

Mayor Ballard Launches Abandoned Structures Initiative to Remove Hundreds of Unsafe, Unsalvageable Houses, Buildings

On Saturday, August 27

Mayor Greg Ballard launched the City's Abandoned Structures Initiative, announcing seven abandoned houses will be removed over the next



week as the Department of Public Works (DPW) begins the bidding process on 384 unsafe, unsalvageable structures that will start coming down as early as October. The program aims to have over 600 unsafe buildings under contract for removal by the end of 2011.

[Read more.](#) 

New Parking Method Implemented Downtown

Motorists looking for a parking spot on some downtown streets will soon notice a new method of parking. In a unanimous vote, the City-County Council approved Reverse Angle Parking on the north side of Michigan Street from New Jersey Street to East Street.



With Reverse Angle Parking drivers are able to see a parking space before backing into it, a safer option than traditional, diagonal parking. Reverse Angle Parking also affords better visibility when motorists are leaving a parking space.

[Learn more about Reverse Angle Parking.](#)

Letter to the Editor: Hang in there; construction will be worth wait

Work delays on the Cultural Trail caused by underground railroad tracks and other complications are understandably trying the patience of Fountain Square business owners. This frustration resulted in media

Did you know that every RebuildIndy project is evaluated for green infrastructure elements?



During heavy rain events the 21st Street/Bolton Avenue and 22nd Street/Dequincy Avenue areas experience standing water in front yards and ditches. Standing water can cause dangerous driving conditions and create a breeding ground for mosquitoes. To relieve the neighborhood flooding problems, DPW will remove failed drain pipes and add a new green infrastructure best management practice called a bio-swale system. A bio-swale uses a swaled drainage course with gently sloped sides and filled with vegetation to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff. During heavy rains, excess water that is unable to soak into saturated ground will flow into a traditional storm drain

attention portraying the neighborhood's response toward the project as overwhelmingly negative.

While we agree the delays needed to be addressed, our hope is that we'll all continue to look at the big picture and focus on the positives - as well as team up on proactive steps to support businesses during challenging times.

As residents of Fountain Square who also operate creative businesses here, we couldn't be more excited about the Cultural Trail and the positive impact it will soon have on our area.

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★ **Water and Wastewater Utilities Transferred to Citizens Energy Group**

Citizens Energy Group and the City of Indianapolis completed a \$1.9 billion transfer of the community's water and wastewater utilities to Citizens, a public charitable trust that operates like a not-for-profit on August 26, 2011. The water and wastewater system, which bill customers under the Indianapolis Water name, are now being operated as Citizens Water.

In March 2010, Mayor Ballard and Citizens announced the plan to transfer the systems to Citizens. The transfer is expected to result in \$60 million in annual savings that will help Citizens reduce projected water and wastewater rate increases 25 percent by the year 2025. The City will receive \$425 million from the transfer to fund its RebuildIndy initiative that is making much needed repairs to parks, bridges, streets, and sidewalks, while removing hundreds of abandoned homes throughout the city.

[Read more.](#) 

system. The system helps reduce flooding, and it also provides treatment to naturally cleanse the water.

[Learn more about this project.](#)

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[Deep Rock Tunnel Bids Save Ratepayers Up to \\$90 Million](#)

[New RebuildIndy Map Tool Launched](#)

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Upcoming Public Meetings

62nd Street Multi-use Trail Open House
Glendale Public Library
Tuesday, Sept. 13
4-6 p.m.

21st/Bolton and 22nd/Dequincy Meeting
Otterbein UMC - 5009 E. 21st St.
Tuesday, Sept. 13
6 p.m.

Meridian Street Bridge over White River Open House

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 6050 N. Meridian St.

Thursday, Sept. 15
5-7 p.m.

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