

Iles Park Neighborhood Association
Neighborhood Minutes September 9, 2024
Iles Park Pavilion



12 attendees

Jennifer Notariano, Alderwoman Ward 6

- **Neighborhood cleanup**
 - There was a discussion about a litter pickup and a large item pickup.
 - We tentatively scheduled a pickup for October 12, but some officers now have a conflict that day.
 - We'll talk about a pickup for litter and large items next spring.
- **City Council – Homeless Camping Ban**
 - Originated from the IL Municipal League template ordinance <https://www.iml.org/file.cfm?key=27910> which resulted from Supreme Court decision allowing cities to ban people from sleeping and camping in public places, overturning lower court rulings that deemed it cruel and unusual under the Eighth Amendment to punish people for sleeping outside if they had nowhere else to go.
<https://www.npr.org/2024/06/28/nx-s1-4992010/supreme-court-homeless-punish-sleeping-encampments>
 - Was up for emergency passage on 9/3; sponsors Mayor Buscher and Alderwoman Purchase moved it to the regular agenda for first reading 9/10.
 - If passed, this ordinance would result in a big policy change from current practice, requiring police to evaluate possessions of unhomed people, throw away trash, and for the city to store possessions for 30 days.
 - There is strong opposition to this ordinance: “criminalizing homelessness”.
 - Some unhomed people don't want to go into even a low-barrier shelter due to rules requiring cleanliness, no drug or alcohol use while there, and schedule restrictions.
- Habitat for Humanity is building the first of 3-4 new homes on the vacant lot on the southwest corner of 2nd and Laurel.

Shawn Gregory, Alderman Ward 2 – not in attendance

Michael Horn, Zone Manager, Public Works

- City's Unsafe and Dangerous Buildings map: <https://arcg.is/1Gz5va> (click on Demo)
- Use Report a Problem in the website or call city 217-789-2255 and ask for him. Email Michael.Horn@Springfield.il.us. If you see a problem, report it. Call on non-emergency number 217-788-8311.
- City projects (roads, sidewalks, curbs) are complete for the summer.
- Call city arborist Brad Hamil for information about having trees removed on parkways (between street and sidewalk.)
- The car wash on 6th St has been purchased by the owner of “The Auto Connect” car dealer at 1900 S 6th St. His intent is to asphalt the entire property and work on cars in the car wash building.
- The old Bel Aire property is for sale.
- **Demolition of derelict properties**
 - Bids came in \$200k over budget. They were put out for rebid with a September 5 closing date. Anticipate demolitions to start in November. 1915 S 5th is currently the 3rd property on the list.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off** October 19 in Chamberlin Park.
 - You need a voucher and designated drop-off time to participate.
See <https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/Publicworks/HHW.aspx> for

rules/vouchers or call Kristina LoRusso at 217-789-2167 x5244 or email Kristina.LoRusso@springfield.il.us. Open to all Illinois residents.

Chief Patrick Murphy, Park District Police – not in attendance but a Park District Police officer attended.

- We couldn't meet in the pavilion even though the NA had it reserved, were rude and very noisy. The Park District Police Officer talked to them, but they didn't move. They did move their vehicles off the grass around the pavilion.

NPO Officers Joe Vose and Joe Bridges

- Joe Vose 217-558-1291. Joe Bridges 217-843-6694.
- Homeless people in the neighborhood are going between several houses. The same group causes problems such as leaving needles and starting fires. Even when they break into a vacant house and go to jail or are given a citation for trespassing, they are released quickly and typically back within 48-72 hours. City is working with property owners to secure buildings so they can't get inside.
- The NPOs indicate that there are lots of calls to move homeless people from public property near city businesses, saying they discourage potential customers.
- Problems at 1823 S 4th St – duplex rental property tenants are responsible for carjacking and stolen vehicles. Police are working with landlord to evict 2nd set of tenants.
- The box truck at 8th & Cedar has been tagged.

Michelle Coffin, President/Treasurer

- Bank balance \$2,453.29. Not currently receiving statements; will check into it.
- **IPNA Officer nominations:**
 - President Michelle Coffin, Vice President Connie Preston, **Treasurer Barb Nagel NEW!**, Secretary Carol Kneedler.
 - **An email for online voting will be sent to members since October meeting is TBD.**
- **National Night Out – August 6 recap**
 - Estimated 50-70 people in attendance. The kids' activities were popular and all hot dogs eaten. Thank you notes have been sent out.
Photos at: <https://www.ilespark.org/NNO/>
- **October meeting TBD;** Michelle and Connie are out of town.
- 2024 meeting dates are generally 1st Mondays at the park pavilion.
- Discussion: future meeting location might be in new fire station near 11th and Ash, when open.

Respectfully, Carol Kneedler, IPNA Secretary