

Donations accepted to help members

The office is collecting food and cash donations for Independence Square families in need during the holidays.

To donate, please stop by the cooperative office. Thank you.

Parking rules apply to guests, too

Please let visitors know about the parking rules at Independence Square.

There have been many reports of people parking in any vacant space they can find -- whether that space is another member's or a vacant unit's spot.

As you know, members are responsible for the actions of their guests.

Thank you.

Dumpsters for Trash of Cooperative Members Only

Evidence strongly suggests that some of the trash in Independence Square dumpsters comes from companies and individuals who are not members of the cooperative.

This is illegal.

If you believe a motorist who is throwing trash into a dumpster is not a member of Independence Square, please get a license tag number and turn the number into the office.

Illegal dumping makes extra work for our maintenance staff and fills up dumpster space intended for use by members.

**Adult
Play
Date**

**Date: Monday, January 7
Time: 10 a.m.
Place: Clubhouse**

**Bring your ideas
and help us plan our first activity.**

Dates to Remember

December

Carrying charges due: December 1
Recycled papers picked up: December 5
Carrying charges delinquent: December 10
Accounts sent to attorney: December 20
Christmas observed: December 24 and 25
Office closed

January 2013

Carrying charges due: January 1
New Year's Day observed: January 1
Office closed
Recycled papers picked up: January 2
Carrying charges delinquent: January 10
Board meeting: January 15
Open session: 6 p.m.
Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed: January 20
Office closed
Accounts sent to the attorney: January 22

Holiday Dinner

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15

in the clubhouse

Ham will be served.

Plates and flatware included.

Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Deadline to sign up: Dec. 12
Please call the office for reservations.

Gift Exchange

Please bring a \$5 gift if you want to participate.

DECEMBER

*Around
the SQUARE*

2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marilyn Porter
president

Sheryl Frank
vice president

Ray Gamble
secretary-treasurer

Ed Korte

Mike Gamble

HANDY PHONE NUMBERS

Independence Square
Townhouses office
816.252.0444

Central Jackson
County Patrol
9 p.m. to 4 a.m.
816.645.3001

Animal Shelter
816.325.7207

Animal Control Dispatcher
816.325.7205

Citizens Info Center
816.325.7000

Police (Non-emergency)
816.325.7300

Police (Emergency)
911

Report Power Outage
816.325.7550

NEWSLETTER MINUTES

Board Meeting November 20, 2012

Sheryl Frank, vice president, called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Other board members attending were Ray Gamble, secretary-treasurer; Ed Korte and Mike Gamble.

Also present were Martha Ramcke, assistant on-site manager; Mike Leach, maintenance superintendent; Dudley Leonard, cooperative attorney; Melva Linville, property manager, and Suzanne Miles, human relations coordinator, with Linville Management Services, Inc.

The next board meeting is January 15, 2013.

Minutes of the October 16 board meeting were approved.

Open Session

Nine members signed in for the open session: Cheryl Cooper, Joy Layden, Bea Parks, Jessie Phillips, Helen McElfresh, Michael Benz, Kathleen Morton, Jean Hudgens and Lorie Marler.

Sheryl welcomed them and opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Mike presented the maintenance superintendent's report. From October 16 to November 20, 108 work orders were called in and 96 completed. Replaced were three water heaters, one bath sink, one kitchen sink, one bath faucet, one kitchen faucet, one countertop, one garbage disposal, one range and one refrigerator.

There have been two move-outs and one move-in since the last meeting.

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Sheryl Frank, vice president of the board, recognizes Helen McElfresh as the Good Neighbor of the Month for November.



Sheryl awards a \$25 gift card to Bea Parks, winner of the door prize drawing.

Furnace inspections will be done next week.

Martha gave the office updates. There have been 33 statements of charges due, one attorney referral, 23 defaults, one animal violation and two vehicle violations.

Nine units are for sale. Two units are not paying carrying charges.

Cheryl Cooper announced that the first adult play date will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 7, in the clubhouse.

Sheryl announced that a cooperative holiday dinner will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 15, in the clubhouse. Members are asked to bring a covered dish and a \$5 gift if they want to participate in a gift exchange.

Helen McElfresh was recognized as the Good Neighbor of the Month for November.

Bea Parks won the \$25 gift card in the door prize drawing.

The meeting ended at 6:20 p.m.

Closed Session

The board ratified a telephone poll taken on October 19 about the purchase of a new copier for the on-site office. Those polled approved of the purchase.

Dudley reviewed the attorney status report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Reminder

There will be no board meeting in December.

The next board meeting is January 15, 2013.

How to teach children about fire safety, prevention

Children of all ages set more than 35,000 fires annually, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

More than \$200 million worth of property is destroyed in these fires and about 150 people die.

In an effort to prevent injuries, fatalities and property damage, the USFA urges parents to educate their children about the nature of fire: fire can be fast, hot, dark and deadly.

Here are some tips.

Keep matches and lighters in a secured drawer or cabinet.

Encourage your children to tell you when they find matches and lighters.

Develop a home fire escape plan. Practice it with your children and designate a meeting place outside.

Supervise young children closely.

Teach children that fire is a tool, not a toy.

Show children how to stop, drop to the ground and roll if their clothes catch fire.

Show children how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, to get out of the house and stay out in the case of fire.

Teach children not to hide from fire fighters.

For more information, go to www.usfa.fema.gov, the Web site of the U.S. Fire Administration.

Rules for Holiday Lights and Decorations

Only small bulbs outside. Fused, rated string lights may be installed.

String lights must have no more than three strings attached together; and where plugged together, they must be taped with electrical tape to keep moisture out.

Holiday lights are to be installed with plastic gutter hangers only.

Christmas lights must not be installed prior to Thanksgiving and must be removed by February 1; or maintenance will remove the lights at the member's expense with no responsibility for condition of the lights after removal.

Holiday lights will be plugged in with a socket/plug adapter screwed into the porch light only. Each member will control his or her own lights as to when they are on or off.

Independence Square Townhouses will allow you to install wreaths, Christmas ornaments and battery-operated Christmas lights on the front door. These items can only be installed with an "over the top of the door" wreath hanger, suction cup hooks or adhesive-mounted light clips.

Other holiday lighting can be installed three (3) days prior to the holiday and removed no later than three (3) days after the holiday. Yard rules are to be observed at all times.

Got a good neighbor? Tell us who . . .

Independence Square is full of unsung heroes.

They may be the neighbor who brings you a meal when you're sick or who gives you a ride to the grocery store when your car is in the shop or who takes care of your cat when you're away.

They may be the neighbor who volunteers to serve on committees or who organizes activities. You may have seen a neighbor picking up litter in your neighborhood.

Whatever the act of kindness, Independence Square is a better place to live because of these unsung heroes.

And now, we want you to help us recognize them with the Independence Square Good Neighbor honor.

Please tell us about your neighbor by filling in the form and turning it in to the office.

The kindness can be a one-time act or it can be something done on a regular basis.

The act of kindness can benefit just one person, a neighborhood or the entire cooperative.

One Good Neighbor will be recognized every month and will receive a \$25 gift card.

Nominees must be members in good standing.

All information will be verified.

The Good Neighbor recognition program will continue throughout the year. When you're touched by another's kindness, please nominate that person.

Good Neighbor Nomination

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your phone number: _____

I nominate _____
(Please give full name of neighbor your are nominating.)

Neighbor's address: _____

Neighbor's phone number: _____

Please understand that phone numbers are necessary so we can talk with both the nominator and the nominee to verify all information. Phone numbers will not be published in the newsletter.

Explain why you are nominating this person. What has

she or he done to be a good neighbor?

Tell us about your neighbor:

Why does or did your neighbor do this?

In what way does this act of kindness help you or others?

How long has he or she lived in Independence Square?

Optional:

Other members of the household?

Occupation?

Any other information you'd like share?

For Office Use Only

Is the nominee a member in good standing?

____ **Yes** ____ **No**