

# Dates to Remember

## February 2014

Carrying charges due: February 1

Recycled papers picked up: February 5

Carrying charges delinquent: February 10

Presidents Day observed: February 17  
Office closed

Board meeting: February 18  
Open session at 6 p.m.

Carrying charges sent to the attorney: February 20

## March 2014

Carrying charges due: March 1

Recycled papers picked up: March 5

Daylight saving time begins: March 9

Carrying charges delinquent: March 10

Board meeting: March 18  
Open session at 6 p.m.

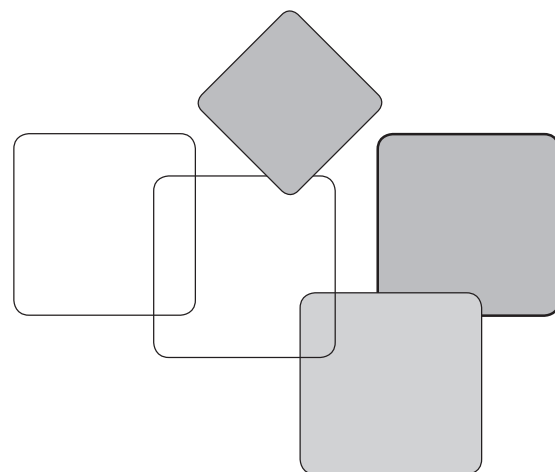
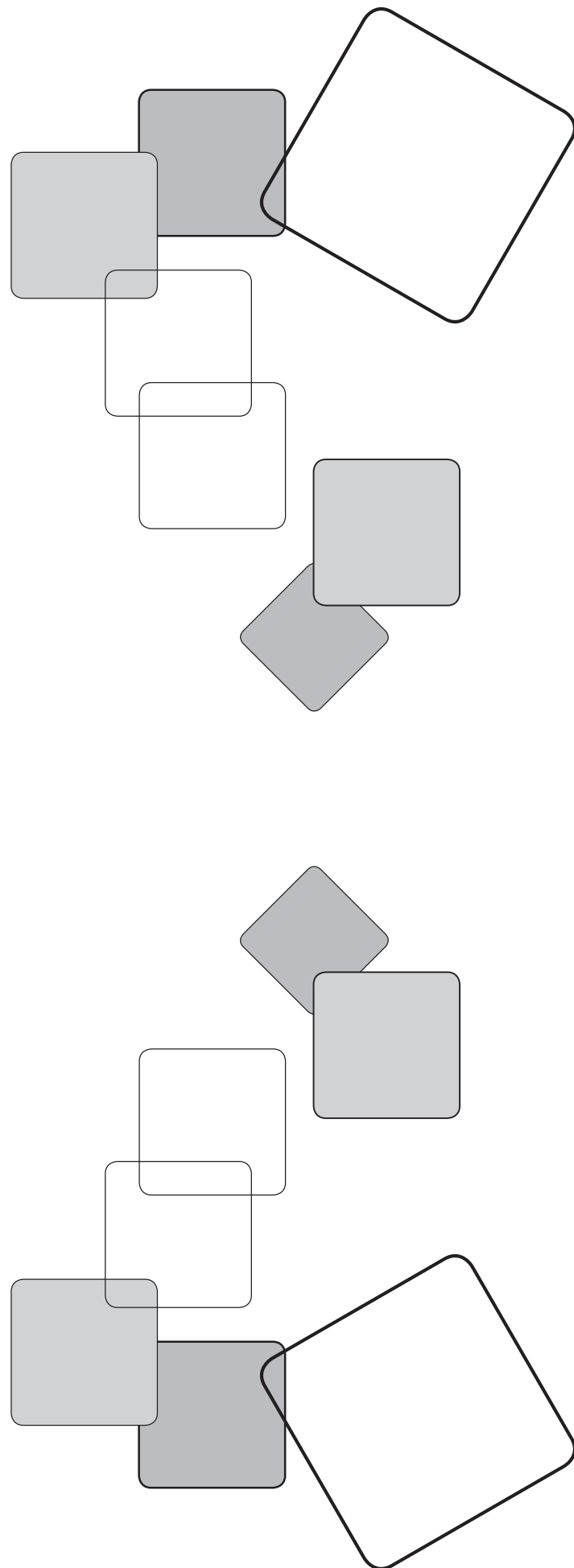
Carrying charges sent to the attorney: March 20

### **Please note:**

*The Independence Square newsletter, "Around the Square," publishes two months of dates in every issue.*

*The December issue, for example, includes both December and January calendar dates as well as events.*

*The newsletter is published and delivered mid-month.*



F E B R U A R Y

*Around*  
the SQUARE

2 0 1 4

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Sheryl Frank  
*president*

Ed Korte  
*vice president*

Ray Gamble  
*secretary-treasurer*

Mike Gamble

Marilyn Porter

### **HANDY PHONE NUMBERS**

Independence Square  
Townhouses office  
816.252.0444

Police (Non-emergency)  
816.325.7300

Police (Emergency)  
911

Signal 88 Security  
816.868.4115

Animal Shelter  
816.621.7722

Animal Control Dispatcher  
816.325.7205

Report Power Outage  
816.325.7550

Regionan Animal Shelter  
21001 E. Highway 78  
Independence  
816.621.7722

Hours:  
Noon to 8 p.m. Tues. – Fri.  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat. – Sun.

Citizens Information Center  
816.325.7000

## **NEWSLETTER MINUTES**

**January 21, 2014  
Board Meeting**

Sheryl Frank, president, called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Other board members present were Ed Korte, vice president, and Mike Gamble.

Also attending were Alexis Martin, on-site manager; Martha Ramcke, assistant manager; Mike Leach, maintenance superintendent; Melva Linville, property manager, and Carmen Detherage, comptroller with Linville Management Services, Inc.; and Dudley Leonard, cooperative attorney.

The board accepted the resignation of Michael Benz from the board of directors.

The next board meeting is February 18.

Minutes of the November 19, 2013, meeting were approved.

### **Open Session**

Six members signed in: Bea Parks, Olga Salazar, Jessie Phillips, Frank Scheuring, Janet Myers and Johanny Gonzales.

Sheryl welcomed them and called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Mike gave the maintenance report. A new exterior drain system has been installed behind unit 1414. Two exterior handrails have been installed in the back of 1303 and front of 1265.

Maintenance has been busy with snow removal and rehabs. There have been five move-ins since the last meeting and one move-out. Called in have been 130 work orders and 115 of these have been completed.

Replaced were two refrigerators, two ranges, one garbage disposal, one kitchen faucet, one bath faucet, two kitchen floors, one bath floor and one bath sink.



*Sheryl Frank, board president, awards a \$25 gift certificate to Carlos Gonzales, winner of the door prize drawing at the January meeting.*

Alexis presented the office updates. Four units are for sale with applications approved on two of those. One of the two units available is not paying carrying charges.



Mike Gamble, member of the board of directors, awards a \$200 referral check to Janet Myers.

There have been 14 statements of charges due, one attorney referral, 19 defaults and two vehicle violations.



Mike Gamble awards a \$200 referral check to Olga Salazar.

Olga Salazar and Janet Myers were present and were recognized with \$200 referral bonuses for referring qualified new members. Yafreisi Genao also received a referral bonus.

Carlos Gonzales won the door prize drawing.

The open session ended at 6:25 p.m.

## City rules apply to all dogs at large

The City of Independence requires that all dogs regardless of size be restrained when outdoors.

By City Code a dog is under restraint:

if it is in and cannot escape from a fully enclosed yard;

if the dog is on a leash of sufficient strength to confine it to the premises of the owners;

if the dog is fastened to a leash that is less than eight feet long and held by a person capable of controlling the dog.

“Invisible” fencing does not meet the definition of restraint.

The leash laws are designed to protect citizens and their dogs from harm. A loose dog may encounter a vicious dog, a dangerous wild animal or a car and be unable stop in time.

Unrestrained dogs also may strain relationships with neighbors by digging in yards, destroying decorations or flower beds, leaving waste behind or annoying the neighbor’s pets.

Finally, unrestrained dogs may hurt your pocketbook. Owners of animals deemed a public nuisance may be subject to a fine of up to \$500 for the first offense.

For owners who want to allow their dogs to run free, the City of Independence provides public spaces for responsible citizens to bring their dogs without violating the law: off-leash zones in parks.

The Independence Leash-Free Zones are fenced, public areas where vaccinated dogs can legally run and play with other dogs under the supervision of their owners.

For more information on locations and rules regarding use of the leash-free zones in Independence parks, please visit the Web site, [www.independencemo.org/Parksand Rec](http://www.independencemo.org/Parksand Rec).

### Off-Leash Zones for Dogs

Santa Fe Park  
at 2900 S. Santa Fe Road

Fairmount Park  
at 300 N. Home Ave.

## Tax Preparation

I am available to do income taxes for cooperative members. I have 20 years of tax preparation experience, am a member of Independence Square and can make arrangements to pick up your tax information from you.

Depending on what your tax needs are, the cost may be as low as \$29.

Please call me at 816.805.4588 for more information.

~Bobbie Wensell

## Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

Home fires are a greater risk in the winter when people cook holiday meals, display decorations and use heat sources unsafely, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

Statistics compiled by the National Fire Incident Reporting System reveal that cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires and 5 to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires. More than 900 fire-related deaths occur annually and more than \$2 million in property is lost from these fires.

Residents are reminded not to use a range or an oven for additional home heating. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can also be a source of potentially toxic fumes.

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](http://www.usfa.fema.gov), the Web site of the U.S. Fire Administration.

## Members receive \$200 referral bonuses

Members of Independence Square Townhouses receive \$200 checks as referral bonuses when an applicant they recommend becomes a member.

Yafreisi Genao, Janet Myers and Olga Salazar were recognized for a referral at the January board meeting.

We thank them and other referring members for their vote of confidence in our cooperative and for helping us attract qualifying new members. Word-of-mouth recommendations are our best source of new members. When you tell others to consider Independence Square for their new home, it means that you enjoy living here and that you know someone else who would be a good neighbor for us.

The referral should be mentioned at the time of application.

The referring member will receive \$200 after the applicant moves in.

## Please register pets, vehicles

Pet and vehicle permits are now due.

If you have not registered these with the office, please do so. The deadline is February 28.

Pet registration requires a copy of the certificate verifying vaccinations are current.

Failure to comply may place your Occupancy Agreement in jeopardy.

## Tips to Secure Your Unit

Signal 88 Security, the firm that patrols Independence Square Townhouses, offers these suggestions for protecting yourself and your property.

1. Obtain insurance to protect the value of your material possessions.
2. Consider using a bar to secure your sliding glass door.
3. Never prop your door open while you are gone, even when making short trips to visit a neighbor.
4. Pull the blinds shut so that would-be criminals cannot case your unit.
5. Be aware of people posing as door-to-door sellers. They may be checking to see who is not home.
6. Keep your car doors locked at all times.
7. If you see unusual activity in a vacant unit, report this to the office. After hours, call 816.868.4115.
8. Always confirm identification of maintenance technicians or outside service providers, such as the phone company.