



Community Environmental Resource Program

Serving the St. Louis and East St. Louis Communities

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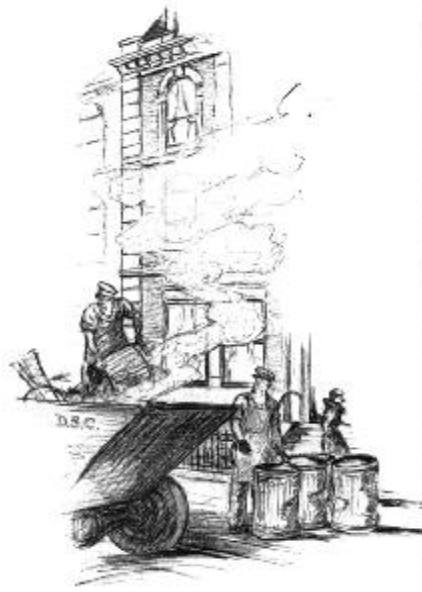
What Can We Do About Illegal Dumping?

Illegal dumping is defined as the disposal of solid and hazardous waste in an area not permitted by law. It continues to be a serious problem in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Solid waste is garbage, refuse, or sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility. It also includes the solid waste that is discarded by homes and businesses everyday.

Waste (both solid and liquid) is considered hazardous if it can cause an increase in death or serious illness to people if not properly disposed of, stored, or otherwise managed. Generally, environmental experts say that solid waste is a hazard if it is ignitable (can catch on fire easily), corrosive (can rust), reactive (doesn't mix well with other waste), or toxic.

Illegal dumping is sometimes called "open dumping," "fly dumping," and "midnight dumping" because materials are often dumped in open areas, dumped from cars along roadways, and/or dumped late at night. Illegally dumped waste is often dumped to avoid either a disposal fee or the time and effort required for proper disposal.



CITY OF ST. LOUIS

If you suspect an illegal dumping is in progress, call 911 immediately! They will notify the proper authorities that can secure and investigate the scene. If possible, make note of the people doing the dumping, the vehicle, and the license plate number. Also, contact the Citizens' Service Bureau at (314) 622-4800. You may be eligible for a \$100 reward if the suspect is convicted!

If you see an illegal dumpsite, contact the Citizens' Service Bureau at (314) 622-4800. They will: 1) contact the authorities for proper cleanup of the illegal dumpsite, and 2) contact the Environmental Investigations Divi-

sion to investigate those who are guilty. Again, you may be eligible for a \$100 reward if the suspect is convicted!

If you are trying to dispose of waste, but are unsure of how to properly do it, contact the Citizens' Service Bureau at (314) 622-4800. They will give you the necessary information and assistance.

CITY OF EAST ST. LOUIS

If you suspect an illegal dumping is in progress, contact Mr. Delbert Marion, Chief of Police, at (618) 482-6790, or Police Dispatch at (618) 482-6700 right away! Also, you can contact Mr. Kelvin Ellis, Director of Regulatory Affairs, at (618) 482-6820. He will contact the appropriate people for proper cleanup of the dumpsite.

If you see an illegal dumpsite, contact Kelvin Ellis at (618) 482-6820. Mr. Ellis' Regulatory Affairs Department will: 1) get the necessary information to start an investigation, 2) report the incident to the Police Department, 3) report the incident to the Public Works Department or proper authorities for clean-up.

If you are trying to dispose of waste, but are unsure how, contact Mr. Ellis at (618) 482-6820. His department will give you the necessary information and assistance for the proper disposal of the waste.

Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: Problem or Opportunity?

A conversation with Rebecca Perkins-Neighbors United for Progress, and Kelvin Ellis-City of East St. Louis

One of many problems that we face in the region concerns the many vacant and abandoned buildings in our neighborhoods. To get a better grasp of the problem and what can be done about it in and around East St. Louis, we sought the opinions of two people closely involved and devoted to this issue.

We first spoke with **Rebecca Perkins** whose job as Program Manager for Neighbors United for Progress has made her one of the leading voices in the East St. Louis area for lead poisoning prevention. She is also a strong advocate for neighborhood revitalization. Ms. Perkins questions the wholesale demolition of entire neighborhoods that often force long-time residents to move away from areas where they are happy.

In her opinion, the primary responsibility for the vacant building problem rests on the shoulders of landlords - many of whom live outside the area. Many of these property owners fail to adequately maintain their property, yet continue to demand rent from tenants. When they fail to pay their taxes, they allow these properties to be taken over by the county, which then sells them at auction for back taxes. Frequently, these sales are to people without the necessary means to rehab or maintain them. This results in the county reacquiring the property, and the continuation of the cycle.

She suggests that, before plans are

made to demolish a building, a complete inspection should be conducted to determine if the building is suitable for rehabilitation. When setting criteria for who should be eligible for home loans, preference should be given to individuals with the means and the ability to maintain and improve the property.

Overall, Ms. Perkins says that there seems to be a general consensus



in the community that government acts more like a hurdle than as a catalyst for redevelopment. Ms. Perkins believes that better code enforcement would help force owners to maintain their property. In addition she feels that new development undertaken in core cities stands the best chance of success when there is a good mix of poor, middle, and upper income families. She further suggests that no occupancy permit be issued unless the building meets all building codes.

We also spoke to **Kelvin Ellis** who holds the position of Director of Regulatory Affairs for the City of East

St. Louis. Mr. Ellis prefers development that favors home ownership over rental property not only because he believes it results in a stronger community, but also because it results in an increased tax base which would enable the city to supply the types of services that people want and need.

Mr. Ellis echoed many of the views expressed by Ms. Perkins. He further suggested that the affluent suburbs surrounding cities like East St. Louis need to show more interest in solving the problems in inner-city neighborhoods. The financial condition of the core cities is not sufficient alone to deliver essential services and fund redevelopment.

The East St. Louis City Government has plans for the development of 200 additional housing units per year for the next five years. Currently there are three demolitions for every house that is rehabilitated. This is a trend Mr. Ellis believes must be reversed if East St. Louis is to prosper. The housing stock is rapidly being depleted without enough affordable housing being developed to replace it. Thus, he has been forced to place a freeze on demolitions.

Overall, Mr. Ellis believes that good affordable housing in East St. Louis, along with the prospect of decent jobs, will lead to the eventual rebirth of East St. Louis and its surrounding communities.

No One Should Die from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning! What Everyone Should Know

Recent deaths and injuries because of carbon monoxide poisoning underscore the need to fully understand this invisible danger in and around your home.

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon Monoxide (also known as “CO”) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and toxic gas produced as a by-product of combustion. **Any fuel burning appliance, vehicle, or gasoline powered equipment can quickly produce dangerous carbon monoxide levels in confined spaces!**



EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)!



CO poisoning reduces the blood’s ability to carry oxygen to body tissues and organs such as the heart and brain. When CO is inhaled it combines with your blood’s oxygen-carrying hemoglobin making it unable to transport oxygen. The buildup of CO in the body is dependent on the concentration and duration of the exposure. Symptoms include **headache** and **nausea**, with the symptoms getting worse as concentration and exposure time increase. A concentration of COHb (carboxyhemoglobin) above 45 percent can cause unconsciousness, and above 50 percent can cause death. **If you experience symptoms, see a doctor as soon as possible!**

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF FROM CO?

The use of a good and well maintained UL listed CO detector - available at any hardware or home improvement store - is your best line of defense against exposure to dangerous levels of CO in the home. Two types of alarms are available (electric and battery operated). Check them often to make sure they are working. Having more than one detector is highly recommended. It is also recommended that your home’s heating equipment be inspected by a heating contractor or the local utility. Also, have your car’s exhaust system inspected for leaks that might cause CO to enter the passenger compartment.



PREVENTION IS THE BEST SOLUTION!

Never operate a motor vehicle or any other combustion equipment in a confined space! All fuel fired equipment burns much more air than fuel and exhausts carbon monoxide as a by-product of the fuel combustion process. A human being exposed to the buildup of carbon monoxide in a confined space could become ill, lose consciousness, and even die. Always make sure that you have a means for venting equipment outside and enough fresh air is being supplied to the confined space to replace that which is being burned. Open a window or door slightly or, when possible, directly vent equipment to avoid CO buildup.

Who Are We? How Can You Contribute?

The Community Environmental Resource Program (CERP) was launched in September 2000 to provide needed environmental information to the people of St. Louis and East St. Louis. CERP is funded through the Environmental Protection Agency's EMPACT program - a national initiative aimed at providing communities across America with better access to information about the environment.

The program's goal is to empower citizens with information about potential environmental hazards. We want to become the community's leading source for environmental information!

CERP cannot do this without the help of the community. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact us. **Is there an area of concern that you would like us to address?? Just let us know!**

Where Can I Get More Information?

City of St. Louis

Citizens' Service Bureau	(314) 622-4800
Trash Task Force	(314) 622-4628
St. Louis Health Department	(314) 612-5300
Missouri Department of Natural Resources	(573) 526 4752

East St. Louis

Rebecca Perkins, Neighbors United for Progress	(618) 274-6772
Kelvin Ellis, Director of Regulatory Affairs	(618) 482-6820
City of East St. Louis Police Dispatch	(618) 482-6700
St. Clair County Health Department	(618) 233-7769
East Side Health District	(618) 271-8722

Phone: (314) 421-4220 ext. 236 / (618) 274-2750 ext. 236 Fax: (314) 231-6120 Email: cerp@ewgateway.org
Website: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/cerp/>

Serving the St. Louis and East St. Louis Communities



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