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## STATE OF THE TOWN

During the last twelve months, the Meridian Hills Town Council con-



tinued our effort to responsibly manage your town government. The many accomplishments over the last year were possible due to the hard work and dedication of your elected officials, the many contributions of time and energy by volunteer residents, and the continued guidance and knowledge of qualified professionals serving on the Town Administration.

Following are some of the accomplishments during this past year in office:

- Secured \$7,500 in FEMA funds for snow removal
- Held a Personal Safety Educational Seminar for residents
- Transitioned to a third Clerk Treasurer
- Established Funding for a Deputy Clerk Treasurer
- Contributed the maximum allowance to the Town's Rainy Day Fund
- Installed a temporary radar trailer and continued to address speed control throughout the Town
- Hosted and participated in an MPO Walkable Workshop to study potential pedestrian im-

provements

- Created at-large elections for council members improving opportunities for participation and simplifying the voting process
- Posted the Municipal Code on the Town website
- Posted Committee information on the Town website
- Posted Tree Pruning Tips and Arboricultural Standards on the Town website
- Updated the traffic warning signs along 75<sup>th</sup> Street and at 71<sup>st</sup> and Pennsylvania to a new improved yellow-green fluorescent safety standard
- Applied for a Keep Indianapolis Beautiful grant

*Continued on page 3*

## Town Police Acquire Defibrillator

Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in America. According to the American Heart Association, permanent damage or death can occur within four to six minutes. However cardiac arrest is reversible in most victims if treated within a few minutes

with an electric shock to the heart to restore a normal heartbeat. A victims chances of survival are reduced by 7-10 percent with every minute that passes without defibrillation.

In November, the Town Council authorized the pur-

chase of a defibrillator and subsequent training for our town police. A defibrillator is a device that shocks the heart out of a fatal rhythm, allowing a normal, healthy rhythm to resume. Often times our police are first responders to emergency calls.

*Continued on page 2*

## POLICE

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

## ADMINISTRATION

### Town Council

Terrence O'Brien, President  
979-5646

Katherine Ivcevic  
251-0404

Abbe Hohmann  
251-6227

### Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor  
459-7708

### Town Attorney

Sue A. Beesley

### Town Engineer

Cecil Whitaker, PE, DEE

### Town Marshal

Michael S. Russo

## TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE FORMED

In December, the Council created an ad hoc Town Planning Committee to help create a long range plan for the town. The committee will be chaired by Terry O'Brien, and will study some of the following issues:

- Improved Pedestrian Options-Activity Paths for Safer Access to Parks
- New Town Entry Signs & Landscaping
- Landscaping of High Visibility Town Right-of-Ways
- Decorative Traffic Sign Poles at High Visibility Intersections
- Decorative Streetlights
- Decorative Street Name Signs

- Burying Utility Lines on main streets where applicable
- Reflective Stop bars to Reinforce High Traffic 4-way Stops
- Cul-de-sacs for Safer Neighborhoods, Better Traffic Control, and Less Cut Through
- Drainage as affected by these possible projects

The committee will also explore alternative funding options, and will solicit resident input as they study the issues. The council will continue to inform residents on the progress of the study. If you're interested in serving on the committee, please contact Terry at 979-5646 or tobrien@obrienauto.com.

## DRAINAGE 101 TOWN MEETING MARCH 7TH, 6:30PM

*In October, the Town Council passed a Town Drainage Policy to help provide clarity, consistency and a process for addressing drainage issues within the Town. Please join us in the Hilbert Early Education Building at 6:30pm on Tuesday, March 7th as we host the Department of Public Works in a "Drainage 101" Town Meeting.*

*Topics covered will include how to avoid creating drainage problems, recommended maintenance of ditches, swales, etc., what residents should do if they identify a problem, when to apply for a drainage permit, DPW's preferred process and contacts, define capital improvement projects and DPW's rating system, identifying responsibility, easements, and funding. Please contact Terry O'Brien with any questions.*

## CPR Training Made Easy

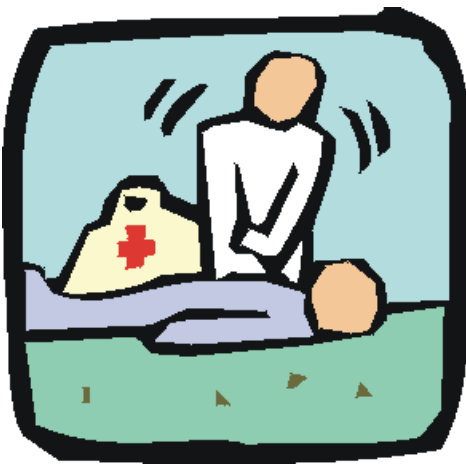
In November, the Town Council invited Beverly Turner, the Senior Regional Manager with the American Heart Association to discuss CPR training at our regular council meeting. CPR, or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, is critical to improve the chances of survival of a victim. The American Heart Association stated that CPR can *double* a victim's chance of survival by providing vital blood flow to the heart and brain until more advanced care can be given.

core skills of CPR easy, convenient, affordable and fun for the whole family. It takes just 22 minutes to learn and can be done anywhere. Each kit contains:

- A personal, inflatable mannequin
- A Skills Practice DVD
- An AHA Booklet
- Accessories

George Charbonneau, resident and Police & Safety Committee member, tested the kit and was thoroughly impressed. According to Ms. Turner, "when you're dealing with a cardiac arrest, time is important. Learning CPR and having a defibrillator available are the best tools we have to help fight cardiac arrest." She also stated that it was a myth that cardiac arrests only happen to the elderly. People of all ages can suffer from a cardiac arrest.

The Town Council recommends each home in Meridian Hills purchase a kit. They're only **\$29.95** plus tax, shipping and handling and available by calling **1-877-242-4277** or at **www.cpranytime.org**. Please take the time to order this kit and learn CPR. By ordering this kit, the life you save may be your own!



"CPR Anytime" is a self directed personal CPR kit that makes learning the

### "CPR Anytime Kits"

**\$29.95 plus tax**

**1-877-242-4277**

**www.cpranytime.org**

### Defibrillator (Continued)

In the event of a suspected cardiac arrest, the following steps will greatly reduce severe injury or death:

- **Call 9-1-1**
- Early CPR (*related story this page*)
- Early Defibrillation
- Advanced Care

Special thanks to Deputy Rick Batza who thoroughly researched this issue, and Councilwoman Ivceovich and the Police & Safety Committee for recommending the defibrillator to the Council.

## STATE OF THE TOWN *(Continued from page 1)*

- Approved a balanced budget for 2006
- Developed a Town Drainage Policy to help provide clarity, con-

- Established an ad hoc Town Planning Committee to study long range issues with continued public input



During the next year the Town Council may also discuss or address some of the following issues:

- Host DPW in a “Drainage 101 Town Meeting”
- Upgrade the traffic warning signs along Pennsylvania
- Solicit Pedestrian

sistency and a process for addressing drainage issues

- Hosted DPW representative to discuss the City’s storm water and sanitary sewer initiative and how it will affect residents
- Successfully lobbied to have the city upgrade all the pedestrian and school traffic warning signs in Town to the new yellow-green fluorescent safety standard seven years before a federal deadline
- Successfully lobbied to have the city relocate a streetlight that impaired motorist’s vision at 71<sup>st</sup> and Pennsylvania
- Continually worked with the City toward addressing drainage issues
- Purchased a Defibrillator for the Town Police
- Hosted American Heart Association representative to discuss home CPR training kits available for resident purchase

**Town Meeting**  
**“Drainage 101”**  
**March 7th, 6:30pm**

Crossings with appropriate signage from the City where applicable

- Post Construction & Remodeling Steps and Guidelines on the website
- Explore possible grant opportunities and alternative funding
- Clarify the Town setbacks with the City
- Establish a Cumulative Capital Development Fund
- Update the Town Municipal Code
- Develop a long-term plan including some of the issues studied by the Town Planning Committee

We’ll continue to actively solicit input from residents and manage your Town government with fiscal responsibility, fairness, improved communication, and opportunities for residents to participate. We’ll also continue to nurture the relationships we’ve established with the City, County and Township governments to improve our progress on ongoing issues. This next year will be a year to fine tune the progress

### - Biography -

#### *Mike Russo*

Mike Russo, our Town Marshal, has over 30 years experience in law enforcement. He was a senior manager at the Sheriff’s Department under multiple administrations, and retired from there with the rank of Captain. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Indiana University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, a prestigious multi-week school that only a handful of professionals attend each year. For a number of years, Mike was also a reserve firefighter for the Washington Township Fire Department and served as the Reserve Division Commander. Over 15 years ago, Mike was instrumental in saving a young man’s life after a traffic accident at 73rd & Pennsylvania. The accident severed blood vessels in the child’s throat and he was quickly bleeding to death. Mike stopped the flow of blood with his bare hands until paramedics arrived. Working together, they were able to get the child to a trauma center in a condition where surgeons could save his life. Mr. Russo is a great asset for the Town and we’re fortunate to have him as our Town Marshal.

we’ve made and begin working toward a vision for the future. The Town of Meridian Hills continues to be a great place to live. On behalf of your Town Council, thank you for your continued confidence and the opportunity to serve you.

*Terry O’Brien*  
*President*

### - Notice -

**There will not be a regular council meeting in February because of a lack of quorum**

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

March 13, April 10, May 8

### January

29 St. Luke Open House, 10am - 12

### February

12 Evening Marriage Series, 6:30pm  
Also 2/19, 2/26 and at 4:30pm 3/5  
First Congregational Church

15 "Take Control of Your Family"  
by John Rosemond, 7pm  
St. Luke Church - 255-3912

25 "Sap to Syrup", various times  
Holliday Park - 327-7180

24 - 25 "Festival of Faith"  
Second Presbyterian - 253-6461

26 Cultural Arts Fair, 9am - 5pm  
Hebrew Congregation - 255-6647

### March

5 Randy Cohen, 7:30pm - 255-6647  
Hebrew Congregation Block Series

7 Drainage Town Meeting, 6:30pm  
Park Tudor Early Education Bldg

18 "6th Annual Trail Run"  
Holliday Park - 475-9482

19 Sanctuary Choir Concert, 3:30pm  
Second Presbyterian - 253-6461

19 Wildflower Hike, 2-3pm  
Holliday Park - 327-7180

26 Spring Fling Bazaar, 9am - 2:30pm  
Hebrew Congregation - 255-6647

### April

14 Passion Play, 10:30am & 7pm  
St. Luke Church - 255-3912

23 Wildflower Hike, 2-3pm  
Holliday Park - 327-7180

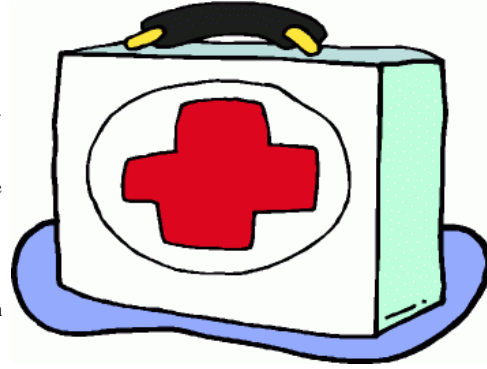
23 Donna Wolkolk Cross, 7:30pm  
Hebrew Congregation Block Series

28 - 30 "Orchard in Bloom", 9-5 (Sun 12-5)  
Holliday Park - 327-7180

## Are You Prepared ?

Being prepared for emergencies is crucial at home, school, work and in our own Town. In light of the terrorist attacks, last years tsunami, and the recent hurricane that devastated New Orleans, it's important to prepare for a disaster. We hope and pray the residents of Meridian Hills will never become victim of an incident of that magnitude, but a natural disaster or incident of national security can happen anywhere and strike quickly without warning. What would you do if your basic services such as water, gas, electricity, or telephones were cut off?

The Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross suggest creating a 72 Hour Emergency Kit. After a devastating emergency, you should be able to sustain yourself and your family for at least 72 hours without any outside intervention.



There are six basics that you should stock in your home in case of an emergency: **water, food, first aid supplies, clothing & bedding, tools & emergency supplies, and**

**special items for medical conditions.** Additionally, prepare a family communication plan that includes an evacuation plan, know which neighbors may need assistance, get trained in first aid and CPR, and know your neighbor's mechanical skills.

Relief workers will arrive after a disaster, but won't be able to get to everyone right away. If you think it couldn't happen here, that's what the residents of New Orleans, New York, and Oklahoma City, may have thought.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

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

[ready.gov](http://ready.gov)

*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](http://meridianhills.org)

*Town of Meridian Hills  
Established 1937*