

Allen County **Homeowners Association**

MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by ACHA Coordinators Kris Krishnan and Joanne Bergman. 32 people attended the meeting. Guests included Allen County Sheriff Ken Fries, County Vector Control Director Dave Fiess, County Extension Master Gardener Gary Carnes, Jeanne Nicolet with the County Election Board and County Commissioners Nelson Peters and Bill Brown.

After introducing guests, Joanne spoke briefly about a few concerns that phone numbers, addresses and email addresses of neighborhood association leaders had been placed on the ACHA web page. Joanne explained the purpose was to allow provide contact information so ideas between associations could be shared. It also provides a mailing list for the ACHA to send out information and agendas for meetings. Any association leader who does not want their contact information shared on the web page can have it removed by contacting Joanne, Kris or the County Commissioners' Public Information Office.

Sheriff Ken Fries spoke to the group about neighborhood safety during the spring and summer. He explained that all sheriff's department vehicles are now marked and all officers appear in public in uniform as a way to increase officer visibility and thus deter crime. Among the items he touched on to reduce crime in neighborhoods were

- Contact the sheriff's office immediately if you notice someone suspicious in your neighborhood
- Don't leave your garage door open; it's an open invitation to thieves
- Consider installing motion sensors with lights outside your home
- Think about forming neighborhood watches in associations; contact the sheriff's office at 449-4954 for information

Next to speak was Dave Fiess, Vector Control Director in the County Health Department, about mosquito control during the summer months. He said it was important for residents to understand the risks posed by mosquitoes. Some carry diseases and pass them on to humans and animals. Some of the ways homeowners can eliminate mosquito breeding sites are getting rid of standing water on your property, cleaning out bird baths and pools regularly, cleaning clogged roof gutters and removing tall weeds and grass. He also recommended properly disposing of old tires and handed out a list of tire dealers that will take used tires. Finally, Mr. Fiess said people can protect themselves from mosquitoes by wearing the proper clothing while outdoors, wearing insect repellent at all times outside and limiting the time spent outdoors during peak mosquito biting times.

The next speaker, Master Gardener Gary Carnes, shared advice on how to care for your lawn in an environmentally friendly way. Among his tips were to choose a grass type that thrives in our climate; mow high, often and with sharp blades; water deeply, but not too often; use core aeration to prevent thatch build up; and use common-sense pest control tactics. He also said that over fertilizing in the spring can lead to constant mowing and possible future disease problems. He recommended using slow-release fertilizers and applying a pre-emergent crabgrass control during the month of April.

Jeanne Nicolet with the Allen County Election Board was the night's final speaker. She presented some keys to a successful voting experience:

- Don't assume your voting location is the same. www.indianavoters.com will verify your registration and current polling location, or you can call 449-7154.
- Bring your ID to the voting location.
- Be prepared in a primary election to state your party affiliation as required by Indiana code.

- If you are unable to wait in line due to a physical disability or time constraints, consider early voting.

She said the Election Board offices will be open each of the next two Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to facilitate early voting.

Kris reminded those in attendance that the next ACHA meeting will be held July 22 at 7 p.m. in the Omni Room, 2nd floor of the City-County Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.