

# Town of Meridian Hills

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 21, 2007

## DEALING WITH SOLICITORS

Just as you get the baby to sleep for an afternoon nap, the doorbell rings making the dog bark and waking the baby. ....so much for your peaceful afternoon! We've all experienced the intrusion of door-to-door solicitors, but what's the proper way to handle them? According to Town Marshal, Mike Russo, today's solicitors are very different than they've been in the past. He's seen vans drop off teenagers from the Chicago area to work the neighborhoods. Many wonder if a solicitor is a front for a thief looking for an open garage or an unlocked car. The Town cannot prohibit, cite and prosecute solicitors, however there are steps you can take to improve your personal safety and the safety of the Town in general.



- Post a tasteful "No Soliciting" sign at the end of your driveway
- Don't answer the door
- Call Meridian Hills police at 253-5678 to notify them of the solicitors

- If you do answer the door, keep the storm door or a chain locked and never open the door to a stranger
- Do not get in a conversation or debate, but politely say you are not interested and ask them to leave
- Call 9-1-1 if a solicitor becomes aggressive, threatening, or will not leave your property when asked

Nobody wants to prevent the girl scouts from selling cookies, but an aggressive adult at your front door can become dangerous. By notifying the Town police of solicitors, a deputy on duty can check out their credentials and let them know we're watching them so they may choose a different neighborhood.

## Eliminate Opportunities for Theft

The Town of Meridian Hills is a great place to live, however we are not an island. The best way to reduce crime in our neighborhood is to eliminate easy opportunities that criminals thrive on. Following are some common sense steps to consider:

- Don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 immediately to report any suspicious activity
- Don't leave keys in your car
- Don't leave purses, cell phones, computers, or packages in plain view in your car
- Lock your doors, including service doors, garage doors, and vehicle doors
- Install motion activated lights on your home

Officer Rick Batza suggests keeping your car keys on your night stand at night so you can press the panic button on your car alarm if you hear a noise outside your house. Any criminal will flee at the unwanted attention from the car alarm. One of the benefits of living in such a great community is that we know our neighbors and can keep an eye on one another.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dealing with Solicitors	1
Eliminate Theft	1
Committee Spotlight	2
Trim Trees for Safety	2
Town Election	3
Engineer Review Policy	4
Calendar of Events	4

### POLICE

Emergency	9-1-1
Non-Emergency	327-3811
Answering Mach.	253-5678

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Town Council

Terrence O'Brien, President  
979-5646

Katherine Ivceovich  
251-0404

Abbe Hohmann  
251-6227

#### Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor  
459-7708

#### Town Attorney

Sue A. Beesley

#### Town Engineer

Jay Vorisek, P.E.

#### Town Marshal

Michael S. Russo

[meridianhills.org](http://meridianhills.org)

# COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

In the last four years, the Town has had five active resident committees that have dedicated a great deal of time and effort to the improvement of the Town. Following are the members of the five committees:

## Streets & Thoroughfares

Chaired by Kay Ivceвич, this committee works with the engineer to study and make recommendations regarding the maintenance of our roads. Perry Jordan and Suzanne Bellamy also serve on this committee.

## Finance

Chaired by Kay Ivceвич, this committee works with the clerk-treasurer regarding the finances of the Town. This committee consists of Jim Rush, Scott Cunningham, the clerk treasurer and assistant clerk treasurer, and all council members.

## Police & Law Enforcement

Chaired by Kay Ivceвич, this committee works with our Town police



to improve the safety of the community. Stephanie Crossin and George Charbonneau serve on this committee.

## Development Standards & Residential Construction

committee works with the engineer to assist residents and the City in adhering to the setbacks and prevent escalating drainage with new construction. Fred Terzo, Greg Jacoby, Julie Christensen, Judy Weerts Hall, Eric Lee, and Bill Mooney currently serve on this committee, and Dick Ristine, Tal Denny and Rose Scovel are past committee members.

## Communications

Chaired by Terry O'Brien, this committee developed the website and produces the newsletter. Helen Carroll, Ted Butz, Rich Most and Laura Hawkins serve on this committee.

Please be sure to thank these neighbors for all the time and effort they've contributed over the last four years.

## Please Trim Your Trees for Safety

The Town of Meridian Hills has been working closely with Jud Scott of Vine & Branch over the last several months to develop a Tree Inspection Program (TIP).

In fact, Mr. Scott has used the Town of Meridian Hills as a prototype to develop this program to introduce it on a statewide and national level. The Town's goal is to eliminate possible safety hazards that could not only hurt someone, but become

a financial liability for the Town. For the last four years, Kay Ivceвич has toured the Town annually with Mr. Scott, a Registered Consulting Arborist with the American Society of

Consulting Arborists, and identified possible hazards including trees or shrubs that are dead, structurally unsound, or have foliage that might impair a driver's line-of-site or block a view of a traffic sign. The Town has some responsibility for trees within the right-of-way on our streets. We also work closely with the City of Indianapolis to notify them of required maintenance that they might complete especially along Meridian, Spring Mill, Col-

lege and 71st Street. Because we don't have a full-time street department and have an extremely limited budget, we also rely on the cooperation of residents to address over-

grown trees and shrubbery. As you maintain the landscaping in the right-of-way in front of your homes, we ask that you look for overgrown branches blocking a traffic sign, weak trees that endanger the roadway

**"Help keep our roads safe by maintaining and trimming the trees, shrubs & weeds along the street in your yard."**

and any dead limbs that might fall on the right-of-way. The Town has sent letters directly to homeowners concerning trees and shrubs of concern. If you receive a letter, please address the trees or shrubs or in question for the safety of our residents. Sadly, in today's litigious society, anyone could be named in a lawsuit if a branch was blocking a traffic sign that resulted in an accident. Public safety is one of our highest priorities.



## TOWN HAPPENINGS

By the time you receive this newsletter, several projects the Council approved should be completed - necessary asphalt repair on Town roads; restriping of 75th Street, Pennsylvania Street, and 73rd between Meridian and Pennsylvania; the installation of new stopbars on the road surface at primary intersections along 75th Street and along Pennsylvania Street; high priority tree trimming in Town right-of-way; and two large drainage projects

affecting Town roads - one on Pennsylvania and another on 65th Street. The installation of the four Town entry signs the council approved has been delayed until early spring due to a scheduling conflict with the contractor. This delay will allow the contractor more time to complete site work. An added benefit is that the funds will remain in the bank earning approximately \$1,300 in interest, in essence reducing the overall cost of the project.

**If you'd like to receive agendas for regular Town Council Meetings and occasional emergency notices, please send your email address, home address and name to [tobrien@obrienauto.com](mailto:tobrien@obrienauto.com)**

## Town Elections

July 2nd was the deadline for interested candidates to complete a declaration of candidacy if a resident was interested in running for Town Council or Clerk Treasurer. The Town published two articles in earlier newsletters and posting an article on the website on the upcoming election. There were four candidates who filed a declaration of candidacy - John Taylor, our current clerk treasurer will continue as clerk treasurer, and Jim Rush who currently serves on the Finance Committee, and Walter Freihofer, a prior council member, will join Terry O'Brien as council members for the next Town Administration. John & I are very excited to work with Jim and Walter and believe we all share an interest in maintaining the Town of Meridian Hills as a great place to live, work and play!

## - BIOGRAPHY -

### *Bernie Bruno*

Bernie Bruno has been in the position of Assistant Clerk-Treasurer since March of 2005. He has over 30 years experience as an accountant, and is currently the Financial Manager for Morales Group, Inc., a leading staffing agency with its headquarters in Indianapolis.

As the Town's Assistant Clerk-Treasurer, Mr. Bruno assists the Clerk-Treasurer with maintaining the books and ledgers for each of the Town's funds, preparing a monthly financial statement for the Council meetings, and paying the approved bills and obligations of the Town. The Assistant and Clerk-Treasurer also meet regularly to discuss and analyze the Town's liability and workers compensation insurance needs. They also assist the State Board of Accounts with audits and prepare annual reports and budgets for state regulatory agencies.

Mr. Bruno and his wife live in Zionsville. He is active in his church, and is the Financial Secretary for the Zionsville Council of the Knights of Columbus, as well as Comptroller for the Northside Knights of Columbus. The Town of Meridian Hills is very fortunate to have Mr. Bruno in our administration.

### **Visual Tree Assessment! Inspect your trees today!**

Eight areas are examined during a Visual Tree Assessment. We will be sharing these with you over the next four newsletters to help you become more aware of the health of trees on your property. Here are the first two:

1. Inspect the ground around the root flare (the area where the roots are growing underground)
2. Inspect the root flare itself (it sometimes looks like an "elephant's foot")

Make sure there is no fungus, rotting or damage (due to insects, storms, lawn equipment) on this area of the tree.

Visit [www.vineandbranch.net](http://www.vineandbranch.net) and click "Helpful Owner Tips" to read "Premises Liability and Your Trees" to learn more.

**If you need assistance or tree care contact Vine & Branch.**



Contact the Vine & Branch experts today!

**317.846.3778**

[www.vineandbranch.net](http://www.vineandbranch.net)

[info@vineandbranch.net](mailto:info@vineandbranch.net)

4721 E. 146th Street

Carmel, IN 46033

Town of Meridian Hills  
P.O. Box 40437  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

www.meridianhills.org

Phone: 459-7708  
Fax: 334-0955

## Calendar of Events

### Council Meetings - 7:00pm

November 12, December 10,  
January 14, February 11

### October

- 28 "Concert on Reformation,"  
Second Presbyterian Church,  
4pm, 253-6461
- 31 HALLOWEEN - *Be Careful!*

### November

- 3-4 Fall Play - "The Curious Savage,"  
Park Tudor Ayres Auditorium,  
7:30pm, 415-2705
- 5 "Debbie Applegate, Author of 'The  
Most Famous Man in America: The  
Biography of Henry Ward Beecher,'  
Second Presbyterian Church,  
7pm, 253-6461
- 10 "Annual Christmas Craft Bazaar,"  
Second Presbyterian Church,  
8am - 2pm, 253-6461
- 10 "St. Luke School Bingo Blast,"  
Northside Knights of Columbus,  
6:30pm - 10:30pm, 259-4373
- 10 "Climate, Change & Faith Commu-  
nities," 1st Congregational Church,  
9am, FREE, 257-5397
- 12 "Living Green: Living Generously  
with the Earth," 1st Congregational  
Church, FREE, 7pm, 257-5397
- 14-15 "Instrument Concert,"  
Park Tudor Ayres Auditorium,  
7:30pm, 415-2700
- 17-18 "All God's Critters Got a Place in  
the Choir," Park Tudor Ayres  
Auditorium, 5pm, 415-2700
- 18 "Block Forum: Alan Zweibel,"  
Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation,  
7:30pm, 255-6647
- 22 THANKSGIVING -  
*God Bless America!*

# Engineer Review Policy

The Development Standards & Residential Construction Committee has been working with the Town Engineer to develop an Engineer Review Policy for new construction. Because our area is so desirable and ideally located, we've experienced incredible growth within the Town - from home additions to complete tear-downs and rebuilds.



The goal of an Engineer Review is to work with the residents, the builders, and the City to create an awareness of the standards within the Town of Meridian Hills. Any new construction within the Town that requires a building permit from the City of Indianapolis will require a review by the Town Engineer. There is a minimal fee charged to the property owner to offset the cost of the Engineer Review. The primary focus of the review is to make sure that

construction is compliant with our unique setbacks, while also making sure that drainage is adequately addressed. A level of consistency applied by a professional engineer will safeguard many of the characteristics that make the Town of Meridian Hills unique. In the long run it could improve

property values and reduce the possibility of expensive construction changes made after the fact in order to be compliant. The Development Standards & Residential Construction Committee is currently reviewing final drafts of the Policy, along with the Town Engineer and Attorney. A final draft will then be submitted to the Town Council for consideration. Additional information will follow soon.

*This newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee for the Town of Meridian Hills.  
If you're interested in contributing to the newsletter,  
please contact Terry O'Brien at 979-5646 or Helen Carroll at 722-4350.*

**Town of Meridian Hills**  
**P.O. Box 40437**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46240**

*meridianhills.org*

*Town of Meridian Hills*  
*Established 1937*