



E-Mail News

<<1 May, 2003>>

Volume 1, Number 3

“Do you think the City should take a more active role in developing and supporting neighborhood associations?”

Dates to Remember:

?? **Spring Clean up**

Monday May 12th

?? **Hazardous Household Waste May 3rd**

Call 941-5555

?? **CNA Monthly Meeting May 14th @7PM**

?? **Emmanuel United Methodist Church Bake Sale June 21st**

Traverse City Commission Meeting

Monday 28 April, 2003 there was a City Commission meeting at this meeting we received the preliminary results of the citywide survey. This survey was in your last electric bill. Rather than attach five pages of numbers for you to look over I thought I would just summarize one area of interest, the questions posed by the city on Neighborhood Associations.

Below is the map used to Zone out the city for this survey. Zone one (Central, Kids Creek and Old Town), Zone Two (Slab Town), Zone 3, (Boardman), Zone 4 (Travers Heights and Oak Park), Zone 5 does not have a association. But interestingly enough they had 246 respondents, second to Zone 1, who had 271 respondents.

Although I find the overall survey results interesting, I think it may be a little miss leading considering that Zone 1 covers three neighborhoods. I think you have a mix of folks that either are not involved in city matters and/or their neighborhood associations or simply don't have an opinion because they are unfamiliar with what associations in neighborhoods do.

I made this assessment based on the two following questions:

"If your neighborhood does not have an association, would you like to be part of a neighborhood association?"

Zone 1

Yes	No	Left Blank
77	77	117

"Would you be interested in organizing your neighborhood association?"

Zone 1

Yes	No	Left Blank
12	124	135

The next two questions in this section of the survey I really found interesting. In my opinion it means the people in Zone 1 want the City involved in neighborhood associations but we don't want them to spend any money doing it. Conversely city

wide it's almost a split down the middle as to whether the city should be involved. But on the issue of money City wide the majority did not want the city to spend money on associations.

"Do you think the City should take a more active role in developing and supporting neighborhood associations?"

<u>Zone 1</u>			<u>Total City</u>		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Left Blank</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Left Blank</u>
138	94	39	434	422	149

"Do you think the City should help with funding and organizing and communicating within neighborhood associations?"

<u>Zone 1</u>			<u>Total City</u>		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Left Blank</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Left Blank</u>
113	128	30	321	553	131

I think there are two reasons for this, one because the second largest respondent area does not have a Neighborhood Association and are not interested in setting up one. Second, I would venture to guess most of these people think of neighborhood associations in relationship to private housing developments. The goals of these developments are exclusive to that development and not the common goals of the community and therefore they think the city should not contribute monies to these types of entities. Of course the neighborhood associations I am familiar with are interested in the good of their respective neighborhood and the overall good of the community.

The City Manager, Richard Lewis also talk about the process of election of neighborhood officers and how residents are notified; under what condition does the officer of a neighborhood speak for the neighborhood. To my surprise most organizations have a very loose election process where most are elected and others just had to pick up the ball and run with it, cause no one else would. All of the presidents agreed that they would only be representative of the people that attended the meeting on any certain meeting night, as far as speaking for the neighborhood. There was also a discussion about elevating the neighborhood presidents to a high level within the city in an advisory capacity. Although it is understood that the presidents do not represent all of the people within the neighborhood, I believe a close alliance between neighborhood presidents and city officials is imperative if we are to continue on the path of progressive, forward thinking, community with a small town atmosphere.

I think all agreed the best thing the city could do for us is distribute our News Letters, which is the biggest cost to all of the neighborhoods. However, they will have issue of most of the city not wanting to pay for these kinds of things.

There was also a discussion about city leadership being assigned as a liaison to neighborhoods. All agreed this was helpful and that when asked the City liaisons

did attend neighborhood meetings. Our liaison is Bill Twietmeyer, City Treasurer. Bill is also one of our neighbors.

Up-Coming Events

Spring Clean up Monday May 12th call the city hotline for more information 922-4909

Hazardous Household Waste Saturday May 3rd Garfield Township call 941-5555 for an appointment

Central Neighborhood Meeting May 14th 7pm Central Grade School

Annual CNA Garage Sale will be on 21 June 2003.

Garden Club...If your interested in joining the Garden Club contact Lynda Crandall at 946-0517 or at lrccrandall@hotmail.com

