



The Hearth

Hearthstone Board

Issue No. 1

January 2015

Newsletter of the Hearthstone Village Community Association
631 Water Meade Place

GO GREEN, log on to HVCAFW.ORG and subscribe to the paperless Newsletter
(Be sure to include your street address. If you're receiving both, we still need your street address.)

Dead Tree Removal along Railroad Corridor From Dawn Ritchie, Greenways Manages, City of Fort Wayne:

The City of Fort Wayne accepted quotes on dead tree removal along the railroad corridor behind your home. We have awarded the contract to Ransom Tree Service.... They may start with the smaller trees using a Bobcat and then come back with larger equipment for the larger trees.



There are over 120 dead trees, mostly Ash, which will be removed within the 75 feet of right of way that the City purchased from Hearthstone over one year ago. These trees have been marked with yellow paint. We are only removing the dead trees that we believe are a safety issue for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as homes and structures. Dead trees provide habitat for birds and other animals, so if the dead tree is not deemed a safety hazard, we will not be removing it.

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Contact information can be found on Hearthstone Association Webpage

*“Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much”
- Helen Keller*

SNOW REMOVAL ON RESIDENTIAL SIDEWALKS

It is the homeowner's responsibility to remove snow from sidewalks on their property. The snow needs to be removed by 9 A.M. after the snow stops falling. And, for your own safety, don't forget to keep fire hydrants visible if the Fire Department needs to respond to an emergency. If there is a family, or individual in need, you can do a good turn by helping them out with their sidewalks. Clean sidewalks will make our neighborhood safer. Thanks for your help.



Bill Smith - Crime & Safety

HEARTHSTONE CRIME WATCH

I am contacted, about every two weeks, by our Fort Wayne Liaison Officer, Robert Ness. He asks if there are any issues his Department needs to watch or needs action. If you have any concerns that need reporting, please call me at 489-9047. If it involves a specific incident; time, place and any details would be helpful. If you experience property damage or personal injury, you should file a police report first. Information provided to me would be forwarded to Officer Ness to establish future action needs (it does not constitute filing a Police Report).

Bill Smith - Crime & Safety



PARKING IN THE STREET

Here are some reminders about parking in the street:

1. You increase the hazard for a child darting into the street to retrieve a ball or toy.
2. You create a traffic obstruction for two-way traffic on your street-especially when the neighbor, across the street does the same thing.
3. Cars parked in the street are more frequently vandalized.
- 4. There is a city ordinance that a car, left parked in the street for more than 24 hours, may be ticketed.**
5. During our snow plow season, cars parked in the street will be plowed around, and possibly be blocked by plowed snow. **When the car is left on the street, with the snow plowed around it, the car is easier identified as having violated the 24 hour violation.**

Recommendation: Park your car in the driveway or garage. In the garage is best; less chance for vandalism, the car stays warmer in the winter (not covered by snow or ice), and you don't get wet, getting out in the rain. And, if that garage is too full to park your car, use the warm weather of summer and fall as a time to clean it out.

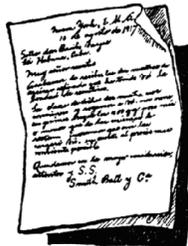
Bill Smith - Crime & Safety

COMMUNICATING YOUR LAST WISHES

You may have always helped and guided your family members – that shouldn't end just when they need you most. It's important to make the necessary arrangements even if you don't have a lot of money or assets for your family to inherit. If you don't make decisions now, those decisions may default to relatives (who may not know what you want or may have different beliefs than you do) or even to the state authorities. Planning also can help keep the peace – being clear about your intentions can prevent family disputes.

Get Organized – It is extremely important that you tell a trusted person (spouse, child, attorney, executor, etc.) where important records can be found in case you are incapacitated or pass away suddenly. Also be sure to keep the following documents **up to date**:

- Will, living will, powers of attorney, trust
- inventory of assets, accounts, insurance policies
- Contact information for investments and financial firms
- Beneficiary designations
- List of credit cards (for cancellation)
- List of regular (repeating) payments
- Funeral Instructions
- Contact information for notification of situation
- Pension information (Start, continue, or discontinue if not inheritable)
- List of regular services to cancel (phone, internet, etc.)
- Location and contents of safe deposit boxes
- Instructions for executing a credit freeze (To avoid identity theft)



Dan Culbertson - Secretary

SIDEWALK REPAIRS

Home owners are responsible for repairs to any damaged sidewalks on their property. The home owner could also be held responsible for personal injury expenses of anyone injured as a result of poorly maintained sidewalks. If you have a sidewalk with holes, raised cracks or sunken sections they can also affect your homeowners insurance and the selling value of your home. If you have damaged sidewalk sections on your property there are several options when considering repairs:

1. Hire a private contractor, at your expense, to make repairs.
2. Petition the City for repair assistance. Repairs are done by the City, with expenses shared, 60% by the homeowner and 40% by the City. Please note; the City of Fort Wayne, the City has a limited amount of funding for the purpose source for each year. Call 311 to inquire about this option. You can also call me with your repair issues.
3. Contact your City Council Representative to determine if the Representative could use CEDIT Funds to assist with expenses.

Remember: The homeowner can be held liable for any injuries due to defective sidewalks, and the homeowner is responsible for making sure their sidewalk is in good repair.

Bill Smith - Crime & Safety

HEARTHSTONE HAS COME TO SOCIAL MEDIA!

Have you wanted to "Go Green" with the Hearthstone newsletter but don't want to miss anything important? Well now Hearthstone is coming to you in more ways online! Along with our website and an e-mail sign up for the newsletter, you can also receive information on what is happening in Hearthstone on Facebook and Twitter! Check us out at

- <https://www.facebook.com/hvcafw>
- <https://twitter.com/hvcafw>



Let us know if there are other ways we can connect with you so that you can stay in touch with the Hearthstone community!

Stephen Heindel – Hearthstone Technical Coordinator

Winter Reminder: After shoveling, be sure to use salt or another de-icer on any icy spots on your sidewalks to help avoid slips and falls in our community!

Hearthstone Website

<http://www.hvcafw.org>

Hearthstone Social

<https://www.facebook.com/hvcafw>

<https://www.twitter.com/hvcafw>

Log on and **GO GREEN** by subscribing to paperless newsletter and get neighborhood updates the day it is posted. Be sure to include your street address so we can truly go green by not sending the paper newsletter.

Send Feedback to:
feedback@hvcafw.org

Architectural questions to:
architectural@hvcafw.org

Crime reports and questions to:
CrimeAndSafety@hvcafw.org

If you want an update for the Hearthstone Directory, please send request to:
directory@hvcafw.org

Please include name, phone, and home address so we can be sure your listing is correct.

Be sure to check out the ads and services offered by our neighbors. Keep the money in the Neighborhood by allowing your neighbors to be of service to you. If you want to place an ad, send it to ads@hvcafw.org. Keep it brief. (mowing, babysitting, legal services, the company YOU work for or own, etc)

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