

Members Receive \$200 Referral Bonuses

Members of Independence Square Townhouses receive \$200 checks as referral bonuses when they refer a new qualifying new member.

We thank these members for their vote of confidence in our cooperative.

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 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.

Safe Bicycling

Please do not let your children ride their bicycles next to or between cars. Drivers are unable to see the bicyclists and some cars have been scratched.

~ Thank you.

New Shelter, Management for Independence Animals

The new Jackson County Regional Animal Shelter opened in April.

The Great Plains SPCA is now operating the shelter at 21001 E. Highway 78, just east of the campus of Metropolitan Community College-Blue River.

The shelter is now open for adoptions from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The shelter is closed for adoptions on Mondays.

If you have lost or found a pet, the shelter is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The phone number for the Jackson County Regional Animal Shelter is 816.621.7722. Or visit the Web site at www.greatplainssPCA.org.

If you are interested in volunteering at the shelter, please contact Tomomi Suenaga at 816.783.5113. Volunteers are needed for adoption assistance, cat and dog socializing and general office support.

The City of Independence health department will continue to enforce the code related to animal welfare and will respond to reports of animals at large, dog bites or other animal control violations. The Animal Services dispatch line is 816.325.7205.

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.
8. Always confirm identification of maintenance technicians or outside service providers, such as the phone company.

NOVEMBER

Around
the SQUARE

2013

NEWSLETTER MINUTES

Board Meeting October 15, 2013

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

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

Minutes of the September 18 meeting were approved.

The next board meeting is November 18.

The board approved the purchasing bright blue parking stickers. Use of the new stickers will begin on January 1.

Open Session

Eleven members signed in for the open session: Cora Little, Barbara Wood, Lindsay Torres, Joyce Layton, Judy Henthorn, Lorie Marler, Jean Hudgens, Phyllis Cannon, Jessie Phillips, Bea Parks and Abigail Perez.

Sheryl welcomed them and called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mike Leach gave the maintenance report for October. Furnace maintenance will begin next week. The retaining wall in front of Building #4 has been completed and the one behind Building #21 will be finished this week. Basketball goals will be completed as well.

There have been two move-ins and two move-outs since the last board meeting and 98 of 110 work orders completed.

Continued on next page.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sheryl Frank
president

Ed Korte
vice president

Ray Gamble
secretary-treasurer

Michael Benz

Mike Gamble

HANDY PHONE NUMBERS

Independence Square
Townhouses office
816.252.0444

Signal 88 Security of
Jackson County, MO
816.868.4115

Animal Shelter
816.621.7722

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



Michael Benz presents a \$25 gift card to Barbara Wood, winner of the door prize drawing during the October open session.

Installed have been two refrigerators, one range, one garbage disposal, one kitchen faucet and one bath sink.

Alexis presented the office updates. Seven units are for sale and four of these are paying carrying charges. There have been three intents to vacate filed and three move-ins are scheduled.

There have been 14 statements of charges due, one attorney referral, 25 defaults, and one animal violation.

Melva gave the managing agent's report. The audit has been completed and all was in order. Michael Benz was given a new board member manual and Carmen distributed and reviewed the board member code of ethics for all board members to sign individual copies and one collective copy.

Sheryl recognized Jessie Phillips as the Good Neighbor of the Month and read aloud the nomination by Ida Rae Conners. Michael Benz presented her with a gift card.

Luis Sabala was recognized for an approved referral and will receive \$200.

The door prize drawing was awarded.

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



Board member Michael Benz recognizes Jessie Phillips as the Good Neighbor of the Month for October.

Closed Session

Dudley reviewed the attorney status report.

The board agreed to a cooperative Christmas potluck on December 14.

Three phone polls were ratified.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Dates to Remember

November 2013

- Carrying charges due: November 1
- Daylight Saving Time ends: November 3
- Recycled papers picked up: November 6
- Carrying charges delinquent: November 11
- Board Meeting: November 19
Open session at 6 p.m.
- Carrying charges sent to the attorney: November 21
- Thanksgiving observed: November 28 and 29
Office closed

December 2013

- Carrying charges due: December 1
- Recycled papers picked up: December 4
- Carrying charges delinquent: December 10
- Carrying charges sent to the attorney: December 20
- Christmas observed: December 24 and 25
Office closed

Donations Accepted

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.

Please note: The Independence Square newsletter, "Around the Square," publishes two months of dates in every issue. The November issue, for example, includes both November and December calendar dates as well as events. The newsletter is published and delivered mid-month.

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