

Observing Independence Square pet waste rules is easy now with the readily available bags. Not complying, however, can get expensive.

If pet owners don't comply, maintenance then is dispatched to clean up and members are charged \$25.

City rules apply to all dogs

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.

Off-Leash Zones for Dogs

Santa Fe Park
at 2900 S. Santa Fe Road

Fairmount Park
at 300 N. Home Ave.

Nominate a Neighbor

Nominate a member who exemplifies the Independence Square spirit of cooperation through his or her thoughtful acts to help others.

One Good Neighbor is recognized every month and receives a \$25 gift card.

Good Neighbor Nomination

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your phone number: _____

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

Neighbor's address: _____

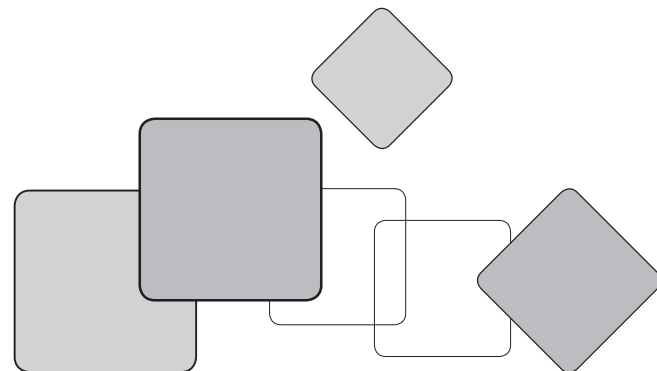
Neighbor's phone number: _____

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?

Why does or did your neighbor do this?

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



APRIL

Around
the SQUARE

2 0 1 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ed Korte
president

Sheryl Frank
vice president

Mike Gamble
secretary-treasurer

William Bather

Debbie Malone

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

Regional 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

Mike Mahan Named Good Neighbor for April

Cleanliness counts.

"How the cooperative looks makes a difference in the way members feel about where they live," said Ed Korte, president of the board of directors.

Mike Mahan cares about the appearance of his community and makes a conscientious effort to keep the grounds free of litter and debris.

That's why the board of directors nominated Mike for the Good Neighbor of the Month for April.

"Sometimes good, kind people are taken for granted," Ed said. "We want Mike to know that the board and others have noticed and appreciate what he does to keep the property looking good."

Mike often can be seen walking his dogs and while cleaning up after them, he also picks up trash on the grounds to keep the property presentable and enjoyable for everyone.

The Good Neighbor award recognizes members who exemplify the special spirit of cooperation that makes our community a better place for all of us.

The board of directors will recognize Mike at 6 p.m. during the open session of the April 21 board meeting. As a recipient of the Good Neighbor award, he will receive a \$25 gift card.

NEWSLETTER MINUTES

March 17, 2015
Board Meeting

Ed Korte, president, called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Also present were Sheryl Frank, vice president; William Bather and Debbie Malone, board members; Alexis Martin, on-site manager; Martha Ramcke, assistant on-site manager; Mike Leach, maintenance superintendent; Dudley Leonard, cooperative attorney; and Carmen Detherage, comptroller, and Betsy Kilker,

administrative assistant, with Linville Management Services, Inc.

Mike Gamble, board secretary-treasurer, joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

The next board meeting is April 21.

Minutes of the February 17 board meeting were approved.

Dudley reviewed the attorney status report.

Open Session

Seven members signed in: Dilcia Melendez, Cora Little, Barb Wood, Phyllis Cannon, Bea Parks, Helen McElfresh and Jessie Phillips.

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

Mike gave the maintenance superintendent's report.

Annual inspections of units are being conducted and yards reseeded building by building.

Royal Lawn Service is cleaning up the grounds for spring in preparation for mowing.

Replacements from February 17 to March 17 were two ranges, one refrigerator, one countertop, one kitchen faucet, one bath faucet, two kitchen floors, two bath floors and one bath sink.

There have been five move-ins and one move-out since the last meeting.

Of 102 work orders called in, 90 have been completed.

Alexis gave the office report. There have been 15 statements of charges due, 18 letters of default and two vehicle violations.

Eleven units are for sale; of these, three are not paying. Five move-ins are scheduled, four applications are pending and one application appointment is scheduled.

The Spring Yard Sale will be Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16. Rain dates are Friday,

May 22, and Saturday, May 23.

Members who have not turned in annual pet and vehicle permits have been given 10 days to comply by March 14.

Dilcia Melendez and Helen McElfresh were present and recognized with referral bonuses. They were given \$200 each for referring a qualifying new member. Adrienne Hollaman also will receive a \$200 referral bonus.

Ed opened the floor to member comments. Pet waste continues to be a problem.

Jessie Phillips won the door prize drawing, a \$25 QuikTrip card.

The open session ended at 6:30 p.m.

Dates to Remember

April 2015

Carrying charges due: April 1

Recycled papers picked up: April 1

Carrying charges delinquent: April 10

Board meeting: April 21
Open session at 6 p.m.

Carrying charges sent to attorney: April 20

May 2015

Carrying charges due: May 1

Recycled papers picked up: May 6

Carrying charges delinquent: May 11

Board meeting: May 19
Open session at 6 p.m.

Carrying charges sent to attorney: May 21

Memorial Day observed: May 25
Office closed

Please note:

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

The February issue, for example, includes both April and May calendar dates as well as events.

The newsletter is published and delivered mid-month.

New Grounds Rule Approved

At the March meeting, the board approved an addition to the House and Grounds rules.

The new rules requires members who want to install a patio or deck to have a fenced backyard.

Late fee policy in effect

The board voted to formalize the cooperative's policy on late fees at the March meeting.

Effective May 1, the official policy now states: "A late fee will be enforced on all carrying charges balances regardless of the amount."

The board also reviewed the Work Order Payment Arrangements policy and voted to raise the chargeable maximum amount to \$300 from \$200.

Permit, rules protect pets, people

Pet owners must have a permit approved before pets move in.

Members who own a cat or a dog are required to complete a pet permit by January 31 of every year.

Permit applications must be accompanied by a certificate of vaccination and a one-time \$50 non-refundable fee for a pet. Any member who owns a pet without obtaining a permit and paying the fee will be required to remove the pet immediately.

When a prospective member submits an application, office personnel will take a photo of the pet as well as review the pet's certificate of vaccination.

A dog cannot weigh more than 65 pounds at maturity. Breeds not allowed are Akita, Doberman pinscher, boxer, chow, rottweiler, wolf or any other aggressive breeds or any dog mixed with these breeds.

Pit bulls are not allowed. A pit bull is defined as an American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier or any dog displaying the physical traits of any one or more of these breeds or any dog exhibiting those distinguishing characteristics which substantially conform to the standards established by the American Kennel Club or

United Kennel Club for any of these breeds.

Dogs and cats must wear collars with shot tags and owner's identification tags attached at all times.

Pet owners are responsible for immediate clean-up of pet waste. If a complaint is issued, the member will be given 24 hours to clean up after the pet. If a maintenance employee cleans up after the pet, the member will be charged \$25 for this service.

Pet owners are responsible for all actions of their pets. Dog and cat bites will result in an immediate revocation of the member's pet permit and the member must remove the animal from the premises.

All pet owners are required to have pets spayed or neutered. Litters are not allowed.

Members must comply with the existing city ordinance prohibiting animals to run free or at large.

When a dog or cat is out of the member's unit or fenced yard, the pet must be on a leash or chain. The leash or chain must not be attached to a tree, shrub or permanent fixture. Dog houses or any type of pet houses are not allowed.

Visiting pets are not permitted.

All complaints against a member or the member's pet must be in writing. The complaint is kept in the office with the member's file.

Violations of this permit will result in a 10-day notice to comply. If the violation is not remedied, a second notice will be sent. If the violation is still not remedied, the pet permit will be revoked and the pet must be removed from the property.

Doggie waste disposal bags available on site

Rigorous enforcement of the rule requiring pet owners to clean up after their pets has begun this spring due to a significant increase in pet waste left on the grounds.

Members are asked to report to the office pet owners who are observed to be breaking this rule.

Pet waste clean-up reminder signs and stations with disposal bags have been posted on the property.

We hope to encourage all members to clean up after their pets and keep the grounds neat and clean for everyone to enjoy.

Whether rain, snow, sleet or hail, pet owners are expected to clean up after their pets in all weather. Those who fail to do so are sent a notice and given 24 hours to comply.



Dilcia Melendez received a referral bonus of \$200 from board president Ed Korte.



Helen McElfresh received a \$200 referral bonus from Ed Korte, board president.



Jessie Phillips won the door prize drawing during the March open session of the board meeting. Ed Korte, board president, awarded her a \$25 gift card.