CITY OF HOUSTON ACRES
FALL NEWSLETTER 2012

City of Houston Acres

P.O. Box 206098

Louisville, KY 40250-6098

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month at McMahon Fire House

A RECENT SUCCESS

Attendance at the August Houston Acres City Council meeting is a direct reflection of the concern our citizens have for the quality of their roadways and the amount each may have to pay to cover the cost. Fifteen residents expressed opinions, offered suggestions and answered questions from the Mayor and Commissioners. The conversation continues at each of the upcoming meetings: October 25th, and November 29th. Please complete the survey you received and return it by November 29th to ensure your voice is heard. So far, only 82 (of 225) homeowners have returned their survey. As always, you are welcome at the City Council meetings. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your suggestions and opinions. **FINAL DISCUSSION WILL BE MARCH 28th, 2013.**

Message from the Mayor

Our City continues its sound financial standing where revenues exceed expenditures and reserves increase each month. This pattern of financial management has been our standard since incorporation of the City in the 1960's. Year by year the City budget reflects this policy of spending less than income received. The Board of Commissioners continues to discuss the need to repave City streets and, if repaving is necessary, when to do this and how best to pay for it. This Board and past Boards have maintained the streets as needed. They have also anticipated this future project of repaving and have kept yearly income in reserve for the work. However, the increasing costs of repaving have exceeded the ability to allocate reserves. Costs have regularly been cut where possible to increase reserves. As residents we all must continue to be part of the Board's discussion of this important issue. A personal note of thanks to every resident for helping making our City a safe and beautiful place to live.

Good Neighbors

As you walk around the neighborhood on Halloween, be sure to stop by 3112 Hunsinger Blvd to see our neighbor Karen's wonderful Halloween decorations. She starts decorating for Halloween on August 1st. She's been decorating her house for Halloween since 1979 and always has fun, interactive Halloween scenes. If you'd like to share Good Neighbor story in the newsletter, please e-mail HoustonAcres@gmail.com

Look for our Lincolnshire Police Officers on Halloween. They will be handing out candy to the neighborhood children. All officers will be in marked vehicles with lights on. Kids are encouraged to say hello and Trick or Treat.

Keep Up With Houston Acres

Did you know The City of Houston Acres has a Facebook page and an email group? Just point your web browser to www.facebook.com/HoustonAcres (a Facebook account is required to access this site). Our email group provides monthly meeting agendas for the City Council as well as up to the minute updates on crime issues. You can point your browser to this address: http://groups.google.com/group/houstonacres or email HoustonAcres@gmail.com for assistance.

Crime Report

Lincolnshire Police Officers report to the City Council on a regular basis the number of traffic tickets given and crime prevention suggestions for the month. There were a number of speeding tickets written in the last few months. Please watch your speed in the city. PLEASE keep your garage doors closed when you're not in your front yard and ESPECIALLY when you're not at home.

Headline of Interest http://tinyurl.com/kydogbite

New Kentucky Supreme Court Ruling May Increase Landlord's Liability for Dog Bite by Tenant's Dog While "On or About" Landlord's Property

Please be aware of this case as it may impact some residents and homeowners in Houston Acres.

Houston Acres upholds the Louisville Metro leash law. Please keep your pets on a leash to reduce the possibility of incidents.

Parking Reminder

Please remember to park in your driveways. If you need to park on the street, remember to keep all four tires are in the road (and not in the grass). If you're going to have a large gathering and you're worried about parking issues, you're welcome to call Commissioner Ed Hardison.

Road repaving options explained

The first set of options would start paving in the Summer of 2013. The second would continue patching and repairs for as long as possible until repaving is no longer avoidable. The primary concern in the "waiting" option is the cost of repaving WILL increase the longer we wait PLUS the cost of annual repairs and maintenance.

Regardless of the schedule chosen, there were three options to pay for the road improvements.

1. **"Residents will be billed their part of the total cost to be paid in 30 days."** This option would take the total amount left after the City Council contribution ($60,000) and divide it by 225 households. Each homeowner would receive a bill for roughly $850 to $1000 (the expected shortage of funds). Every homeowner would be bill the exact same amount.
2. **"A tax assessment will be made on all properties allowing the cost to be paid ofer a period of 10 years."** Similar to the first option except the $850 to $1000 would be spread out over 10 years and that amount would be collected via an additional tax bill. This separate bill can still be paid via escrow (if that is your current method of payment for taxes / hazard insurace, etc.), but cannot be counted as a write-off on your taxes. This additional bill would expire after 10 years and would pass to any future homeowner if the house is sold before the 10 year period expires.
3. **"Raise property tax .10 to .15 per each $100 of house value to cover the cost which would allow the owner of the property to claim a tax deduction."** The property tax increase would be added to your current tax bill (not an additional bill). The amount added to each homeowner's tax bill would be based on the current taxable value of their house. This option would not expire. Overages, after the road repaving project is funded, would cover future projects in the city.

Mayor:
- Charles Bartman 454-3355 Daily Operations

Commissioners:
- Steven Schlotter 417-0039 Landscaping
- Scott Medley 727-3154 Newsletter / Communications
- Mike Matthews 639-1138 Rumpke and Snow removal
- Ed Hardsion 548-2078 Police, Permits, City Safety

City Clerk:
- Donna Duvall 451-0654 City & Public Records

Treasurer:
- Eustace Fernandez 671-5333 Financial and City Taxes

Lincolnshire Police:
- Mark Jones 376-9983

GARBAGE Pickup Dates for 2012

October: 29th

November: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

December: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

RECYCLING Pickup Dates for 2012:

October: 29th

November: 12th, 26th

December: 10th, 24th