

## Hotline: Murder, curbs and another eyesore - Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) - November 26, 2010

November 26, 2010 | Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) | Marci Creps 331-4367 | hotline@heraldt.com

Unexplained death can't be solved like on TV

QUESTION: How many unsolved murders are there in Monroe County? I know that a fellow named Donald "Kenny" Rush was murdered in his home a few years ago. What's being done to find his murderer?

M.D., Bloomington

ANSWER: It is really difficult to pin down the information you seek on unsolved murders. Not all unsolved deaths have been deemed a murder case. Monroe County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Mike Pershing said a death investigation seeks to find the cause of death. The investigation is closed when it is determined the person died of natural causes, suicide or accident. If the death doesn't fall into one of those categories, the investigation remains open until new evidence comes forward.

The case of the man you know is a perfect example of an open investigation where police have not ruled the death a crime. Bloomington Police Lt. David Drake said investigators were never able to determine what happened to Rush and whether the head wound he received was the result of an accident or foul play.

"The pathologist determined that the head injury was consistent with a fall, and we have found no evidence that someone else caused the injury," Drake said.

The case remains open. Anyone with information about the death can call Detective Rob Shrake at 339-4477.

Walking on this sidewalk can be hazardous

QUESTION: Who is responsible for the deteriorating curbs and sidewalks on the east side of South Walnut Street, starting just south of Top Ten Video and running to Second Street? Is it the city or the property owners? The worst part seems to be in front of the Big Red Outlet store.

R.B., Bloomington

ANSWER: Public Works director Susie Johnson pointed out that according to Bloomington Municipal Code 12.04.010, "Every owner or occupant of any house or other building, and any owner of any vacant lot within the city, shall keep the sidewalks in front of such house, building or vacant lot in repair." So it is the responsibility of the property owner to take care of the sidewalks.

One side note: Johnson said the area is currently "under design for a larger streetscape

improvement” with an undetermined construction date. So it sounds like things will be looking up on South Walnut Street. Stay tuned for more!

When will the walls come crumbling down?

QUESTION: What, if anything, and when, will something be done to that eyesore shack on the southwestern corner of the Hillside and Henderson intersection? It seems near collapse, is boarded up, is overgrown with weeds and brambles. Who owns it, and why would the owner — whoever he is — maintain it in this disgraceful condition?

A.L., Bloomington

ANSWER: I received a couple of e-mails about this property after answering another question about area eyesores. Tom Micuda, Bloomington’s planning director, said the building is in poor condition, but it does not violate city code. There are regulations that deal with “unsafe structure,” but how a building looks does not constitute a violation of these regulations.

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