons in the vicinity is prohibited.


Anti-rabies Vaccination Required for Dogs and Cats (Revised Code, Section 531 - 301)

Dogs and cats over three (3) months old must have a current vaccination against rabies performed by a veterinarian. In addition, dogs and cats must wear an anti-rabies vaccination identification tag at all times. Such a tag is generally provided by the veterinarian.

General Requirements for Animal Care and Treatment (Revised Code, Section 531 - 401)

No person knowingly shall allow a dog or cat that is kept by that person to defecate or urinate on public or private property without prior permission of the property owner.




It shall be unlawful for a person to abandon any animal on public or private property in the city. It is unlawful to beat, starve or otherwise mistreat an animal in the city. In addition, every owner or keeper of an animal must ensure that the animal:

 is kept in a clean, sanitary and healthy environment and is not forced to stand, sit or lie in its own excrement

(Continued on page 5)




It's the Law — Animal ordinances

(Continued from page 4)

-  has adequate food, fresh potable drinking water and access to shelter and ventilation protecting the animal from excessive heat and cold with sufficient size permitting the animal to exercise and move about freely
-  is protected against abuse, cruelty, neglect, torment, overload, overwork, or other mistreatment
-  is provided reasonably necessary medical care, including recommended vaccinations as required by accepted veterinary standards and proper care if the animal is diseased or injured

Indianapolis Animal Care & Control works in partnership with the community to protect the health, safety and welfare of people and pets in Indianapolis. Animal Care & Control enforces ordinances and laws regarding animal-related issues in Indianapolis/Marion County. For more information, contact Indianapolis Animal Care & Control at 327-1397.

To file a report regarding violations of any of the ordinances listed:

-  During business hours, call the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4MAC (4622)
-  After business hours, call the Police Non-Emergency Dispatch Line at 327-3811
-  Log on to www.indygov.org/eGov/Mayor/mac.htm

Information for this article provided by the "It's the Law" brochure published by Indianapolis Animal Care & Control

What happens when I report a property's high grass and weeds?

The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Marion County Health Department (MCHD) partner to enforce ordinances for the control of high weeds and high grass on properties within the county. When a report is received, MCHD inspects the property, and if a violation is found, a notice of violation is issued.

After the deadline given in the notice of violation, the property is re-inspected. If the property has been mowed, the violation is closed. If the property has not been mowed, it will be mowed by contractors under the direction of DPW or MCHD crews.

After a property has been mowed by DPW or MCHD crews, an invoice is sent to the owner of the property for payment of the mowing and administrative costs incurred. If the invoice is not paid, the City will file a lien against the property for collection with the next property tax payment.

If you know of property that has excessive vegetative growth, you may report the problem online via the Mayor's Action Center or call 327-4MAC (4622).

Source: <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DPW/Residential/Beautification/weed.htm>

Thank you to the residents of south Carlyle Place

Because you are moving your 96-gallon containers off of the sidewalks after trash has been picked up, the south end of Carlyle Place is now a much nicer and safer place to walk and drive through. Thank you from all of the residents of Carlyle Place and Emerson Heights.

A Green Neighborhood—Everything Old is New Again

Is it really possible for a neighborhood to be green? Absolutely! Our neighborhood was designed as a street-car suburb before the automobile era. The basic design and location of our neighborhood that made sense almost a hundred years ago makes it conducive to reducing energy consumption and the impact on our environment today.

A medium density mixed-use neighborhood near downtown may not be the first thing you thought of when you saw the term “green neighborhood”. It may seem counterintuitive — but if you imagined a suburban neighborhood with large lots and big lawns between the homes as a more likely candidate you would be exactly wrong. Spread-out development gobbles up huge amounts of land. What’s more, residents of suburban development consume more fuel for transportation just doing basic tasks such as driving to work, the grocery and school. In addition, the design of such neighborhoods precludes most alternatives such as walking or public transportation.

We take our neighborhood for granted, but it’s important to contrast suburban development with the basic layout of our neighborhood, starting with the fact that we are just a few minutes to downtown, shopping, entertainment, parks, churches, schools, etc. Many of us enjoy a very short commute to work — saving time, aggravation and energy. Having the essential destinations close-by is important, especially when the price of gasoline is close to \$3.00 a gallon.

Living in a neighborhood that is walkable, with sidewalks, compact lots, and destinations to which we can walk or bicycle is also important. The mixed-use design, with commercial areas on the outside edges within walking distance, was part of the original design of our neighborhood. The street-cars are gone, but public transportation is still a viable option that saves fuel and money for parking — particularly if you work downtown. And although transportation options won’t eliminate the need for a car entirely, they do open up the possibility of having one less car in the family.

In addition, while our homes come in a variety of sizes, many of them are more compact than what is being built today. It potentially takes much less energy to heat, cool and light a smaller home than a large home. Living in an existing home, even if you do significant improvements to it, saves energy and materials over building a new home. Fully one-third of the cost of building a home is in the energy used to manufacture the materials and build the home — not to mention the demand for raw materials such as lumber.

However, many of our homes are nearing 100 years old and were built without much concern for energy efficiency. It will be important to reposition our homes for a future where energy is more expensive and less available. This article is the first in a series of articles and projects in which we will talk about ways we can make our individual homes more energy efficient, save money, and reduce the impact on the environment — and do so without diminishing the architectural design that makes our homes unique. Much more information may be found on our website under “Resources”. For now, it’s good to know that the basic design of our entire neighborhood reduces the impact on the environment.

Submitted by Kurt Weigand

Operation My Town

The Operation My Town Adopt-A-Block program is an on-going litter abatement program with a goal of involving more people to help keep their neighborhoods clean. Operation My Town Adopt-A-Block is a block coordinator program, and rests on the enthusiasm and commitment of neighborhood people. We engage individuals who will keep their blocks clean on an ongoing basis, whether that means daily pick up while walking or after returning from work; weekly informal cleanups; or a monthly effort where everyone participates in one large cleanup. Blocks are monitored and scored monthly April through October, with rewards given to those who achieve a specified level of cleanliness within a designated time period. An Operation My Town Steering Committee meets monthly to determine the specifics of the program. For more information about Operation My Town/Adopt-A-Block contact Sarah Graub at 317.264.7555 ext. 106 or sgraub@kibi.org.

Editor’s note: In June, seven flats of flowers were given to the 700 block of Dequincy by this program as a reward for keeping that block clean. The flowers were planted in the esplanade.

Ask Beth White, Marion County Clerk

Dear Beth,

A friend recently told me they received something in the mail from the Clerk's Office telling them their home was being foreclosed. What should they do, what can I do to help them?

Worried Friend

Dear Worried Friend,

On a national, state, and even local level, we've recently seen a dramatic increase in home foreclosures. And while the economists will give us detailed and complex explanations about what "market forces" and "industry failures" are at work, for most of us it comes down to a neighbor, a family member, (or in your case) a friend losing their home. And they need help.

The Marion County Clerk's office does play a role in this process by—as with your friend—sending people the legal documentation of foreclosure when the process is initiated by their lender. When I took office, I recognized that many people going through this process lack a complete understanding of what is happening and why. I certainly understand how difficult the complexities of financial transactions loaded with confusing legal terminologies can be, and how scary it is to face this problem.

I made the decision to do what we could to help by sending financial counseling information to those going through foreclosure. The information comes from Marion County's Mortgage Fraud & Foreclosure Prevention Task Force and Momentive—an entity designed to help get people back on sound financial footing. In this small way, the Clerk's office hopes to reduce the number of foreclosures in our community.

So, if your friend is still looking for help, tell her to visit Momentive's website (www.momentive.org) or give them a call (317) 266-1300. And she can even give us a call at 327-4740 and we'll help point her in the right direction. It's what we're here for.

Best wishes,

Beth

Basketball goal placement

With summer here, streets and sidewalks with basketball goals are busy areas for budding basketball stars. But did you know, that these goals, when placed on sidewalks or on the streets are illegal? Not only do they cause a hazard for walkers and joggers who must navigate around them, they are a hazard for the children using them. The children, when playing in the street, could be hit by a vehicle whose driver is not paying attention or traveling too fast to stop.

According to Marion County Code, basketball goals can not be placed or used on a public right-of-way (defined as any traveled way and/or any public easement, and can generally not be used as a location for private purposes). The goal can be set up on your property, such as on your driveway, so long as no portion of the goal is in, or touching the public right-of-way, and the use of which also does not enter the right-of-way.

Goals on or near a public right-of-way should be reported to the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4MAC (4622). Violators can be issued a summons to appear in court and can be fined. For more information, call the Mayor's Action Center or visit <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DMD/Compliance/Inspections/Zoning/basketball.htm>.

Source: <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DMD/Compliance/Inspections/Zoning/basketball.htm>

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

July 19
August 16
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20

Heavy Trash Pick-up

August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14

Next Meeting...

The agenda for the July 19th 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

Place Community Health Network here

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.