

# Neighbor to Neighbor

## United Neighborhoods of Evansville



320 SE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Ste B, Evansville, IN 47713 | [www.unoevansville.org](http://www.unoevansville.org) | 812-428-4243

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United Neighborhoods  
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*Neighborhood  
Associations Working  
together to preserve,  
enhance, and promote  
Evansville.*

## Letter From The President

Hello Neighbors, we are nearly halfway through 2023 and it's been a great year. We have seen a lot of engagement and growth over the last several months. More people are coming to our General and neighborhood meetings. We are seeing change in our neighborhoods and the City itself. Give yourself a pat on the back for the growth and changes we've accomplished.

On my behalf, I want to say **Thank You** to all the volunteers for their engagement.

Thanks for letting me take on the role of your president and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year will bring to us.

Lindsey Schenk, President of UNOE

## Sparkplug

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Sparkplug Recognition Banquet is set for Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Walnut Rooms A & B of the Bally's Executive Conference Center. The theme this year is "United We Can Make A Difference". Our keynote speaker will be Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke.

UNOE's annual celebration of Evansville and Vanderburgh County neighborhoods formally recognizes community "Sparkplugs", individuals who go above and beyond to serve their neighbors and neighborhoods with a banquet style awards program. During the event, UNOE also awards grants to the neighborhood associations to assist them in continuing their efforts to beautify their neighborhoods in both tangible and intangible ways.

Approximately 200 neighborhood and community leaders attend each year.

Involvement of community sponsors aids in enhancing the quality of life throughout the city and area neighborhoods. The contribution of sponsors at four different levels supports our more than 40 neighborhood associations in their activities and programs as well as the awarded grants. Sponsorship of the Sparkplug Banquet is an opportunity to support United Neighborhoods of Evansville and the neighborhoods that make a difference in the community.

## Candidates Forum

On September 28th, at The C.K. Newsome Center, the annual "Candidates Forum" will be held.

This is a Non-Partisan event at which Candidates running for Mayor, City Council, and City Clerk will all give brief presentations (2-3 minutes long) about their candidacy and what they will do for the City of Evansville and its citizens.

The audience will then have the opportunity to ask questions and hear their responses. We look forward to meeting the candidates, hearing about their campaigns, the issues involved in their race and how it relates to neighborhoods and the people who reside within them.

# Neighborhood Signs & Journals

If you would like a sign for your Neighborhood Association, which promotes neighborhood meetings and events, call the UNOE office at 812-428-4243 and speak with Joe or Casey to make an order. Signs are approximately \$10.00 apiece. Neighborhood must be a member of United Neighborhoods of Evansville to purchase signs.

The UNOE office has copies of the neighborhood journal, “Strength In Neighborhoods: United Neighborhoods of Evansville - Celebrating a 20 Year Journey” available. The journal includes a history of neighborhood associations and of the United Neighborhoods of Evansville. If you would like a copy of the journal, call the UNOE office at 812-428-4243 and speak with Joe or Casey. They are only \$10.00 apiece.

## Upcoming Meetings/Events

August 24th - 6:30pm - C.K Newsome Center: Karan Barnhill, Stormwater Coordinator for the City Engineer's Office, will be the guest speaker.

September 28th - 6:30pm - C.K Newsome Center: Candidates Forum for Mayoral, City Council, and City Clerk candidates. Short presentations by each candidate will be given followed by questions from the audience.

October 26th - Bally's Hotel & Casino - United Neighborhoods of Evansville will host the annual Sparkplug Banquet.



**Help us keep Evansville safe by reporting streetlight outages.**

If you notice a streetlight is out, is flickering or needs maintenance of some kind, report the issue by calling us at **800-227-1376.**

 CenterPoint Energy

# LAWN CARE & YARD WASTE

During the Spring, Summer and Fall, homeowners are tasked with dealing with Lawn Care, Yard Waste, Grass Clippings and Leaves. It is important to remember that these items can have a large impact on our environment and our property. While traveling the streets of the City, you may notice a number of property owners and /or their lawn care professionals blow or direct the grass clippings, leaves and yard waste out into the City Streets. This is not the proper way to dispose of these materials and you can be cited with a Violation and fined.

**There are many reasons why we discourage these actions and these are just a few:**

- Any material that is left on the roadways is a hazard for motorists and/or pedestrians. Roadways and sidewalks should be left free of any obstacles or debris.
- This material is considered to be an ILLICIT DISCHARGE as defined in the City of Evansville's Municipal Code.
- This material will enter the City's Storm System during storm events and can obstruct the flow of the stormwater from getting into the pipes or could block the pipes and restrict the flow all together. This could cause localized flooding and accidents for motorists.

The following is a list of a few ways to eliminate or keep the yard waste/grass clippings from entering our storm system:

- When mowing along the roadway, direct your deck blower towards the property on the first two paths along the roadway. This will keep the grass from blowing out into the street or sidewalk. This reduces the amount of grass clipping/leaves that collect on the streets.
- When completed, blow or sweep the remaining clippings/leaves up into the yard. These clippings if left on the property provide nutrients to the grass that will help it become healthier.
- If you have a large amount of debris that needs to be disposed of, please place in garbage bags or leaf bags and dispose of with your trash. (DO NOT LEAVE THEM ON THE SIDEWALKS OR ROADSIDE DITCHES).

It is important to remember that everything we do in our City can have an effect on our environment.

All City Streets drain to the Ohio River and therefore everything that goes into the streets and street drains is also going to the Ohio River.

Thanks to Karan Barnhill, Storm Water Coordinator/Inspector at Evansville City Engineer's Office, for this article.

[kbarnhill@evansville.in.gov](mailto:kbarnhill@evansville.in.gov)

# Evansville Promise Zone

In 2016 the City of Evansville received a federal 10-year Promise Zone designation to support its most at-risk, yet most promising neighborhoods including Culver, Goosetown, Tepe Park, Old Erie, Riverside and Jacobsville.

ECHO Housing serves as the head organization and the City's Department of Metropolitan Development as the lead partner. Approximately 30 agencies, non-profits and businesses work together to support job skills training, entrepreneurship, crime reduction, educational attainment, healthy living and affordable housing.

In response to the ever-increasing need for the internet, the City created 5 free public Wi-Fi beacons within the Zone at the Dream Center, Culver Learning Center, Memorial Baptist Church, Bread of Life Church and Young and Established. These beacons operate 24/7 with signal strength to support multiple users accessing platforms at the same time. Nearly 300 people per day use these neighborhood hot spots to access email, do homework, submit job applications and watch movies.

Housing Organizations United Serving Evansville (HOUSE) serves as the Promise Zone's Housing Workgroup. HOUSE's strategic plan includes building and rehabbing housing units while assisting residents facing housing issues. In recent months, the City approved funding of nearly \$5,000,000 for Habitat, Hope of Evansville, Community One and Memorial CDC to build new and repair existing apartments and homes within the Promise Zone over the next 3 years.

When the IGA grocery store closed in 2019, the Promise Zone was considered a food desert for nearly 5 years. In March, 2023 the City's Redevelopment Commission worked with Echo Housing and House Investments to encourage DG Market to locate within The Forge, a new apartment complex, on North Main Street giving Jacobsville residents access to fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, and meat.

The Promise Zone's designation is entering its eighth year of operations and continues to support its original goals, but updating actions to stay relevant to today's needs. For more information call 812-436-4555

## Volunteers of UNOE

One of the unique characteristics of United **Neighborhoods** of Evansville is its nature as a volunteer-led community advocacy nonprofit organization.

### LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Every member of UNOE's Board of Directors is a volunteer. In addition, each board member has also held or currently holds a leadership role within their own Neighborhood Association.

At the start of each year, member Neighborhood Associations have the opportunity to nominate and vote on those who will lead this agency that serves as an umbrella organization to assist and support the work of preserving, enhancing and promoting the Neighborhood Associations throughout Evansville and Vanderburgh County.

### PLANNING VOLUNTEERS

A major part of UNOE's work of supporting/serving Neighborhood Associations is done through Teams or Committees. The Chair of each planning team is appointed by the UNOE President and holds a seat at the Board's table each month, sharing updates on the efforts, plans and progress of each team. Members of these planning teams come from Neighborhood Associations and community members who support the work of neighborhoods.

### PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

UNOE engages volunteers from Neighborhoods and various community partners for office tasks and other projects that support member Associations. Not only is the cost of staff time saved for such tasks as folding/taping closed newsletters and flyers, but the interaction among Volunteers, Board/Neighborhood members/ leaders and staff has proven to raise awareness of the work of UNOE as well as help volunteers to better connect with their own Neighborhood Associations. Look for emails called "Volunteer Opportunities," or contact the office to let staff know that you'd like to be called or emailed when help is needed.

### EVENT VOLUNTEERS

When UNOE is invited to participate through an informational table or booth or by hosting a float at community events, volunteers who understand neighborhood work are needed. The Marketing Team will be offering simple tools to equip those who enjoy meeting people and speaking casually or formally of the great work of Neighborhood Associations.

## Join a Committee

Transform your skills and interest into actions and ideas to better ALL the neighborhoods in our city and county. Consider joining a committee or team listed below and in the Current Membership Packet.

### Connecting Externally with the Community

- Disaster Preparedness/Safety Awareness Team - Communicate **awareness**, information and training opportunities offered by EMA/CERT, Red Cross & other related agencies.
- Government/Zoning Team - Stay aware and advise of issues that impact neighborhoods and means to communicate w/government.
- Parks, Trees & Beautification Committee - Work cohesively with the city and other community organizations in these matters.

### Handling Internal Organizational Matters

- Finance Committee - Attend bi-monthly meetings and guide the UNOE budget
- Grant Writing Team - Find, co-write and process grants
- IT/Technology Team - Maintain, suggest and acquire technology used at the office, at UNOE events and borrowed by Neighborhoods
- Marketing Team - Promote the mission and work of UNOE throughout the community
- Personnel Committee - Foster healthy and lawful employee relationships
- Sparkplug Banquet Committee - Plan & coordinate the annual banquet
- Strategic Planning Committee - Coordinate long-range planning for the organization to benefit Neighborhoods.

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**



# FRONT PORCH FEST

SEPT 2 | SEPT 3

HAYNIE'S CORNER ARTS DISTRICT  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA



- **Tuesday, August 15th** - Donut Bank on St. Joe Avenue
- **Tuesday, September 19th** - McDonald's on North Main St.
- **Wednesday, October 4th (National Coffee with a Cop Day)** - Mission Grounds at Washington Square Mall
- **Tuesday, November 21st** - Chick-fil-A at Crosspointe Boulevard
- **Tuesday, December 19th** - Lincoln Avenue Donut Bank\*  
*\*Santa and Mrs. Claus scheduled to appear.*

*Each event takes place from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.*

## Evansville Water and Sewer Utility Bill Relief Program

Funds are available to:

Lighten the cost of EWSU bill by \$10/month for eligible households

Who qualifies for relief funds:

Combined household income of \$50,000 or less/year

Reside within city limits and have active city water service

# 2023 Recycling Events

## Paper Shredding Day

Friday, September 8th from 9:00 am - noon

The event will be held in Wesselman Park, 551 N. Boeke Road (the location will be near the former golf course and Shelter House #1)

Drop off confidential or sensitive documents (up to 100 lbs.) to be shredded by Piranha Mobile Shredding at no charge. Shredding will occur off-site at Piranha Mobile Shredding facilities. Vanderburgh County residents only please.

## Tox-Away Day

Saturday, September 16th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Civic Center parking lot

Get rid of oil-based paint, solvents & thinners, pesticides, herbicides, household chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, gasoline, auto batteries and fluids, smoke detectors, fluorescent tube lights, fire extinguishers and pharmaceuticals at this free disposal program.

No latex paint, appliances or electronics please.

Please load items into your trunk or truck bed for safe unloading.

## Electronics Recycling

Saturday, September 23rd from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Civic Center parking lot

Accepted items: TVs, computers, monitors, printers, hard drives, laptops, fax/scanners, cell phones, DVD players, digital cameras, modems, cables/cords.

Not accepted: copy machines, microwaves, appliances.

(NO BUSINESSES PLEASE).

## City-Wide Heavy Trash Collection

The Evansville Water & Sewer Utility offers customers free heavy trash pickup as often as every two weeks, except during fall leaf collection, which runs November through mid-December. This service is available to Evansville residents who pay for trash service with their water bill. Apartment complexes, mobile home communities, business and commercial customers and county residents are not eligible.

Call Republic Services at (800) 886-3345 to schedule a pickup.

*For more information about any of the above programs call or visit .....*

- **Solid Waste District**  
1 NW Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Civic Center Complex, Room 327  
Evansville, IN 47708  
Phone: (812) 436-7800

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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Evansville, IN  
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Return Service  
Requested

To those submitting articles or information to be printed in the newsletter, it must be received by the Office by the 25th of the month to be published for the next month's newsletter.

For updated Meeting times and locations please contact your Neighborhood Association President. If you need their contact information call the UNOE office and speak with Joe or Casey.

UNOE Office Hours are:

**Monday - Thursday**  
**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

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