

Town Council/Community Association

Rocky Ripple

E-News

JAN/FEB 2017

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1

Rocky Ripple CALENDAR

Thurs., Feb. 2

RREM/CERT Meeting
(emergency management/
rescue response team)
7:00 pm Town Hall

Tues., Feb. 14

Rocky Ripple Town Board Meeting
7:30 pm Town Hall

Tues., Feb. 21

Rocky Ripple Community Association Meeting
7:30 pm Town Hall

Tues., Mar. 2

RREM/CERT Meeting
(emergency management/
rescue response team)
7:00 pm Town Hall

Tues., Mar. 14

Rocky Ripple Town Board Meeting
7:30 pm Town Hall

Tues., Mar. 21

Rocky Ripple Community Association Meeting
7:30 pm Town Hall

Sat. Mar 25.

CPR & AED Training
9 am – 1 pm Town Hall
Register Now
sponsored by RR
CERT/REM team. See
article for specifics.

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Rocky Ripple Town Council Updates

Town Council's Flood Protection Position Reaffirmed

The Town Council is aware that several residents are soliciting signatures on a petition to have the town file a lawsuit against the City of Indianapolis and/or the Army Corps of Engineers to stop construction of the floodwall proposed to be built along Westfield Boulevard (known as the "Westfield Blvd. alignment"). The Town Council wants to be sure that you are fully aware of our position and why we do not think this would be in the best interests of our town at the current time.

To be clear, as long as there is no agreement with the City for flood protection of Rocky Ripple, the Town Council has and will continue to oppose the floodwall proposed to be built along Westfield Boulevard. The council's opposition has been provided to the city at meetings, via official letters, emails, and phone calls. It has also been provided to officials at the state level, to local neighborhood associations and to Butler University officials, in much the same way.

Our town's lawyer has provided feedback to the town council after consulting with other attorneys knowledgeable in this type of litigation. The feedback included the following: this type of litigation is complicated, will be lengthy, very expensive, would immediately stop any communication with, and perhaps end, any currently extended help from the City of Indianapolis and we could end up with no help for flood protection. A lawsuit would also require specific evidence of the harm to Rocky Ripple that the wall would bring. The Town Council has not ruled out that a lawsuit could be necessary at a future date, depending what happens with our current progress in securing flood protection for Rocky Ripple.

It is the Town Council's position first and foremost that the biggest danger to our town is the deteriorated condition of the current levee along the river. The recent independent analysis of the levee by a New Jersey Engineering Firm (AECOM) stated that "The existing Rocky Ripple levee is in a seriously deteriorated condition. The analysis indicates that the levee currently has a 5% or greater annual chance of overtopping (20 year level of protection) and the levee is likely to be exceeded more than once over the 50 year period of analysis."

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We're on the Web:

www.rockyripple.com



[We're on Facebook](#)

A full copy of the draft AECOM report and the Rocky Ripple Town Council's comments on the draft are available on the town's website:

<https://rockyripple.wordpress.com/community-information/flood-control-info/>

Since 1996, when a majority of town residents voted against the proposed levee along the river and were thus removed from the Indianapolis Northside Flood Protection initiative, and in the years since then, the town of Rocky Ripple has gotten nowhere with levee repair by simply opposing whatever plan is put forth.

As a town on a shoestring budget, we cannot afford the costs of levee repair on our own. Therefore, the Town Council remains focused on work with the City, our state legislators and Butler University to ensure that we continue a progressive project for repair of the levee NOW.

Oppose the Westfield Boulevard Wall – Then What?

The Town Council encourages residents to carefully consider what they want for the future of the town. Whether the Westfield Boulevard option is completed as the final leg of the Northside Indianapolis Flood Protection initiative, and/or an improved floodwall or levee is constructed along the river, it will affect homes, the tax base, and everyone in the town, not just the affected structures along the river. We need to work together to develop what the future Rocky Ripple will look like.

To assist town residents in visualizing various flood protection options along the river, a contractor has been engaged to develop renderings that show before and after scenarios for several spots. After the renderings are complete, a special meeting will be called in March or April to show the renderings, present an update on all flood protection activities and provide a question and answer session.

BRIEF REVIEW OF CURRENT INITIATIVES BEING WORKED ON

Below is a fluid plan that continues to be refined as more information, money and details are available. The board continues to look at its position with flood control in a three-prong approach. At this point, the activity, where it fits into the overall flood control plan, and the month it took place is listed below.

Upcoming activities with more specific dates and details will be provided as they become available. The Town Council discusses what has happened each month in relation to these flood control activities and what will be happening in the near future, during regular monthly board meetings. To stay up to date, you can attend the meetings, read the posted minutes or contact a board member.

There are three areas of activity with regard to flood control that the Town Council continues to actively work on. They are:

1) River bank stabilization/repair on the existing river levee. This needs to happen now, as Activity 3 below may continue to be delayed and Activity 2 is in the feasibility/discussion stages. Rocky Ripple's most risky issue with regard to the river and flooding is if a breach happens to the current levee. During November 2016 a first step project was completed along eight properties on Ripple Road. This work was done on the town's portion of the levee. It helped stabilize the existing earthen levee by taking down dead, dying and hollow trees that could easily cause large root-balls to pull soil out of the levee if they fell during high waters or a wind storm. The second step of this project will take place before April 1, and is targeted to include addressing an erosion area on the north end of the river in Rocky Ripple. This area is being looked at in order to create a more stable bank before water that has flooded the Riviera Club is cycled down towards the town as work is being done there.

2) Development of a local option for a levee along the river that could take the place of the Westfield Boulevard Alignment floodwall (or be constructed in addition to, if the city continues with the Westfield Boulevard Alignment) and provide protection for all neighborhoods, including Rocky Ripple. This would entail developing a tax levy/structure that pays for the improved levee construction and ongoing maintenance. The increase in taxes could possibly be offset by affected neighborhoods, including Rocky Ripple, which would no longer have to pay flood insurance. Members of the Town Council have worked with city, state and Butler University officials on creating this taxing levy, most likely through the creation of a

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RRCA Newsletter:

The Rocky Ripple ENews newsletter is published jointly by the Rocky Ripple Community Association, a not for profit 501 (c) (3) organization, which exists to provide social, cultural, recreational and educational services to the town of Rocky Ripple and its residents, and the Town Council of Rocky Ripple.

Editor: Mandy Redmond

storm-water district. Two house bills currently assigned to committee in the Indiana House have been authored to assist the town with this funding need. Other funding mechanisms have also been explored on a more local level such as the one being created by Crow's Nest.

3) Continued opposition to the Westfield Boulevard Alignment floodwall. The preferred path forward for Rocky Ripple is flood protection for Rocky Ripple, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods. A letter stating the Town Council's position on this was provided to Mayor Hogsett, his staff, DPW, State and Federal elected officials, as well as neighboring communities in February 2016. Since that time, a member or members of the Town Council have communicated weekly this same message with city and state officials as well as officials from Butler University and Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association.

Town Council Updates – Road Repairs Still Coming!

As mentioned in the last 2016 edition of the RR ENews, the town of Rocky Ripple obtained \$10,000 in matching grant funds from the state of Indiana Department of Transportation, for a total of \$20,000 allocated to be spent for road repairs for the year of 2016.



We had hoped to have the scheduled repairs using this money completed in 2016, however, due to the street paving company's previously scheduled commitments, they were unable to work us in during 2016. Town manager and marshal Mike Kiefer is working to get this scheduled for 2017 as soon as weather conditions will allow. As a reminder, the streets scheduled to be repaired/repaved with the 2016 INDOT funds include:

- Riverview Drive between 52nd and 53rd Street
- Annette St: 52nd to 53rd
- West 53rd St: Lester & 53rd to 853 W. 53rd
- Sunset: 5300 block

Grant funding will be also be available in 2017 and 2018. The town will again apply for the grants to repair additional streets and work with the paving company to get this scheduled as soon as possible.

Thanks to Town Residents who Helped Pay For the Road Repairs in 2016



Pledge money from local residents was a primary factor in the ability of the town to obtain the state road repair matching grant. Special thanks to the 20 residents that donated a total of \$4500 toward this fund in 2016.

It is not too late to donate to the street repair funds. The grant program spans three years and the town will be soliciting additional matching grant funds in 2017 and 2018. To pay your previously made pledge or to make a new donation to the street repair fund, send or drop off a check in the mail slot at the town hall.

Make your check payable to the Rocky Ripple Community Association, which will tally the donations and pay the funds to the town for the matching grant. This provides residents that donate with a charitable tax donation since the Community Association is a registered 501(c) non-profit corporation.

Rocky Ripple Emergency Management

RREM

Inform • Educate • Train

Save a life! CPR/AED Training

The Rocky Ripple Emergency Management committee is hosting a **CPR/AED training**. Taught by James "Jim" Ginder, staff at Hamilton County Health Department, participants will benefit from his 20 years of experience in teaching health-related topics.

Jim will conduct a low-cost Heartsaver CPR/AED training that will certify participants for two years. The training is open to anyone over 16 years of age. The \$21 training fee covers the price of the workbook, certification card, and administration fees. What a great value and a valuable asset to friends and family! (Registrants will also pay very small credit card charge which makes the online registration system possible.)

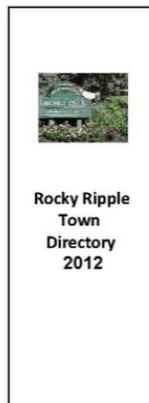
Sign up today as space is limited! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cpr-aed-training-registration-31063296155>

Visit the RREM Facebook Page

Find out the latest RREM news and safety updates at <https://www.facebook.com/RREMCERT/>. "Like" the page and receive automatic updates.

RREM Committee Meetings

Rocky Ripple Emergency Management committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at the town hall at 7pm. Anyone interested in being part of this effort are welcomed. For more information, visit www.rockyripple.com or contact Andy Hazel at ajhaze77@gmail.com.



New Town Directories To Be Distributed Soon

Hard copies of the 2017 Town Directory are being printed and will be distributed to each Rocky Ripple household this month. Thanks to residents Angela Herrmann, Dhyana Raynor and Julie Bleakley for their hard work to get this new edition of the Rocky Ripple Town Directory completed.

The directory contains contact info for town residents that want to be included. It is a great way to find out if you have neighbors with certain skill sets that meet your needs or publish your own skills/interests for sharing, or just use it as a quick tool to look up a neighbor's info.

Rocky Ripple Veterans Recognized by American Legion

The Rocky Ripple Veterans Association was presented with a Community Service Award from the American Legion Auxiliary 11th District Council on 01-Feb-2017 for their efforts to build and maintain the veterans' memorial in Peace Park, located at the corner of 52nd and Byram.

For those of you that don't know, the Veterans Association designed, purchased all materials for, and built this memorial. The memorial contains bricks with local veteran names and times of military service.

The Veterans Association raises money by hosting the occasional Bingo night at town hall and by selling corn at the annual Rocky Ripple Festival. In addition to maintaining Peace Park, money the vets have raised has gone to the local Indianapolis USO, the Wounded Warrior project, and other veteran organizations. The Veterans Association was nominated for this award by Rocky Ripple resident Tamara Carr. Veteran Paul Redmond accepted the award on behalf of the group and in tribute to founding member, Danny Orr, who was a key contributor to the initial development of the memorial.

Thanks to Tamara for recognizing the vets – and special thanks to our local vets that have served our country and continue to serve our community!



Don't forget, when shopping with Amazon.com, use Amazon Smile. It costs you nothing extra to shop this way and the Rocky Ripple Community Association receives a donation from every purchase made this way with Rocky Ripple Community Association as your registered charitable organization.

For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to RRCA, which will be used for community initiatives. You must register and purchase through [amazonsmile.org](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile). Click on the link or amazonsmile logo to register. You will be prompted to select a charitable organization from eligible organizations the first time you use it. Please select the Rocky Ripple Community Association and shop away.

2017 ROCKY RIPPLE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date/Time	Location
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 05-Jan-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 10-Jan-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 02-Feb-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 14-Feb-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Community Association Meeting	Tues. 21-Feb-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 02-Mar-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 14-Mar-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Community Association Meeting	Tues. 21-Mar-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 06-Apr-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 11-Apr-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Easter Egg Hunt/Cake Walk	Sat. 15-Apr-2017 12 – 2 pm	Meet at Town Hall at noon
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 04-May-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Plant Exchange	Sat. 06-May-2017 2 – 4 pm	Hohlt Park Community Garden
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 09-May-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Community Association Meeting – RRCA Elections (Secretary)	Tues. 16-May-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 01-Jun-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Townwide Garage Sale	Sat. 03-Jun-2016 8 am – 1 pm	Various
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 13-Jun-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Festival Committee Meeting	Tues. 20-Jun-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 06-Jul-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 11-Jul-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Community Association Meeting	Tues. 18-Jul-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 03-Aug-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 08-Aug-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Festival Committee Meeting	Tues. 15-Aug-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 07-Sep-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 13-Sep-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Community Association Meeting	Tues. 19-Sep-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Festival	Sat. 23-Sep-2017 11 am – 6 pm	Hohlt Park
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 05-Oct-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 10-Oct-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Community Association Meeting	Tues. 17-Oct-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 02-Nov-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 14-Nov-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Community Association Meeting	Tues. 21-Nov-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall
Holiday Bazaar	Sat. 02-Dec-2017	Town Hall
RREM/CERT Meeting	Thur. 07-Dec-2017 7:00 pm	Town Hall
Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting	Tues. 12-Dec-2017 7:30 pm	Town Hall



Recycling Reminder

Don't forget to recycle your newspapers, magazines and other paper at the newspaper recycling bin located next to the Town Hall garage. Proceeds from the recycling effort go to offset the cost of the Port-o-Let in Hohlt Park. The more paper we recycle in the bin, the more money that goes to this effort.



Not Receiving Email Notification of the Rocky Ripple E-News?

If you or someone you know wants to be added to the Rocky Ripple E-News distribution list, please send or have them send an email to rrcomassoc@aol.com and request being added to the E-News distribution list. We promise not to use your email addresses for purposes other than communicating information regarding our community and will not share the email distribution list with others. We will also post a hard copy of each issue at the town hall bulletin board for those that do not have access to email and/or the web. Let us know of any suggestions you may have for things you would like to have included. Contact the newsletter editor at rrcomassoc@aol.com.