



NEWSLETTER

Independence Square Townhouses, Inc. • 1360 Baker Drive • Independence, MO
www.independencesquaretownhouses.com

Board of Directors

Marilyn Porter
President

Sheryl Frank
Vice President

Ray Gamble
Secretary-Treasurer

Bill Bailey

Ed Korte

Handy Phone Numbers

Indep. Square Office
 816-252-0444

Central Jackson County
 Patrol
 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

BOARD MEETING, August 17, 2010

NEWSLETTER MINUTES

Marilyn Porter, president, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Other board members present were Sheryl Frank, vice president; Ray Gamble, secretary-treasurer; Bill Bailey and Ed Korte. Also attending were Alexis Martin, site manager; Beth Webb, assistant manager; Mike Leach, maintenance superintendent; Lisa Gamble, controller for Linville Management Services, Inc.; and Dudley Leonard, cooperative attorney.

The next board meeting will be the annual meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 22. Minutes of the July 20 board meeting were approved unanimously.

The board moved into open session at 6 p.m. No members appeared.

Mike gave the maintenance report. From July 20 to August 17, 136 work orders were called in and 120 were completed. Replaced during this time were two water heaters, two bath sinks, two bath faucets, one range and one refrigerator. Three move-ins are scheduled. Renovations to interiors of units are halfway done. Contractors are working on Building #10 with the shingles and renovations.

Alexis gave the manager's report. Eighteen units are for sale; 12 of these are vacant. Four units have been sold and one intent to vacate has been received. Alexis has changed the voice mail message to include information on the cooperative Web site.

There have been 15 statements of charges due, one attorney referral, 24 defaults, two animal violations and three vehicle violations. Sheryl reported that four small dogs participated in the Doggie Social Hour. She believed the warm weather kept attendance down. The next social hour will be the first Wednesday in October.

The open session ended. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Ed Korte, member of the board of directors, recognizes **Jen Schapeler as the Independence Square Good Neighbor of the Month for July**. She was given a \$25 gift card.

Michelle Childers for Board of Directors

Hello Co-op Members,

I'm throwing myself softly into the run for a place as a cooperative board member. I know for those of you who read these letters that I need to identify just who is Michelle Childers? I catch myself often asking, "Who am I?" Who-o-o am I? I will tell you the best answer I could think of. Here goes . . . are you ready?

1.) You probably have seen me out walking with my best furry friend Shiloh. She is the one with long black and white hair and loves the color pink and when approached will love to give you a sweet kiss on the hand, if you want her to. I'm her human friend but don't ask me to kiss your hand. (Add your smile here.)

2.) A meaningless fun fact for a possible co-op board game of some sort: I have lived here since May of 2003.

3.) I'm a professional artist. My principal is painting and mixed media with a focus on the environment, human nature, politics and personal struggle and also whatever grabs my interest! I have also done some local radio and cable T.V. programs and production.

4.) Enough about me. What would I do for you as a board member?

I have for a long time felt that we the common co-op folk have not been heard. I will listen to your concerns and desires for our community. I would hope that I would do so without being condescending. I feel that we need to continue the renewal of the board with new representation. We have started in this direction. I am a strong believer that the old guard needs to step down. I would love to be a part of the reinvigoration of the leadership that should have the co-op members as the real voices of our community.

5.) I would love to be party to finding ways to bring members back to the meetings and actually feel heard. I'm one of the members that stopped going because I felt like many of you I'm sure. I felt like the meetings were just a way to pacify us and make us feel like something was going to be done about our concerns. They basically just became a gripe fest. I don't want to see this continue and would not only try on my part to hear what you say but also work to see your concerns managed and resolved in some productive fashion.

6.) I feel that I should mention that I do have training in conflict resolution and dealing with the occasional difficult situations that do arise. I worked for many years as a case worker/counselor for Synergy House, an emergency placement home for kids and families in immediate crisis. I learned to really think fast on my feet and how to develop activities for youth who were in need of positive distraction and positive reaffirmation to cope with their family crisis. I loved my job and would still most likely be there today except for becoming disabled. I'm not going to dwell on that part of who I am. I've learned to live my life in a different fashion and it's OK. I feel my struggles from all of it has made me an even more compassionate person regarding others and in dealing with a very unpredictable world we all live in.

7.) I know from talking with many of you throughout the years that there are many concerns but because there is a feeling that you have not been heard and some of you have felt even ignored, and that participating in your community has become a "Why Bother?" I would like to try at the very least to be a part of changing this perspective. I would be a board member not for myself but for you. I have no need to power trip, only the need to want to help others be heard and feel like a real part of this community.

So, I feel I've rambled on long enough. I thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you will be able to come to the meeting in September to vote for continued positive change in our board.

Always,

Michelle D. Childers
Unless proven otherwise ☺

Marilyn Porter for Board of Directors

My name is Marilyn Porter and I am running for re-election to the board of directors. I am asking for your vote during the Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 22. For three terms, a total of nine years, I have served on the Independence Square board of directors. Currently, I am serving as president, an office I have held for six years.

During the nine years that I have served, I have worked with the other board members

- to support our affordable housing mission at all levels
- to encourage member participation in cooperative activities and open sessions of board meetings
- to pay off the cooperative's 40-year mortgage
- to pursue and explore refinancing options for repairs and upgrades to Independence Square Townhouses
- to approve renovations that will improve individual units of all members and the entire property.

Independence Square is looking better every day as renovations continue to be made. The cooperative has a board of directors committed to the best interests of the cooperative and each one of them is supporting me on my re-election.

Our bylaws do not require all board members to live in Independence Square. As most of you know, I moved from the cooperative several years ago. Now, I am in the process of putting my house up for sale and I look forward to the day that I can move back into "my townhome."

It is here in Independence Square that I raised two small children as a single mother. My son Zack is now 20 years old and was sworn into the U.S. Air Force last week. My daughter Ashley is 22 and happily married with a five-month-old son. I believe the safe and secure environment of Independence Square encouraged my children to become the successful individuals they are today.

Home is where the heart is. And my heart has always been here at Independence Square.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the annual membership meeting and I encourage you to re-elect me as a member of the board of directors.



Four-Footed Enjoy Tail Wagging Good Time

Every dog has his day. And some even have their own Doggie Play Day.

Cassy, Lola, Princess and Robbie all enjoyed the cooperative's first canine social hour on Wednesday, August 4, at the Independence Square Main Playground. The dogs frolicked off leash under owner supervision.

Sheryl Frank, organizer of the event, hopes cooler weather will bring even more four-footed friends out in the future.

The next Doggie Play Day will be on Wednesday, October 6.

One Position Open on Board of Directors

Cooperative members will fill a three-year position on the board of directors at the annual meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 22.

The meeting will be at the clubhouse. Sign-in begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded. Only members in good standing can vote. Any member with an unpaid balance of more than 30 days cannot vote. If you cannot attend, you may vote by proxy.

Members voting by proxy must appoint another member in good standing to vote on their behalf. No attending member may cast more than his or her vote plus one proxy vote.

Board Members Sign Ethics Agreement

Serving on the board of directors is a responsibility and privilege. The Independence Square board meets on the third Tuesday of every month except in September when the annual meeting is held on a Wednesday. Meetings begin at 5:45 p.m.

In addition to regular monthly board meetings, the board may call special meetings throughout the year. Once elected, all board members are required to sign the Board Member Code of Ethics.



Yard Sale Slated for September 17 and 18

Look for bargains throughout the cooperative on Friday, September 17, and Saturday, September 18.

That's the date for the annual cooperative yard sale.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The rain date is September 24 and 25.

SEPTEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Carrying Charges Due Recycled Papers Picked Up	2	3	4
5	6 Office Closed for Labor Day	7	8	9	10 \$50 Late Fee Added	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Cooperative Yard Sale	18 Cooperative Yard Sale
19	20 Delinquent Accounts to Attorney	21	22 Annual Meeting Sign in begins at 6:30 pm Meeting at 7 pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		