

Your Neighborhood News
From the “Neighbors of Winner Road Association”
www.winnerneighbors.org

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Delivered to over 200 homes by hand!



Help Show our “West Side Pride!”

Wow! We have an opportunity to do something really cool around here!

The Englewood Business Association and the neighborhoods immediately surrounding Winner Road are joining forces to do a unique, yet simple, project.

This project will help beautify our area and will help display our pride... pride in living on the west side... pride in living in the United States... plus even pride in joining the Independence School District (woo-hoo !!)

Now, to help me describe this project, please look at the photo to the left. See the flags?

This photo was taken in Englewood. Every year, usually starting at about Flag Day, the Business Association puts up these American Flags. They fly them pretty much all summer. But in that photo, you’re looking at just about ALL of the flags/ flag poles that they fly.

Now, imagine expanding this display so that it runs along Winner Road... all the way from Chrysler down to Truman Road / Van Horn High School !! Wouldn’t that look terrific? Wouldn’t that show our pride on this side of town? Wouldn’t it make a statement to the rest of the city, when they inquire and we tell them this was NOT some government program, but rather, a grass-roots effort where citizens made donations?

The “Flags along Winner Road” project will involve purchasing brackets for all of the “old-fashioned tear-drop shaped” light poles that run from Chrysler to Truman on Winner. (Most of these poles are only a few years old and they look very nice!) If a pole has light fixtures facing in both directions (as in the photo), it will get two brackets. If it is facing only one direction, it will get a single bracket. Also, to keep costs low, we are going with two different “styles” of brackets: The traditional angled flag bracket you see in the photo... and a less-expensive horizontal bracket that is designed to either display flags or banners.

In honor of the Independence School District, we have decided that we will alternate the U.S. flags so that every other flag is actually an Independence School District (logo) flag! We thought this would be a nice thing to show our pride and appreciation. Plus, we think it’s fitting that the trail of flags will lead to Van Horn High. We are currently in the process of getting permission from the Independence School District to use their logo. We anticipate them approving that.

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The goal date for accomplishing this project is Flag Day, Saturday, June 14th of this year! (That's not very far away!!) With this date, we not only will be honoring our country, we will also be getting the flags up right before our schools officially are transferred into the Independence School District. (That transfer date is June 30th, I believe.)

Note that, in addition to running the flags along Winner Road, the folks along Northern Boulevard, running from Winner north to the Post Office, will be given the opportunity to participate. However, if they choose not to, then their stretch will not get brackets and flags.

Specifics of the Project

How many flags and brackets are we talking about?

There are 73 lampposts on Winner between Chrysler and Truman. The folks who live on Northern Boulevard, from Winner to the Post Office, will be given an opportunity to participate in this project. If they do, then that adds 5 lampposts. Of these 78 lampposts, 33 would be "dual-facing" (a light fixture facing both sides). Each dual-facing pole would get two brackets and flags or banners.



How much will all of this cost?

Approximately \$100 per flag and bracket combo. Note that we are trying to secure donations of flags and banners from businesses and other organizations to help lower the cost for the neighborhoods.

Other neighborhoods are getting involved in the fundraising too, right?

Yes, the Englewood Business Association has attempted, on paper at least, to divide up the responsibility so that we are all "paying for our own flags". Here's what they've suggested:

"West Neighborhoods" (on Winner between Northern and Truman — **this includes us**)
30 single-facing poles = \$3000

"Englewood Business" (on Winner between Northern and Sterling)
17 double-facing poles = \$3400*

"East Neighborhoods" (on Winner between Sterling and Chrysler)
10 single-facing poles = \$1000
16 double-facing poles = \$3200*

"Northern Blvd" (from Winner north to the Post Office)
5 double-facing poles = \$1000*

* each double-facing pole = 2 bracket-and-flag combos instead of one; thus, double the price

Who will install the brackets and put up the flags?

The company whom we purchase the brackets from will install the brackets and put up the "first round" of flags. Any future actions involving putting up or taking down flags would have to be led by the Englewood Business Association and the neighborhoods working together.

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Announcing... this year's

Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale!

Mark your Calendars now !!:

Saturday, May 17th, 8 AM - ??

Last year's sale was a HUGE success, thanks to some terrific weather !!

Once again, this year, the "Neighbors of Winner Road Association" will **sponsor a newspaper ad** for this sale. This ad will run in the Independence Examiner during the entire week leading up to the sale! We will also put up signs at the nearby major intersections. The sale will again run from 8 AM until whenever you feel like quitting.

Like last year, there's a bit of a **"bonus" if you commit early** to participating as a seller:

- 1) Your house / address will be added to a Google Map we'll be making. This map will show ALL of the houses participating in this neighborhood sale that day!
- 2) The link to this Google Map will be in our Independence Examiner newspaper ad that runs the week before the sale. So, people will be able to print up this map before they even leave the house that day!
- 3) We will print up and distribute about 25 copies of that Google Map to each participating house. This is so that you may hand out maps to your customers that day, so that we can make sure that we all get **as many customers as possible!**

To commit early, please contact David Raasch by phone (816-461-3563) or by email (david.raasch@winnerneighbors.org) and tell him: Your name, your street address, your phone number.

We humbly ask that each seller consider donating part of your proceeds.... 10%.... 20%..... whatever... to our organization to help us with the advertising and signage costs, and as a fundraiser for future neighborhood projects. But that's entirely up to your generosity.

There will be **TWO NEW THINGS** about this year's sale:

- 1) Sovereign Grace Church at 9901 E. Winner has asked to join us! They will hold their church garage sale that same day!
- 2) We realize that some people may want to participate... but may not really want to run a garage sale. Or perhaps their work schedule will keep them from participating. We've decided that if you have items that you'd like to **DONATE** for the sale, with 100% of the proceeds going to the "Neighbors of Winner Road" organization, we will accept them! But we'd like advance warning from you, so that we can figure out whose house to direct you / your stuff to. So please contact David at the above phone number or email address, if you'd like to take advantage of this offer.

Whether its as a seller, a buyer, a donator, or just a neighbor who stops on by to chat... we hope you participate in this fun, neighborly event !!

Get Relief on Your Grocery Bills!

Have high grocery bills got you down? No, I'm not about to tell you about a free hand-out. Instead, how about a helping hand-up?

For over a year now, Maywood Baptist Church (10505 E. Winner Road) has been part of a program that provides grocery relief to people in Independence. The church is a member of the “**Angel Food Ministries**” network.

This nation-wide program allows people to buy groceries at a large discount over their actual retail prices. And anybody can buy this food! There are no income limits. No one goes through any sort of screening. All you have to do is order and pay in advance... and then show up on “Distribution Day” to pick up your food. Volunteers from the church help unload the trucks, box the food, and load the boxes into recipients' cars.

Each box of food costs \$30, but is valued at over \$75. What will be in each month's box is determined ahead of time. But you may order as many boxes as you wish. And sometimes there are optional “special add-ons” you can buy for each box for a bit more money. (For instance, for an extra \$20, you could get a box with 10 pounds of breaded chicken breast tenders.)

The church only accepts orders on certain days. Cash, money orders or food stamps are accepted. Upcoming dates and times for ordering are:

Saturday, March 15th, 10 AM—Noon
Wednesday, April 2nd, 6 PM—7:30 PM
Thursday, April 3rd, 11 AM—1 PM
Saturday, April 5th, 9 AM—11:30 AM

April's Distribution Day will be on **Saturday, April 19th from 10 AM—Noon.**

For more information, please call the church at (816) 254-3344 and ask for Penny. You may also find more info, including the menu showing what this month's buyers are getting, at:
<http://www.maywoodbaptistchurch.org/community/>

Date for Annual Block Party Set !

We've decided on a date for our Annual Neighborhood Block Party: **Saturday, June 21st !!**

No other details have been set yet, as of this writing, but we would like to overhaul the event a bit. I'd like to see (and these are just my personal thoughts here): music and something for kids to do. Of course, money and getting folks to agree on what kind of music are some of the tough issues we'll have to work on.

We'd love to have your input, especially if you're the sort of person who has some experience in planning parties and events. Please come to one of our next few monthly meetings and help us plan!

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month, at 7 PM, at Sovereign Grace Church, 9901 E. Winner Road.

Neighbors say Neglectful Landlords are our Biggest Problem:

Last Fall, we asked you to rank the top neighborhood concerns. Here are the final results of that survey, in order of the importance that you gave them:

#1 -->	D. Rental Units Not Maintained	3.466667
#2 -->	B. Too Many Rental Units	3.5625
#3 -->	A. Not Child Friendly	3.571429
#4 -->	C. Local businesses need support	3.75
#5 -->	E. Neighborhood looks / feels cluttered	4.066667
#6 -->	F. Poor Access to HealthCare	4.714286
#7 -->	G. Feels unsafe	6

As you can see, we feel strongly that there are too many rental units in our neighborhood that are in visible need of repair.

What can we, as neighbors....(and I'm talking about renters and home-owners here)... do about this?

1) Educate yourself about your rights.

All landlords are supposed give a copy of the “**Landlord & Tenant Guide**” to their renters before allowing them to move in. (In fact, the renter is supposed to sign a receipt for it!) This guide details the rights and responsibilities of both renters and landlords. It includes rules about making repairs, turning off services, and other actions a landlord might take. Do you have this document? Do you know what's in it? You may pick up a copy from City Health Department or download one online off of the city's website.

Homeowners have rights too. All homeowners should realize that they don't have to tolerate a neighbor who lets their property deteriorate or lets trash sit out in their yard long-term. Yes, this is a free country. But all property owners (both landlords and homeowners) chose to be a part of this community. That means they agreed to be a part of a group...and to try to be a good member of the group.

What are your rights as a group member? They are listed in the City Code. But, in a nut-shell, they say that you don't have to put up with living next to property that is not maintained or has garbage strewn about in the yard. You don't have to watch your investment in your home disappear (property values) or worry about health risks (rodents, disease) from such things.

2) Don't be afraid to report when your rights are being violated.

I know that deep-down, you don't want to report anybody. You wish that the problem would fix itself. You don't want to “start something” and would rather “mind your own business”.

But if you turn and walk away enough times to enough little problems, then you wake up one day and realize that the neighborhood around you has deteriorated badly! The little problems have compounded into big problems. The people who took advantage in small ways went unchallenged, got braver, and started making bigger messes. And the people who might have helped you solve the neighborhood's problems may have moved away.

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With the changing of the school district, we have a **huge opportunity!** Businesses and families from outside of our area are now watching. They're wondering what will happen. The "early birds" are already looking at buying property or moving their families here. Whatever they encounter here, good or bad, they'll tell it to the others who are still "thinking about" moving here.

Why should you care? Well, new businesses would help improve a lot of people's lives here in the neighborhood. Young people need jobs. Certainly, you could save a lot of money on gas, if you had one nearby business to serve you in the place of a business that you have to go all the way to 39th street to visit. And new families coming in just might settle down here for 30 or more years, adding some stability to the area.

We have a chance here to influence people, to bring in help and prosperity. We have a chance to help ourselves to create stronger, more pro-family neighborhoods!

It's time for everybody to spruce their places up a little. Spring is here! A new school district is here! Doesn't that make you feel like maybe there's hope for a better tomorrow?

I want to show outsiders just how terrific the people and homes in my neighborhood are. And if that means I need to call the City and report somebody who's left a broken-down car on their lawn for the past two weeks, then so be it!

"Mind my own business?"

In the past few years, I have come to believe that **there is no "business" more important than "home"**. And our neighborhood is an extension of our homes.

To file a City Code violation complaint... or to file a complaint regarding a violation of the "Landlord & Tenant Code", please call the Code Compliance Division at (816) 325-7193
Forms for such complaints are also available on the City's website at:
<http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/health/CodeCompliance.aspx>

Expanding the Neighborhood Watch

The "Neighbors of Winner Road Association" formed partly because your neighbors wanted to form a Neighborhood Watch / Crime Watch group. We currently have two Block Captains, both of whom live on Winner Road.

We have had several folks from Franklin Drive, 13th Street, 15th Street, and Hawthorne Place get involved in our group in the past year. But we would certainly like to see more neighbors from those streets come to our meetings, so they can **meet their immediate neighbors and agree to "keep an eye on" their street!**

Even if you don't feel like doing that, I encourage you to attend the monthly City-Wide Neighborhood Watch meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 PM at Truman High School. Enter the school at the southwest doors and follow the orange cones.

Those meetings are run by our Independence Police Neighborhood Watch Officer, Officer Rob Romey.

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Will there be opportunities to fly flags or banners OTHER than the U.S. flags or Independence School District flags?

Yes, the brackets are expected to last a good long time. We're thinking several decades. With that in mind, if we'd like to fly some sort of seasonal or holiday banners, we'd just have to come up with the banners themselves and the man-power to take them up and put them down. Perhaps neighborhood civic or church groups could MAKE the banners themselves to keep costs low!

How can I donate to this project?

Send your check or money order to:
Englewood Business Association
c/o Flag Project
10920 E. Winner Road
Independence, MO 64052

Remember: Every little bit helps! Sure, we'd like to see families "purchase an entire flag-and-bracket" at \$100! But even \$10 or \$20 helps a lot!

How often do you get the opportunity to donate money and see it actually get spent in your own neighborhood... and you get to see the results quickly?

Think about that for a minute.

Will the "Neighbors of Winner Road Association" be donating any money to this project?

I am sure we will decide upon this at either our March or April meetings. I would anticipate that the organization will donate somewhere between \$100-200. (At last word, our entire treasury was approximately \$650.)

Is there a deadline for this project? Will there be any sort of "grand ceremony" or "celebration" of this project's completion?



Taken at the Flag Day Celebration in Englewood, 2004

We would like to get all of the brackets and flags up in time for "Flag Day", **Saturday, June 10th !!** (I know, that's not much time! So, please, send in your donation NOW !!) The plan is that the Englewood Business Association will host a big Flag Day Celebration that will mark the successful end of this project!

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

I'll do my best to answer them:
David Raasch (816) 461-3563 or
david.raasch@winnerneighbors.org

ABOUT US

The “**Neighbors of Winner Road Association**” is a voluntary group of your neighbors (homeowners, renters, and people who work in the area)...who are interested in improving life in our neighborhood.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month, at 7 PM, at Sovereign Grace Church, 9901 E. Winner Rd. There is no cost for membership. We do not charge any dues.

We invite you to visit your website at <http://www.winnerneighbors.org>.

This newsletter is currently being published 3 times per year. We might do 4. Maybe.

What exactly is our Neighborhood ? Where are the Boundaries?

Our neighborhood makes up most, but not all, of the “Fairview Heights” neighborhood, as defined by the old “Neighborhood Council” system from the 1980’s. We are bordered by Truman Road on the North and 18th Street on the South. Our western border is Brookside. Our eastern border is the Railroad Bridge on Winner Road, which is the boundary line between us and Bristol #5 neighborhood. A nice map is available on our website, www.winnerneighbors.org. (Sorry, we didn’t have enough space to put a decent-sized map in this issue.)

GOT EMAIL?

You can receive alerts about our upcoming meetings and events by subscribing to our “**NEWS**” **email mailing list**.

To subscribe:

- 1) Go to our website (www.winnerneighbors.org).
- 2) Locate the small subscription form that sits on the left-hand-side of any page on that site.
- 3) Fill out that form and submit it!
- 4) Wait for confirmation email to arrive and then hit “Reply” and “Send”. This confirms your subscription.

CONTACTS

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