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# THE RAPIDS REPORT

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Courtesy Courtesy of ROKC resident Eric Rogers Photography

## Revised Fencing Policy

**Fences:** Fences are permitted. They must be commercial-grade, wood or wood textured vinyl construction and no more than six (6) feet high (unless otherwise approved by the Architectural Committee). The finish must be either paint or wood stain and a natural earth tone in color. All fence posts must be either integral to the fence structure or face the interior of the fence. External posts are not acceptable. Fencing cannot extend forward of the back line of a dwelling. All fencing **must be approved by the Architectural Committee** and maintained in a high state of repair.

As many of you are aware, the board recently considered a change to our fencing policy which would allow the use of vinyl fencing. We received many emails and comments from our members. As a result, the board voted to change the policy and a copy is included in this newsletter. The process for approval of *any* architectural change is to submit an architectural request form, which can be found on our website or by contacting a board member. The process is informal and painless. Our goal is to uphold the policies in order to maintain a well-kept neighborhood which in turn maintains the value of our homes.

During our review of the emails and comments received regarding the fencing, it was brought to our attention that there are several wood fences currently in disrepair. Some are due to the severe storms last year while others are just old and tired (like some of us). If you need assistance with painting, staining or repairing your fence please contact an area handyman or Neighbor Link at [www.nlfw.org](http://www.nlfw.org). If you would like to volunteer to help your neighbors who may not be able to do physical labor, contact me and I'll try to match you up with someone. Family and neighbors can be a great source for *free* labor (other than food & drink)! A Saturday project is a good way to get to know your neighbors and to have the satisfaction of helping someone.

Bill Louthan for the Board

# ASSOCIATION GARAGE SALE

THURSDAY, MAY 5

FRIDAY, MAY 6

SATURDAY, MAY 7

Trees and shrubs add so much beauty and curb appeal to a home. We encourage you to have at least 8 evergreens, trees or shrubs in the front of every home. According to the neighborhood Architectural Policy, you are to maintain your property to ensure the "beautification" of our neighborhood.



National Clean Up Day

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## SATURDAY, MAY 21, 10 AM

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Come help clean the litter from our woods and  
common areas of The Rapids!

Association Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm at Dupont Library

There is advertising space available to residents who own or work for a business. For a small size space it is only \$50 annually for the newsletter and a business card space for when we have a directory printing. Contact us for your space today!

[ROKcassociation@outlook.com](mailto:ROKcassociation@outlook.com)



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\*Any fences, additions, decks, roof, etc., need to be sent for approval per the architectural control policy: (email [ROKcassociation@outlook.com](mailto:ROKcassociation@outlook.com) for the Architectural Request form). Contact us at least 2 weeks before construction to get any needs handled in a timely fashion.

Please let us know if there is any resident that is in violation of our policies.

The Rapids of Keefer Creek Community  
Association, Inc.

The minutes of the annual board  
meeting are on our website at  
[www.rokchoa.org](http://www.rokchoa.org)

#### Board Members 2015-2016

Cassandra Kelley  
Maylynne Ranney  
Jack Ripple  
Jackie Clark

Bill Louthan  
Stuart Freimuth  
Bradyn Sterling  
Frank Hamoui

Dear Community Member,

My name is James McIntosh and I am your Perry Township Trustee. I am writing today to provide some additional information on the Fort Wayne North IV Annexation. As I am sure you are aware, the City of Fort Wayne is once again attempting to annex a large portion of Allen County. Unfortunately for us, it is in our back yard.

What may not be clear to you is just how this will affect us as residents living outside of the proposed annexation area. Recently in the local news, you have heard how this annexation will impact the County finances as well as our school system and the Library. But, what you have not heard yet is how this will impact **public safety**, specifically the impact to our Fire Departments ability to provide fire protection as well as ambulance service.

**The Northwest Fire Territory provides fire and ambulance service to the residents of both Perry and Eel River Townships. If this annexation is allowed to move forward we will see a loss to our annual revenues of 45%. If this annexation is allowed to move forward, Perry Township will also see a decrease in revenue. The township general fund and public assistance fund will see a reduction of 15%.** These funds are used to provide assistance to Perry Township residents who have fallen on hard times. This reduction means that I will not have the ability to assist those in need as I have in the past.

With this size of a loss, I will no longer be able to employ the people we have to staff the ambulance and fire trucks. We currently have six fulltime firefighters and one full time Fire Chief. Our staffing also includes part time firefighters to assist in providing the service that you have come to expect. If all goes as planned, we will lose at least three of our full time firefighters and all of our part time staff. It is too early in the process to determine what our deployment model of the future looks like, but it is clear it will not be what we currently enjoy today. Some options include the permanent layoff of three people, eliminating the part time staff, the sale of our ambulance service and possibly returning to an all-volunteer fire department.

In order to move forward with the decisions that must be made, I have several questions that must be answered. Unfortunately, there are several agencies that must provide information in order to make these decisions but they are slow to react. The process of these agencies obtaining the necessary data and compiling that information could take up to six months.

Ordinarily, I am not opposed to annexation. I understand its necessity and feel that under the right conditions it can be beneficial to a community. This annexation seems to only benefit the City of Fort Wayne, and leaves our community going backward. All of the progress that we have made as a Township over the last decade will be erased and I as the Trustee will be left scrambling to provide the services that I am lawfully obligated to provide.

**I have written to each of the members of Fort Wayne City Council and have asked for them to vote no to this annexation for the above reasons.** It makes no sense to me that the City is annexing area that will reduce the opportunity our schools have to educate our children and deteriorate public safety in the name of economic development. What business or person wants to move into an area that takes away from schools and public safety? I know I would not.

**I am asking you to please share this information with your neighborhood association.** If you agree please write or call each member of Fort Wayne City Council and ask them to stop or at the very least delay this annexation so those agencies that are affected can get a clear picture of what the true impact will be.

If you are interested, please contact me at [jmcintosh1133@gmail.com](mailto:jmcintosh1133@gmail.com) and I will be happy to provide additional information on the financial impact to the Township. Below is the contact information for each City Council member. Please email and call each one to express your thoughts.

Michael Barranda [michaelbarranda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelbarranda@gmail.com) 260-426-1300

John Crawford [jncrawfordmd@gmail.com](mailto:jncrawfordmd@gmail.com) 260-433-0295

Tom Freistroffer [freistrofferatlarge@gmail.com](mailto:freistrofferatlarge@gmail.com) 260-704-4229

Paul Ensley [paul@paulensley.com](mailto:paul@paulensley.com) 260-255-5176

Russ Jehl [russ@russjehl.com](mailto:russ@russjehl.com) 260-255-4580

Tom Didier [tdidiers5@frontier.com](mailto:tdidiers5@frontier.com) 260-489-4559

Jason Arp [jasonarpcitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:jasonarpcitycouncil@gmail.com) 260-210-0310

Geoff Paddock [geoffreypaddock@aol.com](mailto:geoffreypaddock@aol.com) 260-432-5700

Glynn Hines [glynnhines@aol.com](mailto:glynnhines@aol.com) 260-447-7144

Thank you,  
James E. McIntosh II  
Perry Township Trustee  
(260) 449-3748