

November-December 2019

Volume 19 Issue 11

A Publication of  
United Neighborhoods  
of Evansville, Inc.

office@unoevansville.org

*Neighborhood Associations  
Working Together  
to Preserve,  
Enhance  
and Promote  
the Evansville and  
Area Neighborhoods*

# Neighbor to Neighbor

## United Neighborhoods of Evansville



320 SE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Ste B, Evansville, IN 47713 | www.unoevansville.org | 812-428-4243

### Benefit Ahead for Our County Neighborhoods: *Banding Together to Improve Broadband*

#### Southwest Indiana Counties Band together for Improved Broadband

Economic development teams from Vanderburgh, Gibson and Posey Counties have joined forces to bring awareness to the need for improved broadband infrastructure in rural areas of each county.

In the 21st Century, broadband should be considered key infrastructure, yet thousands of residents of Vanderburgh, Posey and Gibson counties do not have the infrastructure needed in place. Lack of high-speed internet not only affects the quality of life for rural residents, but our region's economic opportunity to attract new business and talent.

"Citizens living in rural Southwest Indiana communities shouldn't have to make compromises in terms of education, commerce and overall quality of life due to inadequate broadband connection," stated Vanderburgh County Commissioner, Cheryl Musgrave. "Working alongside fellow commissioners and their economic development teams has strengthened our region's case for improved broadband."

Without modern broadband internet service, rural residents lack access to healthcare via telemedicine, remote learning, next generation emergency services, video streaming and more.

For rural businesses, improved broadband provides the opportunity to reach global audiences through e-commerce; for farmers to improve efficiencies through agricultural innovation; and remote workers the luxury of working from home.

In August, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced \$22.1 million in funding for rural broadband infrastructure projects in 12 Indiana counties. It was the first dispersion from the state's \$100 million "Next Level Broadband" expansion program. A second round of grant opportunities is expected to be announced, and Southwest Indiana will vie for dollars.

**DO YOU LIVE  
IN A DEAD  
ZONE?**

Help make the case for increased  
broadband infrastructure near you.  
Submit your feedback in a **quick survey**.

[southwestindiana.org/broadband](https://southwestindiana.org/broadband)

#### HOW RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES CAN HELP

To help make the case for increased broadband infrastructure in southwest Indiana, please complete a quick online survey at [southwestindiana.org/broadband](https://southwestindiana.org/broadband) concerning your high-speed internet service, or lack of service.

#### CONTACTS:

Commissioner Musgrave – 812-428-3833

Ellen Horan – ellen@growthallianceevv.com  
or 812-401-4243

Audrie Burkett – ABurkett@southwestindiana.org  
or 812-423-2020



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**  
**Sparkplug Recognition Banquet Recap  
& Sparkplug Award Winners Review**

## Reflecting on the 24th Annual Sparkplug Banquet

### Banquet Recap

The banquet was held Thursday, October 24th at the Tropicana Executive Conference Center with dinner music provided by Gina Moore and Bob Green.

We were led through the evening's program by Kelley Coures, Executive Director of DMD, Dave Ballew, President of UNOE and Culver NA, Lorie Van Hook, UNOE Senior Vice-President and with Mt. Auburn NA/WIA, Janet James with Poplar Grove NA, Judy Kurth of Culver NA, Mercedes Arredondo of University South NA and Kelly Al Nashmi with Greater Lincolnshire NA.

Members of the UNOE Sparkplug Banquet Committee assisted with Sparkplug Award presentations, Door Prize drawings, photographs, setup/wrap-up and registration.

Our keynote speaker was Charlie Stocker, *The Garden Guy* and member of Westside Improvement Association. He tied in our theme of "It's a Beautiful Day in Every Neighborhood" with his humorous and practical insights on building community linked with illustrations from gardening.

### We're Grateful for Our Sponsors

United Neighborhoods of Evansville gratefully acknowledges the sponsors of the 24th Annual Sparkplug Recognition Banquet:

- Vectren, a CenterPoint energy company, as Presenting Sponsor along with
- Cecil/Mabel Lene Hamman Foundation (Bill Bussing III)
- Commerce Bank
- Diamond Valley Federal Credit Union
- Fetter Properties Management, Inc.
- Friends of Mayor Winnecke
- Gerling Law Offices
- Justin Elpers
- Lollie & Pop Van Hook
- Natalie Rascher
- Old National Bank
- Our Times Newspaper
- SWAT Pest Management, Inc.
- Thyme in the Kitchen
- uCabbi/PAST LLC
- Westside Improvement Association
- Westside Kiwanis



*Thank you for your sponsorship and for caring about our neighborhoods!*



### Neighborhood Grant Recipients

Banquet Sponsors made it possible for the following Neighborhood Associations to receive grants:

#### \$50 Grants

Alvord Blvd. Neighborhood Association  
Glenwood Neighborhood Association

#### \$100 Grants

Business 41 Improvement Association  
Wesselman Park Neighborhood Association

#### \$150 Grant

Western Terrace Neighborhood Association

#### \$200 Grant

Baltz Neighborhood Association



## More Highlights from the 24th Annual Sparkplug Banquet

### Baskets, Wreaths & Door Prizes

Thanks to the Neighborhood Associations, Organizations and Businesses that donated door prizes!

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Theme of Basket/Wreath</u>
Akin Park	Welcome Autumn Wreath
Baltz	Evansville Pride at the Holidays
Bellemeade Bayard Park	Peppermint
CHAIN	A CHAIN Christmas Wreath Plus
Culver	Trick or Treat Wreath
Diamond-Stringtown	Welcome Home
Downtown	Downtown Evansville
Glenwood	Garden Gifts
Goosetown	Goosetown Gourmet
Greater Lincolnshire	U of E & USI
Helfrich	Home Sweet Home
Indian Woods/Windsong	Wreath
Mt. Auburn	Tea Time
Mt. Auburn	Wine Down
North Country Club	Fruit Basket
Oak Hill	Fall into Relaxation
Plaza Park	Camping Delight
Poplar Grove	Unusual
Reitz Hill	Autumnal Basket
Reitz Hill	Fall Delight
South Dexter	Warm & Cozy
Southeast Side	Coffee & Stuff
Tepe Park	Beans & Leaves
Western Terrace	A Day of Beauty
Westside Improvement	Westside Pride
<u>Organization/Business</u>	<u>Name of Prize</u>
Costco	Gourmet Cookies
Costco	Electric Candle Set w/Remote
Evansville Trails Coalition	Born to Trail Blaze
Kat Kreations	Imagine It. Create It.



Thanks to our Door Prize Divas for adding fun to the drawings throughout the evening! They were Jenny Thomas, UNOE Regional VP-West Sector and with Diamond-Stringtown NA, Carisa Campbell with South Dexter NA, and Jenny Triggs of Helfrich NA and UNOE Board Member At-Large.



### Registration & Door Prize Sign-Up

Our volunteers at the registration table included Melanie Stagg, UNOE Board Member At-Large, along with Ava Phillips, both of Western Terrace NA/Westside Improvement, and Linda Jones, UNOE Board Secretary with CHAIN.

Providing attendees the opportunity to sign up to win door prizes were North Country Club NA members Nancy Mangold, Judie Thompson, Joette McKasson and Pam Ward.



### Sparkplug Award Ceremony Assistants

As Lorie Van Hook read the Sparkplug Award Winner names and stories, Lu Porter, of Glenwood NA, and Larry Samples, UNOE Board Member At-Large/resident of Westside Improvement and member of seven other NAs, presented the winners with a certificate and sparkplug keychain/flashlight gift.

Certificates were prepared by Nancy Mangold and Joette McKasson ahead of the event.

Lindsey Schenk, President of Helfrich NA, directed winners to the lobby where photos were taken by Joe & Janet Coleman, committee members who reside in the former Iroquois Gardens NA.

## 2019 Sparkplug Award Winners

**What is a Sparkplug?** — an individual, group, organization or business that has gone above and beyond to help their neighbors and their neighborhood



**Akin Park**  
**Tom & Jeanette Scheller**

Tom and Jeanette are faithful servant leaders who demonstrate their support and care for their neighborhood by daily picking up trash throughout the area. For over 20 years, they've been examples of how we can care for where we live and make it a better place for all.



**Bellemeade Bayard Park**  
**Juliush & Pamela Cabell**

The Cabells transformed a vacant lot near their home into a splendid playscape for neighborhood children that affords multi-age swing sets, a pirate ship, a fort, a platformed slide set and a shaded gazebo as a family-friendly environment to enhance their lives and those around them.



**Culver**  
**David Hall**

Since David moved into the Culver Neighborhood area in 2008, he has worked to better his property as well as others. He restored the rundown apartments located at 1401 SE First St and made them an asset to the community.



**Diamond-Stringtown**  
**Jennifer (Jenny) Thomas**

Jenny is outstanding at making sure the Neighborhood Association's best interests are met. She gets the association involved in community events, arranges for well-organized and informative meetings that include special guests to speak about our community.



**Downtown**  
**Joshua Armstrong/EID**

Joshua, head of the Downtown Economic Improvement District, spent the past year assisting neighbors, both residents and businesses, revitalize the neighborhood. He and his team help bring activities, safety, cleanliness and vibrancy to this once-deserted neighborhood.



**Glenwood**  
**The Freels Siblings:**  
**Carl Freels, Sandra Freels & Delores Freels McNeal**

When it comes to dedication and dependability, you can always rely upon these 3 siblings, Delores, Sandra and Carl, to volunteer in all association activities and events. They also faithfully attend monthly meetings.



**Goosetown**  
**Jeff Gruszewski**

Jeff serves as treasurer of Goosetown Neighborhood. Other organizations he volunteers for include Leadership Everyone, Boys and Girls Club and the NAACP.

**Greater Lincolnshire**  
**Michael & Betsy Pruitt**



Betsy graciously serves as President and Michael as GLNA's event coordinator, leading the organizing of the *Lincolnshire Front Porch Festival*. Their willingness to step up and contribute embodies the spirit of service that communities strive for. They are the epitome of gracious neighbors, friends and dedicated servant leaders.



**Helfrich**  
**Roy & Stephanie Hostettler**

Roy and Stephanie Hostettler are appreciated for their hard work over the past year. They've been great assets, keeping a watchful eye on the neighborhood, documenting things they see, then getting the information to where it needs to go.



**Mount Auburn**  
**Douglas Barton**

Doug has served with his neighborhood in different capacities for fifteen years and is currently the President. He is an all-around good neighbor, helping neighbors with tree removal, speed control, advocacy with the city, and keeping everyone aware of neighborhood activities.



**North Country Club**  
**Judie Thompson**

Judie is known as a very friendly, helpful person. She can be found setting up, tearing down, serving refreshments, doing dishes or whatever is needed at quarterly meetings and she's helped with mailings at the UNOE office. If Judie can help, she'll help—even amid several family commitments at home.

## 2019 Sparkplug Award Winners (continued)



### Plaza Park

#### Plaza Park International Prep Academy

For seven years, the school has allowed the Association to hold meetings in the school's cafeteria to provide neighbors with important safety information to help reduce and prevent crime in the neighborhood. The Neighborhood appreciates the school's partnership in neighborhood safety.



### Poplar Grove

#### The late George Lumley

George Lumley furnished signs to announce meetings, seeing that they were put out and taken down before and after meetings. He brought his own little tractor to plow ground for a community garden in which children and adults in the neighborhood worked alongside him. George was a wonderful person, teacher, mentor, and a great asset to the neighborhood. He is truly missed.



### Reitz Hill

#### Rev. Tyrone Edwards

Tyrone is a veteran, pastor, marriage educator, mentor, speaker and chaplain, and past nonprofit ministry leader. To the members of the Association, he's a valued neighbor. He has welcomed the association's use of a room at Forest Hills Baptist Church, where he serves as Senior Pastor. His life and ministry are an inspiration to those who know him.



### Ross Center

#### Rita Byers

Rita is always the first to volunteer. She is at every neighborhood meeting. Her yard, house, and block are the best example for all our other neighbors. She's volunteered at the UNOE office, even bringing others along to help too. Rita's the best.



### South Dexter

#### Carisa Campbell

Carisa is involved in her neighborhood, UNOE, National Night Out and RNNC. She received the Lieutenant Colonel Reginald Gibson Award for her efforts to secure Sunday METS service in Evansville. Carisa demonstrates how one person's involvement can benefit the entire Evansville Community.



### South Lincoln Park

#### Gary Witmeier

Gary has been his neighborhood's UNOE Representative for years. South Lincoln Park has selected him as their Sparkplug this year to express their gratitude for his faithful service and involvement.



### Southeast Side

#### Doreen Ard

Doreen joined her neighborhood in 2018, when the boundaries were expanded. Shortly after joining, she stepped in to help in a leadership position and is currently serving as Secretary. She attends all the monthly meetings, the annual picnic and Christmas Meal.



### STAR

#### Cindy Sweeney

Cindy attends meetings, passes out newsletters, is a UNOE representative for STAR, and worked with UNOE's *Operation: United Care* project to benefit Honor Flight, STAR's booth at *Neighborhood Day* at the Franklin Street Bazaar and organizing volunteers to conduct their *Neighborhood Lighting Survey*.



### Tepe Park

#### DeAndré Wilson

DeAndré has been an inspiration for Tepe Park residents as well as the city of Evansville. He operates the *Keep Rolling Campaign*, through which he rolls a 230lb. tire across the city to bring awareness to cancer and to continue the legacy of his father who started rolling the tire while battling liver cancer.



### University South

#### Sara Anne Corrigan

Sara facilitated a merger of her inactive Lincoln-Bellemeade Neighborhood and University South. As President of USNA, she focuses on quality of life issues, neighborhood preservation and building code enforcement. Sara is always ready to go to bat for neighbors who need help navigating city government.



### Western Terrace

#### Jessica Bagby

Jessica stepped up when "our little world," as she puts it, was having criminal activity, starting a *Lights-on Campaign*. She ask each neighbor to leave on outside lights to deter bad activity, then drove the neighborhood every night to check and count lights. She walks and talks to neighbors, reassuring them the benefits of calling 911 when necessary.



### Westside Improvement

#### Randy & Janice Ricketts

Randy and Janice bring a positive energy and lots of experience. They not only took over WIA's Fall Festival booth, they helped saved thousands of dollars by remodeling it, so a new one wasn't needed. Janice cleaned, organized, ordered new signs and priced food. She also stepped up and became WIA's newsletter editor. Both are valuable servant leaders.

## Leading United Neighborhoods of Evansville

United Neighborhoods of Evansville's mission is carried out by **Neighborhood Associations working together to preserve, enhance and promote Evansville and area neighborhoods.**

**Purpose.** The purpose of UNOE is fulfilled through four interrelated purposes:

- 1) Define common interests and act in unison on those issues;
- 2) Encourage and facilitate neighborhood and civic involvement;
- 3) Provide a forum for Neighborhood Associations to share information, knowledge, and expertise; and
- 4) Encourage best practices among the membership and promote the development of leadership skills.

**LEADERS** become great,  
not because of their power,  
but because of their ability to **EMPOWER OTHERS.**

—John Maxwell

**Board Composition.** The Board of Directors shall be composed of eleven officers, the Chair of each standing committee, five At-Large voting Neighborhood Association members elected by the General Membership annually, and up to four non-voting advisory members from the community at-large appointed by the President. The eleven officers include the President, Senior Vice-President, three Regional Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, three Senior Liaisons and the Immediate Past President.

**Responsibilities of Board Members** include 1) attend monthly board meetings (third Wednesdays of January through November), 2) support UNOE's mission statement within the general community and 3) become familiar with and adhere to the UNOE Bylaws.

*If your actions*  
**INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE,**  
**LEARN** *more,* **DO** *more and*  
**BECOME** *more,*  
**YOU ARE A LEADER.**

—John Quincy Adams

### Duties of Officers

The **Board President** 1) oversees the administration of UNOE, 2) facilitates the General Membership meetings and Board of Directors meetings, 3) represents UNOE at the request of the Board of Directors and/or the General Membership, 4) with the exception of the Nominating Committee, serves as an ex-officio member of all other committees, and 5) in February each year, appoints up to four community advisory members for a one-year term.

The **Senior Vice-President** acts as president in the absence of the President, facilitates the planning of the annual Sparkplug Banquet, represents UNOE at meetings as directed by the President and/or Board of Directors, and coordinates UNOE's membership recruitment efforts.

**Regional Vice-Presidents** 1) attend as many meetings as possible of their respective region's Neighborhood Associations, 2) participate with larger community projects, 3) work with the city on projects to help the region's neighborhoods, 4) promote new Neighborhood Associations, 5) do other activities to enhance the region, and 6) submit a written monthly report to the Board of Directors.

The **Secretary** assures records of UNOE are maintained, including minutes of the Board of Directors and the General Meetings.

The **Treasurer** oversees an accurate and up-to-date account of the organization's finances with the aid of UNOE office staff, provides a written monthly report to the Board of Directors and the General Membership, and makes financial recommendations to the Board of Directors, including the preparation and submission of the annual budget.

The **Immediate Past President** advises the officers on past decisions of the Board, as appropriate, and may perform other duties as requested by the President and/or Board of Directors.

**Senior Liaisons** will mentor Board Members At-Large, represent UNOE at community events, and serve as a member of a committee.

**At-Large** Board Members are positions that are to be mentored and coached for inclusion into the greater leadership of UNOE as an organization. They are future office holders among UNOE's Board of Directors.

*Source:* Adapted from the UNOE Bylaws, Amended 9/26/19

## Preparing for the Election of Officers

Neighborhood Associations that are members of United Neighborhoods of Evansville choose those who leads the organization.

Please make sure that your UNOE Representatives are up-to-date with the UNOE office. Check your webpage at [www.unoevansville.org](http://www.unoevansville.org) to see who is listed as your representatives or call the office.

If corrections are needed or if you'll need to send a proxy for your UNOE reps who cannot attend on 1/23/20 to vote, be sure to notify the UNOE office by early January, so that name badges can be updated or proxy name badges can be prepared.



## Vanderburgh County Recycling

# RECYCLE DAY

Saturday, December 7, 2019

8:00am—12:00 noon

**old Walmart west**

4551 University Dr

## ITEMS TO BRING

**\*\*ITEMS MUST BE CLEAN & SORTED\*\***

- Aluminum Cans
- Steel Cans
- Cardboard
- Newspaper
- Junk Mail
- Catalogs/Magazines
- #1-#7 Plastic Containers
- Bagged Shredded Paper

**\*\*NO GLASS, STYROFOAM OR PLASTIC BAGS\*\***



### Upcoming Recycle Days

December 14, 2019

4-H Center

200 E Boonville-New Harmony Rd

Vanderburgh County Households Only  
FOR INFO, CONTACT THE SOLID WASTE DISTRICT  
812-436-7800 | [www.evansville.in.gov/recycle](http://www.evansville.in.gov/recycle)

## UNOE's Nominating Committee Report

The UNOE Nominating Committee has presented the current slate of UNOE Officers and Board Members At-Large for the 2020 election of officers to the UNOE Board of Directors.

**President:** TBA

**Sr. Vice President:** TBA

**Treasurer:**  
Judy Kurth, Culver

**Senior Liaison:** (elect 3)  
Brent Jackson, Presidents  
Lucy Williams, Glenwood  
Others: TBA

**Board Members-At-Large:** (elect 5)  
Leonard Collins, Goosetown  
Pam Grewe, South Dexter  
Larry Samples, WIA & member of 7 other NAs  
Lindsey Schenk, Helfrich  
Jenny Triggs, Helfrich  
Others: TBA

Nominations will continue to be accepted until the time of elections during the January General Meeting on January 23, 2020. Only members of UNOE Neighborhood Associations shall be eligible to run for an office with the UNOE Board of Directors. Officers will serve from February 2020 to January 2021.

The following Officers were elected in 2019 for a two-year term through January 2021, and none as yet have contested races: **Regional Vice-Presidents** East/South/West Sectors and **Secretary**.

If you have someone in your neighborhood who would be interested in running for one of the offices listed above, there is still the opportunity to be put on the ballot.

Please send new nominees, noting which office, to [office@unoevansville.org](mailto:office@unoevansville.org) or call (812) 428-4243.

## Metro Planning Organization

Evansville MPO



Henderson • Vanderburgh • Warrick

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Dec 12      Jan 9  
Civic Center Complex

10:00am—**Technical Committee**, Room 318  
4:00pm—**Policy Committee**, Room 301

Learn more at [www.evansvillempo.com](http://www.evansvillempo.com)

## Neighborhood Lighting Survey Update

**Thank you to those Neighborhood Associations who participated in the 2019 Neighborhood Lighting Survey!**

Of our 45 member Neighborhood Associations, **19 submitted completed survey forms/maps. All surveys have been submitted to Vectren.** (If you missed the deadline but have completed your survey, please go ahead and deliver/mail those to the UNOE office. We can continue to submit them for you and keep your originals on file.)

Brad Ellsworth, Director, Community Affairs- Indiana with Vectren, a CenterPoint energy company, has been our contact throughout the process of asking for streetlight maps for each of our Neighborhood Associations and submitting the completed surveys.

In a recent reply to survey submissions, Brad wrote, "Thanks to all Neighborhood Associations. We appreciate the extra eyes out there! Someday soon we should be able to receive individual 'lights out' reports through a system on the website. It should be easier and faster to 'let there be light.' I will let you know when that is available."

Christine Prior with the Dept. of Metropolitan Development and Promise Zone is assisting with submitting to the City Engineer reports that noted dark areas and suggestions for additional lighting.

For any of you who've submitted surveys with problem streetlights, if you notice the concerns have been addressed or fixed, we'd love to hear your stories.

As you know, improving street lighting in a neighborhood has two perspectives in regard to crime prevention: 1) increases potential offenders' perception of being caught and thus deterring them from committing a crime; and 2) demonstrates that the community cares and is interested in what happens on its streets and is more likely to notice and report when something is wrong.

Also, please remember to use the handout called **Handling Street Lighting Concerns Throughout the Year.** You can download it from our website's Resources page at [www.unoeevansville.org/resources](http://www.unoeevansville.org/resources) or remove it from your kit, so you'll have it handy as street lighting concerns arise going forward.

**Thanks for  
working toward  
a safer  
community!**



## How Have You Used Your YARD SIGNS?

For those who ordered yard signs, send us photos and/or stories about the impact you've seen.



What benefits have you noticed by using them?

How have you found them to be the most effective?

## 2020 Membership Packets

The 2020 UNOE Membership packets will include the streamlined form that serves as the UNOE Membership Application as well as the City/County Registration Forms. Forms will be available in print format as well as a fillable electronic form that will be available to download from our website on the Membership page after December 1, 2019:

[www.unoeevansville.org/membership](http://www.unoeevansville.org/membership)

Membership packets be mailed and emailed to all known 2019 Neighborhood Association Presidents at the beginning of January. Be sure to fill out all of the paperwork, sign the Registration Form and return the required forms (including any changed bylaws or maps) to the UNOE office by Mon., March 2, 2020.



All Neighborhood Association Officers and UNOE Representatives will be sent the UNOE Newsletter. If you or other leaders in your association would rather receive the UNOE newsletter via email, please check the box under your contact information. This will save not only time, but printing and postage costs.

Please keep the UNOE office updated with any new addresses, phone numbers or emails since we get requests for the latest Neighborhood Association information from the city and other organizations throughout the year.

**Report Crime Anonymously**



**1-800-78-CRIME**

or online at

<https://wetip.com/submit-anonymous-tip-2/>

**Clean Up Event**

Please join

**EVANSVILLE MAYOR LLOYD WINNECKE**

for

**CLEAN  
Evansville**

Washington Square Mall Parking Lot - 1300 S. Green River Rd.

Saturday, December 7, 2019 • 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Trash Bags and Gloves Provided



To Volunteer For a Team:

Call Keep Evansville Beautiful • 812-425-4461  
Evansville Parks and Recreation • 812-435-6164

Sponsored by the City of Evansville,  
Keep Evansville Beautiful, and Republic Services.

[www.cleanevansville.org](http://www.cleanevansville.org)

**RESTORING PRIDE**  
*Let's work together to make Evansville a better place to live.*

LOOKING AHEAD...

**Sat., Jan. 4 2020 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

Clean up is set for the **Howell Park area**

**Coffee with a Cop**

**Join your neighbors  
and police officers  
for coffee and conversation**



**Tue., Nov. 19**

**7:00 - 9:00am**

**Chick-fil-A**

**Cross Pointe**

**Tue., Dec. 17**

**7:00 - 9:00am**

**Donut Bank**

**Lincoln Ave.**



The mission of Coffee with a Cop is to break down the barriers between police officers and the citizens they serve by removing agendas and allowing opportunities to ask questions, voice concerns, and to get to know each other as people.

**Building relationships. One cup at a time.**

**Tips from the City Arborist**

**Beware of Deceptive People  
Going Door to Door  
Soliciting Tree Work**



In the past, this time of year, or after major storms, there have been people going door to door looking for tree work, taking money from their customers before any work is done and not finishing the work or not coming back to start the work. There have also been cases of such companies leaving the cuttings on the property from the work and not coming back to dispose of them.

Several questions that home owners should ask themselves about contractors going door to door looking for work that should raise red flags...

- Why are they from out of state looking for work in our area? Why don't they have enough business where they come from?
- If they have to go door to door looking for work, is this because they have a lack of experience in the profession?
- Why do they have to be paid up front? Why can't they wait to receive payment until the job is done to my satisfaction?

These tree companies, who usually are not insured, will often give very cheap estimates for tree work that seems like a deal that is "too good to pass up." Unfortunately, that is how they deceptively out-compete our local licensed and insured tree companies. People like this are also well known to advise homeowners to top their trees, which is one of the worst things that can be done to a tree.

Deceptive people are very difficult to catch, especially if they do not sign a legitimate contract. They often claim that they are "licensed and insured," but are not. We highly recommend that homeowners in Evansville only hire tree companies that are licensed by the City of Evansville and insured. Homeowners can call our office or check our web site to ensure such businesses are licensed ([www.evansville.in.gov/urbanforestry](http://www.evansville.in.gov/urbanforestry)). We also recommend to NEVER pay people up front to do tree work. Also, ask for a copy of their certificate of insurance and call their insurance company to verify the policy is still active. Don't hire companies that will not prove that they are insured.

If you are approached by someone going door to door looking for tree work or if you suspect they are not licensed by the City, please call the Dept. of Urban Forestry at 812-436-5752 to let us know.

Source: Shawn Dickerson, City Arborist,  
City of Evansville, Department of Urban Forestry

## City Holiday Preparations



### Christmas Tree Lighting

Thursday, November 21

5:00pm in front of the

Civic Center

1 NW Martin Luther King Jr Blvd



Mayor Lloyd Winnecke will welcome the start of the holiday season with the lighting of the City of Evansville's official Christmas tree.

The North High School Varsity Choir, led by Choir Director Drew Gray, will perform and Mayor Winnecke will offer a few remarks before starting the countdown to turn on the Christmas tree lights. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Special thanks to Kenny Mesker for donating a 36-foot-tall, 30-foot-wide Norway Spruce for the City's holiday display. And thanks to SKANSKA for donating the crew and equipment to cut down the tree and transport it to the Civic Center.

The tree arrived Downtown on Friday morning, November 15th to be decorated with approximately 25,000 lights donated by Advanced Network and Computer Services and topped with a lighted "e" signifying everyone is welcome.

The Christmas tree will remain on display in front of the Civic Center building through the holiday season and will be removed sometime after January 1, 2020.

Check the "Upcoming Events" section of the City of Evansville website for more information  
[www.evansville.in.gov](http://www.evansville.in.gov)

## Nominate a Leader in Your Midst

The **deadline to nominate** for the 25th Annual Celebration of Leadership is midnight on Friday, **December 21, 2019**, so don't wait!

Visit the webpage below to nominate Individuals, Projects/Programs, or Businesses/Organizations who are making a difference and inspiring others in our community!

<https://leadershipeveryone.org/celebration-of-leadership/nominate>

## Annual Christmas Parade

**DEAR COMMUNITY LEADER: Please share the following information at meetings of the groups you're involved with, in your publications and on your websites. The text below can be copied in newsletters and handouts. You may save a life (or a whole family) and prevent some serious injuries and illnesses. Thank you!**

## 2019-20 Heating Advice to Stay Safe and Snug and Save Money

Button up your overcoat when the wind is free. Take good care of yourself, as the old song goes.

You can do that while you warm up to safety and savings. Fuel to heat our homes can mean high bills. And heating increases the risks of fire, explosion and carbon monoxide poisoning. But a heating system that works efficiently can mean more warmth, more safety—and more money left for other things.

The Evansville-Vanderburgh County Building Commission, Evansville Fire Department, Vanderburgh County township fire departments, American Red Cross, Vectren—a CenterPoint energy company and your local heating and air conditioning contractors want to alert the citizens of Evansville and Southwestern Indiana to the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, fire and explosion from a malfunctioning furnace, a blocked flue or chimney, a broken gas line or inadequate air for combustion.

There may be hidden damage to your furnace, gas piping, flue or chimney. We are recommending that all citizens have their furnaces, space heaters, ranges, water heaters, gas lines, chimneys, flues and other heating equipment checked by a licensed heating contractor without delay. (You should do this every year.) You will protect yourself and your family this winter and **save on heating bills.**

Carbon monoxide replaces the oxygen in the air we breathe when fuel-burning equipment is operating and the vent or chimney is obstructed or there is not enough air to let the equipment burn fuel efficiently. Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and tasteless and catches its victims unaware, sometimes as they sleep. If you suspect a carbon monoxide problem, leave your home and call 911 or your local fire department.

Families in Evansville and across the country have been killed by carbon monoxide poisoning, and many others have become seriously ill. Symptoms may be similar to the flu, including headache, dizziness, nausea and shortness of breath. There may be chest pain, fatigue and confusion. **But you may go to sleep and never wake up.**

Always use portable generators **outdoors**, far away from the home and any openings. **Don't** use a range or oven for heat. Candle fires also have killed families. Be careful using candles during power outages and other times! And make a family fire escape plan.

The American Red Cross reminds you to use supplemental heat sources according to directions. (**Don't** use extension cords or power strips with space heaters.) Help alert your family with working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. Regularly test the alarms and change any batteries, and **replace** the alarms as directed.

## They Can Help

- **American Red Cross** volunteers will test smoke alarms and replace them free if needed, supply specialty alarms for deaf and hard of hearing residents and provide fire prevention information. Phone (812) 213-0540.
- **Evansville Urban Enterprise Association** offers free carbon monoxide alarms and smoke alarms, while supplies last, to residents of the Enterprise Zone and the service areas outside the zone who have not received them in the past. Phone (812) 426-2490.
- **Community Action Program of Evansville (CAPE)** handles the Indiana Weatherization Assistance Program in Vanderburgh, Posey and Gibson counties. (Every county in Indiana has an agency for the weatherization program.) CAPE may repair or replace faulty heating equipment and make other energy-efficient improvements. CAPE also helps with heating bills. CAPE has income limits. Phone (812) 425-4241.
- **Memorial Community Development Corp.** offers emergency home repairs. The program covers repairs urgently needed to protect the residents. Homes must be owner-occupied, and there are income limits. Phone (812) 402-5530.
- **Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Rehab Program** helps qualified homeowners make needed housing improvements. The program may repair or replace heating units and make other winter-related improvements. The owner must occupy the home and meet income and other qualifications. Phone (812) 436-7823.
- **Vectren**, a CenterPoint energy company, has details on no-cost home energy assessments and energy-saving products, income-qualified weatherization and rebates for purchases of qualifying furnaces, programmable thermostats and insulation. Phone (866) 240-8476 or visit Vectren.com/SaveEnergy.
- **Community One** offers volunteer-based basic home repairs and weatherization to low-income people who own and occupy their homes, especially the elderly and disabled. Phone (812) 250-6888.
- **Handy Chore** will change furnace filters, install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, provide fire extinguishers, make some windows and doors weathertight, and repair storm doors and outer doors. Handy Chore serves homeowners who are disabled or at least age 60. Phone SWIRCA & More at (812) 464-7817.
- **Faith-based organizations, social agencies and township trustees** may help with heating bills and needs. Phone 211 to find resources or search their database online at <https://in211.communitios.org/advanced-search>

Source: Dan Armstrong, Ballard Neighborhood Association

# Neighbor to Neighbor

## United Neighborhoods of Evansville

320 SE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Suite B  
Evansville, IN 47713



Download the *UNOE Neighborhoods* app for your Android device. More info at [www.unoevansville.org/unoeapp](http://www.unoevansville.org/unoeapp)

 If you'd prefer to receive this newsletter via email to aid in saving paper and postage, please send us an email request to [office@unoevansville.org](mailto:office@unoevansville.org)



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## UNOE's Inclement Weather Policy

UNOE office policy states that **if the EVSC schools are closed due to inclement weather, the UNOE Office will be closed also.** This also affects UNOE events or meetings scheduled for after hours. Staff will usually still be available via email at [office@unoevansville.org](mailto:office@unoevansville.org) and voicemail.

**January General Meeting — Thu., Jan. 23, 2020, 6:30pm**  
**C.K. Newsome Community Center, 100 Walnut St.**



**January's General Meeting will include the election of officers for 2020!**

### REMINDER:

ONLY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
UNOE REPRESENTATIVES CAN VOTE  
in the elections!  
Make sure your UNOE Representatives' names & contact information are up-to-date with the UNOE office!

### PROGRAM:

**OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS**  
*Situations, Services & Solutions*

### GUEST SPEAKERS:

from Aurora

- Timothy Weir, Executive Director
- Natasha Godge, Outreach Team Lead

**AURORA**

Housing our Homeless

[www.auroraevansville.org](http://www.auroraevansville.org)

