



*Neighborhood Associations working together
to preserve, enhance, and promote
the Evansville neighborhoods*

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

A Publication of United Neighborhoods of Evansville

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From the President

Greetings Neighbors!

All of your hard work and effort has paid off. It is time to celebrate the past year's events and accomplishments. The time has come for the **United Neighborhoods of Evansville's Annual Sparkplug Banquet**. It is the event when we celebrate each other and those special unsung heroes in our neighborhoods that always are doing a little extra to make our neighborhoods the great places they are. We are "Passing the Torch" of goodwill, as our theme suggests. I hope you can all join us for this special night on **Friday, November 14th at 6 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Community Center, 203 Chestnut Street.**

Recently through my job, I have been made aware of several fires in abandoned houses. As the economy remains unsteady, the probability of having a higher crime rate increases just as fast as the fuel prices. The number of vacant homes and businesses seems to be growing. This leads to more opportunities for vandalism and fires. We as neighbors to these forgotten and neglected properties have a duty to keep a watchful eye out for homeless needing to find a place to sleep for the night or kids just being curious. Either way there is a high probability that a fire may be started in these abandoned structures. What can we do? Call 911 if you see someone going into an abandoned building. It is better to prevent a fire than to put one out.

As we all reflect on this thankful season, my thoughts turn to the neighborhoods and all we have done. We have accomplished so much. And yet there is always more to do. Have you ever stopped to think—what if I had more time or how can we get this project going? It takes a team effort to make things happen. We all need to be involved to see a POSITIVE change. I am thankful for the positive change the neighborhoods have shown. Let's continue our efforts.

Have a HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

David Ballew, President
United Neighborhoods of Evansville

WWW.UNOEVANSVILLE.ORG Website

Community Resource Links

- ❖ American Red Cross
- ❖ City of Evansville
- ❖ Courier & Press
- ❖ Disaster Resistant Community Corp (DRC)
- ❖ Evansville City Clerk
- ❖ Evansville Department of Metropolitan Development
- ❖ Evansville Parks and Recreation Department
- ❖ Evansville Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- ❖ Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library
- ❖ Keep Evansville Beautiful
- ❖ Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage
- ❖ Step Ahead of Vanderburgh County
- ❖ Vanderburgh County Assessor

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- ~ Announcements
- ~ Recycling Opportunity
- ~ Vectren—Money/Energy Tips
- ~ Heating Advice

Upcoming Dates.....

- November 6th—** UNOE Parks & Trees Meeting
- November 7 & 8th—** Clean Your Files Day
- November 14th—** 13th Annual UNOE Sparkplug Banquet
- November 22nd—** UNOE Board Retreat

ZONING AND REZONING, Part V

by Fred Padget

As we get further into this analysis concerning the function of the Area Plan Commission and the zoning ordinance, we become involved in much greater detail. Today, I'd like to take a more detailed look at requirements for signs along with zoning code enforcement.

The purpose of the zoning code pertaining to signs is "intended to provide reasonable standards for signs utilized for identification of an owner's business or industry while discouraging their proliferation, disrepair, or garishness". No signs (there are a few exceptions we'll go into later) shall be erected or placed until a zoning use permit has been issued by the APC. It doesn't matter if the sign is painted or affixed to the building or land. And, as we said last month, signs or posters affixed to telephone and utility poles, trees or other structures on public right-of-way or in a public street or highway right-of-way are just plain prohibited. We've all seen them in abundance, especially during spring and summer. This may be one reason "garishness" appears in this section of the code. Additionally, each sign requiring a permit shall display the permit number. When the advertising purpose of the sign is abandoned or altered, it must be removed within 60 days or altered to reflect an existing product. When signs are no longer readable, materially obstructed from view, or a condition of dilapidation exists, the Building Commissioner becomes involved and can order the owner of the sign to alter, repair, or remove it.

Temporary signs also require permits and have various restrictions that are determined by the purpose for the sign and off-premise signs have some additional requirements. In general, all signs require a zoning use permit issued by APC. Theaters have some special rules and, as I indicated earlier, some signs are exempt from this code as follows:

- Signs not exceeding two square feet in area which identify the names and addresses of occupants but do not denote commercial activity.
- Flags and insignias of a governmental unit, church, or organization except in connection with a commercial promotion.
- Legal notices, identification, informational, warning, trespassing, or directional or architectural features of buildings.
- Memorial plaques and historical markers.
- Integral decorative or architectural features of buildings.
- One real estate sign for each frontage, not exceeding six square feet, indicating the sale, rental, or lease of the premises.
- Traffic or directional signs placed by a municipality of state.

An exempt sign may be illuminated but may not be flashing or animated.

How many times have you seen some of these illegal signs, or other zoning violations, and wondered why they are allowed to do that? Why doesn't somebody enforce the code if not in compliance? Well, the APC will enforce the zoning code when they become aware of violations. With only two zoning enforcement officers, the complexity of the zoning code, much activity, and responsibility for all the city and county, they get spread pretty thin. If you do see something whether it be signs, parking, building uses, green space, set-backs or any thing else that appear to be in violation of the zoning code, call the Area Planning Commission and make them aware of it. They've been most helpful whenever I've contacted them. The APC is in the Civic Center Complex, Room 312 and the phone number is 435-5226. And, you can access both the city and county zoning code from the APC web site www.evansvilleapc.com.

This series of articles are not intended to be a definitive study of the code but rather create an awareness on the part of the reader that these subjects are covered in great detail in the zoning code and to seek advice from the APC or other professionals if involved in any of these or other areas of zoning.

Next month we'll continue this series and if you have any aspect of the rezoning process you would like me to address, please let me know.



**Habitat for
Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville seeks a volunteer to help collect aluminum cans at two sites twice a month. The volunteer will pick up the cans using his or her own vehicle and take them to be recycled. For more information, contact Aimee Haas, Community Resource Coordinator, at (812) 423-5623, ext. 33, or visit the agency's web site at www.evansvillehabitat.org.

Glenwood Community Development Project

For the last several months, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville has been working with service providers on a project called the Glenwood Community Development Project. The GCDP is a collaborative, holistic program whose ultimate goal is neighborhood transformation.

We are working hard now to inform, involve, and mobilize Glenwood residents and community leaders in this process.

We will be having a "Let's make Change" Day on November 15 and you are invited to attend. If you can't attend the whole day by all means, plan to drop by for awhile.

"Let's Make a Change," a community discussion session, will be held at Glenwood School, 901 Sweetser Avenue, at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, November 15. All residents of the Neighborhood are invited to attend.

"Let's Make a Change" will provide an opportunity for all Glenwood residents to tell about their hopes and dreams for the neighborhood. Lunch will be provided for all participants. Please call Jane Michele McClure at Habitat for Humanity of Evansville office, 812-423-5623 for more details.

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. You may save someone's life and prevent some serious injuries and illnesses. Thank you!

2008-09 HEATING ADVICE TO STAY SAFE AND SNUG AND SAVE MONEY

When we heat our homes, we pay for costly fuel. And heating increases the risks of fire, explosion and carbon monoxide poisoning.

But a heating system that works better can mean more warmth, more safety—and more money left for other things.

There's an added threat this season: The earthquake and aftershocks that rattled the Tri-State in April 2008 may have caused hidden damage to furnaces, chimneys and associated equipment.

The Evansville-Vanderburgh County Building Commission, Evansville Fire Department, Vanderburgh County township fire departments, Southwest Indiana Disaster Resistant Community Corp., American Red Cross, Vectren Corp. and your local heating and air conditioning contractors want to alert the citizens of our city and the five counties of 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 could 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 further delay. (You should do this every year.) You will protect yourself and your family this winter and also **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 been made seriously ill. Symptoms may be similar to the flu, including headache, dizziness, nausea and shortness of breath. There may be fatigue and confusion. **That's if you're lucky: You may go to sleep and never wake up.**

Candle fires also have killed families. Be careful using candles during power outages and other times!

Help alert your family with carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors, available at all hardware stores, home centers and department stores. Regularly test detectors and change the batteries.

THEY CAN HELP

Evansville Urban Enterprise Association offers **free** carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors, 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 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 will repair or replace faulty heating equipment and make other energy efficiency improvements. CAPE has income limits. Phone 492-3951.

Handyman Program will change furnace filters, install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, provide fire extinguishers, make some windows and doors weathertight, install storm doors and outer doors and pump out flooded basements. Handyman serves people ages 60 and older and disabled people of all ages. Phone 464-7813.

Also, **faith-based organizations, social agencies** and **township trustees** may be able to help make your heating system safer and help with heating bills.

SAVE MONEY while saving energy!

Vectren puts the power to manage your energy bills in your hands. From online energy audits to rebates that are available on a variety of natural gas appliances such as furnaces, water heaters and more — we're giving you the tools necessary to lower your energy bill.

Rebates for your home are worth up to \$750 toward the cost of replacing your old, inefficient appliances. That's sure to make a big impact on your energy costs.

Make your home more energy efficient with these tips. You can find other great energy-saving ideas on our Web site, vectren.com

- Upgrade the largest consumer of natural gas in your home, the furnace, to a high-efficiency unit.
- Install a programmable thermostat and set it back 5 degrees for eight hours a day — saving you 5% on energy costs.
- Upgrade to a high-efficiency natural gas water heater to save on one of the biggest energy users in your home.
- Wash your clothes in cold water — up to 75% of laundry's energy costs come from heating the water.
- Choose a high-efficiency natural gas water heater and find simple ways to use less hot water, like installing low-flow showerheads.
- Open curtains during the day to let sunlight in, which saves you up to 2% on heating and cooling costs.
- Apply caulk and weather stripping around your windows and doors, which saves you up to 10% on heating and cooling costs.
- Add insulation to your attic and walls to save up to 30% on heating and cooling costs.
- Replace your clothes washer with an ENERGY STAR model, which uses half as much energy and water.

Cash Rebates

Rebates on high-efficiency natural gas appliances for your home:

ENERGY STAR programmable thermostat—\$20

Natural gas water heater (storage unit) — \$100

Natural gas water heater (tankless unit)— \$150

Natural gas furnace— \$200

Natural gas boiler— \$500

Indirect boiler/water heater— \$750

Before purchasing, visit vectren.com for the rebate application and complete details on appliance and service requirements.

Online Energy Audit

Take Vectren's online audit at vectren.com to see how much energy you use, ways to reduce energy consumption and how to save money.

**www.vectren.com
866-240-8476**

Vectren's Conservation Connection. Making energy efficient.

Announcements

- **UNOE Parks/Trees/Beautification Committee Meeting**—Thursday, November 6th, 4 p.m. held at the UNOE office.
- **Clean Your Files Day**—Saturday and Sunday, November 7 & 8th, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. at Wesselman Woods Nature Center. For more information, call the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.
- **UNOE Finance Committee Meeting**—Tuesday, November 11th, 9:30 a.m. at the UNOE office.
- **South Sector Citizens Meeting**—Thursday, November 13th at 6 p.m. located at 315 Taylor Avenue. For more information, call South Sector at 435-6037.
- **United Neighborhoods of Evansville 13th Annual Sparkplug Banquet**—Friday, November 14th, 6 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Community Center.
- **East Sector Citizens Meeting**—Tuesday, November 18th at 6 p.m. located at 4900 Shamrock Drive, Ste. 105. For more information, call East Sector at 485-3055.
- **UNOE Board Meeting**—Wednesday, November 19th, 4 p.m. at the UNOE office.
- **West Sector Meeting**—Thursday, November 20th at 6 p.m. located at St. Lucas UCC, 33 W. Virginia St. For more information, call West Sector at 435-6135.
- **UNOE Board Retreat**—Saturday, November 22nd, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hulman Building, Third Floor Conference Room. Reservations due by November 20th.
- **Recycle Day**—Saturday, December 6th, 8 a.m.—12 p.m. at the old Wal-Mart West, University Drive. For more information, call the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.
- **UNOE General Membership Meeting**—Thursday, January 22nd from 6:30—8:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the Red Cross Center on Stockwell Road.

Many Thanks!!

Thank you to Fred Padget for his continuing series regarding "Zoning and Rezoning". Every neighborhood is troubled by the different signs that are posted seemingly everywhere. This month's article defines the regulations that are related to signs. Read it carefully and share in your meetings and newsletters.

All of his articles may be copied and reproduced for your neighborhood members. These are very detailed articles meant to build understanding and even discussion.

David Ballew—UNOE President



2007

**"Neighborhood Sparkplugs
of the year"**



**Your Nominee will be
here next year!!!**

*If you haven't turned in your "Sparkplug" nominee
to the UNOE office for the 2008 Banquet,
please do so by November 6th.*

CLEAN YOUR FILES DAYS

"FREE" Paper Recycling Program

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Friday, November 7 & Saturday, November 8

Wesselman Woods Nature Center

551 N. Boeke Road

ITEMS TO BRING:

Office Paper
Cardboard
Catalogs/magazines
Newspaper
Inkjet Cartridges
Aluminum cans

***Shredding services will be provided for confidential or sensitive documents.
Up to 10 pounds will be shred courtesy of Piranha Mobile Shredding at no
charge. Fee applies over 10 pounds. ***

VANDERBURGH COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY
CALL THE SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
436-7800

www.vanderburghgov.org

Neighbor to Neighbor

UNOE Office

20 N.W. 4th Street

Suite 501

Evansville, IN 47708

Non-Profit Org.
POSTAGE
PAID
Evansville, IN
PERMIT NO. 1087

Return Service Requested

Did U.N.O.E.?

UNOE Officers and Board Members

President:	David Ballew	Culver Neighborhood
President-Elect:	Chris Cooke	Eastview Neighborhood
Vice-President:	Robert Head	Helfrich Neighborhood
Secretary:	Linda Jones	CHAIN Neighborhood
Treasurer:	Dick Tredway	Alvord Blvd. Neighborhood
Past-President:	Jayne Buthod	Westside Improvement

At-Large Board Members

Barbara Boatright	Ballard Neighborhood
Fred Cook	Goosetown/C.O.I.N. Neighborhood
Rene McCormick	South Lincoln Park Dr.
Sam Wentzel	Western Terrace Neighborhood
Lucy Williams	Glenwood Neighborhood

Committee Chairs

Jayne Buthod	By-Laws/Long Range Planning	Westside Improvement Neighborhood
Susan Harp	Parks/Trees/Beautification	Oak Hill Neighborhood
Delores Mason	Marketing	Lorraine Park Neighborhood
Dick McKasson	Personnel	North Country Club Neighborhood
Jim Morgan	Safe Neighborhoods	Jacobsville Neighborhood
Fred Padgett	Finance	Westside Improvement Neighborhood
Carolyn Staggs	Education	Hilltop Neighborhood
Brenda White	Education	Lincoln/Bellemeade Neighborhood

UNOE Staff:

Paul Farmer,
**Neighborhood Services
Coordinator**

Lori Gardner,
Operations Manager

Janice Ricketts,
Office Manager

Martha Sturm,
AARP Assistant



13th Annual UNOE Sparkplug Banquet

Friday, November 14, 2008

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Scottish Rite Community Center (2nd & Chestnut)

Reservations are necessary.

